



Alaska Citizen Review Panel

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Alaska Citizen Review Panel evaluates the policies, procedures, and practices of state and local child protection agencies for effectiveness in discharging their child protection responsibilities. The Panel is mandated through CAPTA 1997 (P.L. 104-235), and enacted through AS 47.14.205.

MONTHLY PANEL MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, June 20, 2015

9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Anchorage

Present: Diwakar Vadapalli, Margaret McWilliams, Donna Aguiniga, Dana Hallett

Approved April and May meeting minutes

Approved minutes from April 7th and May 5th.

Discussion of annual report

PSR

For the Panel it was decided that we need a continued focus on IA as centralized, statewide intake is implemented.

Recommendation: continue implementing 2014 recommendations.

In-home

Margie will find the policy on when in-home cases are to be reviewed.

Donna asked if we know whether in-home works in Anchorage. We know there are services, but is it working? Margie mentioned a model used in Southeast by Tlingit and Haida and another by TCC. Do those models work?

Someone suggested that OCS consider implementing time limits on in-home services. Cases need to be reviewed after six months to determine if OCS needs continued involvement with the family or if the child should be removed or if additional services are required.

It was suggested that the policy (2.6.1) on voluntary placements be reviewed.

Recommendation: OCS come up with additional outcomes regarding in-home placement.

Recommendation: OCS assess the in-home model as it exists in each region.

Initial Assessment

The group discussed what the actual problem is since IAs are resolved once they reach the deadline.

Recommendation: OCS explore the nature of cases being let go beyond the deadline. What's different about those cases? OCS track the reasons for the delay.

ORCA

Diwakar will summarize Ben's email on the challenges and then allow members to respond. It was noted that there seems to be an inconsistent use and understanding of ORCA by workers. Some are not using the capabilities it does have because they don't really understand it.

Foster Parents

Based on site visits there are insufficient Native foster homes. We would like to see OCS' plan to track recruitment of Native foster families. Recruitment across the state seems inconsistent. Foster parents receive insufficient training, paperwork, and resources.

With the recent changes, OCS seems to have a process to quickly work with ICWA workers to try and find placements with family members. How is that working?

While we have the OCS plan, it references the creation of regional recruitment plans. We'd like to see those. Margie said she has access to SERO's recruitment and retention events for foster parents.

Diwakar will summarize the data and send it around for people to respond to.

Ideas for next year

Notes for next year on all site visits:

- Assess the in-home model
- Ask about ORCA
- Ask about foster care

Other notes:

- On all goals, check for an evaluation plan

Logistics for finalizing and distributing report

The Panel discussed whether we need to send out so many hard copies. Sylvan will create a distribution list and note who will receive a hard copy versus an electronic copy. Members may edit that list.

There was a discussion of report format and timeline for edits and sharing drafts.

Schedule for upcoming year

Most Panel members felt there are too many meetings. We are required to have quarterly public meetings. In other months the Panel will have work sessions (not public) as needed. It was decided not to meet again until September.

We will continue to meet monthly with OCS, but will switch who gets to go first so Christy will actually have more time to tell us about things she thinks are important.

Month	CRP Public Meeting	Meeting with OCS	Travel	Work Session
July 2015				
August 2015				
September 2015	X	X	Work plan (ANC 18-19)	X
October 2015		X	NRO visit	
November 2015		X	SERO visit (19-20)	
December 2015	X	X		
January 2016		X	ARO visit	
February 2016		X	Juneau— legislative	
March 2016	X	X	WRO	
April 2016		X	SCRO	
May 2016		X	National Conference	
June 2016	X	X	Retreat	x

Meeting adjourned