



Alaska Citizen Review Panel
2020-2021 Work Plan



CRP Alaska

2020-2021 Work Plan

About the Panel

AUTHORITY

The Alaska Citizen Review Panel can be referenced either as “the CRP” or “the Panel.” The CRP is federally mandated through the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA); Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003. The CRP is also mandated through Alaska Statute Sec. 47.14.205.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Panel is voluntary and is expected to represent the diversity of the state. The Panel selects its own members through a formal recruitment and application process. Members elect a Chair and Vice Chair from the membership. Terms are for a period of three years, with a limit of two terms.

MISSION

The Alaska Citizen Review Panel (the Panel) will review the practices, procedures, and policies of the Office of Children’s Services (OCS) and evaluate the same for compliance with federal and state laws, and the state plan. The Panel will make recommendations based on its findings to ensure the safety and the well-being of Alaska’s children.

Principal Functions of the Panel

The Panel has three principal functions: evaluation, public outreach and advocacy.

EVALUATION

The Panel will evaluate OCS compliance with federal and state laws, examining policies and procedures for consistent statewide implementation while still being responsive to the diversity of needs across the state. The CRP shall evaluate the extent to which OCS is effectively discharging its child protection responsibilities under: The State Plan submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under 42 U.S.C. 5106a(b); Child Protection Standards under federal and state laws. The Panel may identify other criteria important to ensuring the protection of children, including the level and efficiency of coordination of foster care and adoption programs in the state. The Panel focuses on systemic issues. Individual cases or particular unique situations will not be reviewed by the Panel, however may be reviewed as discovery to address systemic issues.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Panel will identify and implement means to gather feedback on procedures and practices in delivering child protection services in Alaska. Information thus collected will be utilized in its evaluation function as specified above.

ADVOCACY

The Panel will conduct appropriate actions that will help improve the child protection services system in Alaska.

2020-2021 Panel Members

Sonya Hull (Acting Chair, Vice Chair)Wasilla
 Cameron Adams.....Anchorage
 Lucinda Alexie.....Bethel
 Wendy Barrett.....Anchorage
 Mariah Seater.....Anchorage
 Patricia Williams.....Fairbanks

Contact

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PROPOSED 2020-2021 SITE VISIT SCHEDULE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the site visit schedule will be revisited in early 2021. The intended locations include visits to Southeast, the Kenai Peninsula and Bristol Bay, and will be formatted based on appropriate COVID-19 protocols with a combination of videoconference or teleconference participation.

2020-2025 Strategic Plan Enduring Priorities

The following enduring priorities are established by the Alaska Citizen Review Panel

				
Reciprocal Engagement	Public Outreach	Collaborative Relationship with OCS	CRP Education and Development	Healthy CPS System

These priorities were identified by reflecting on past and current work of the CRP, the history and role of the CRP in Alaska’s child welfare system, and what initiatives should be incorporated into CRP activities to best support Alaska’s families. The 2020-2021 CRP activities were developed concurrent to the long range strategic planning process and are detailed on the following page.

Enduring Priorities	Quarter				Actions
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
 Reciprocal Engagement					Share reunified success stories by identifying champions who helped families with their journey
					Expand site visit list to alternative schools, key family services, and tribal leaders
 Public Outreach					CRP has a presence at tribal gatherings, including AFN
					CRP is included in more multi-disciplinary meetings and conferences
					CRP has a presence at Rural Providers Conference
 Collaborative Relationship With OCS					Document lessons learned in Annual Report
					OCS and the CRP will maintain respectful autonomy as implementation of new regulatory framework proceeds
					CRP develops, adopts and implements new policies and procedures
					Work with OCS to fully fund CRP budget
					Identify small potential improvements to OCS workspaces during site visits
 CRP Education & Development					CRP monitors “open for services” and in custody cases in coordination with OCS
					Identify and participate in Alaska Native tribal system training for CRP members
 Healthy CPS System					Gather worker comments on workplace wellness during site visits
					Request OCS briefing to better understand “open for services” accountability and case management and identify policies and models that focus on prevention of removal
					Focus on OCS and community partner communication during site visits



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