



Alaska Citizen Review Panel  
**2022-2023 Work Plan**

## About the Panel

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### 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 on 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 for members are for a period of three years, with a limit of two consecutive terms. Terms for CRP officers are for a period of two years, with a limit of two consecutive officer terms.

### MISSION

The Alaska Citizen Review 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

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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. Unique situations will not be reviewed as individual cases by the Panel; however, they may be reviewed to identify and 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.

## 2022-2023 Panel Members

Cameron Adams (Chair) - Anchorage  
Lucinda Alexie (Vice Chair) - Bethel  
Retchenda George-Bettisworth - Fairbanks  
Kimberlee Saunders - Kodiak  
Sharon Sparks - Nome  
Trevor Storrs - Anchorage  
Colin Underwood - Anchorage  
Kathleen Yarr - Ketchikan

## Contact

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## 2022 -2023 Round Tables

The CRP identified the issue of workforce retention as a priority focus area in 2021-2022. They hosted a round table discussion with frontline child welfare workers in each of the five regions of Alaska. The insight gained from those discussions helped shape the retention-related recommendations made to Alaska policymakers in the 2021-2022 CRP Annual Report.

During the 2022 CRP Annual Retreat, Panel members decided to build on the previous year's work and focus on the retention issue through an organizational culture and wellness lens. In order to gain a well-rounded perspective, the CRP will be hosting round table discussions with supervisors and regional managers this year. The CRP will also be reconnecting with previous round table participants to learn about any changes that have been implemented based on previous recommendations.

These discussions will help the Panel identify potential measures that might be explored to address the critical problem of high staff turnover rates in Alaska's CPS system. The results of this process will be shared with the public, stakeholders, and Alaska's policymakers.

## 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Enduring Priorities

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

				
<b>Reciprocal Engagement</b>	<b>Public Outreach</b>	<b>Collaborative Relationship with OCS</b>	<b>CRP Education and Development</b>	<b>Healthy CPS System</b>

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 2022-2023 CRP work plan activities are structured around the enduring priorities from the long-range plan and are detailed below.



Enduring Priority	Actions	Quarter			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Healthy CPS System	Gather information around organizational culture and wellness through round table discussions with OCS supervisors and regional managers			X	
	Compile and review complaints against OCS received by the CRP; look for systemic issue and use identified issues to guide recommendations				X
Reciprocal Engagement	Increase awareness of the CPR through connection with the Child Welfare Academy	X			
	Connect with participants from the 2022 CRP round table discussions around implemented changes		X		
	Engage with OCS staff newsletter through readership and contributions		X		
Public Outreach	Present to Alaska Legislators on the CRP and workforce retention			X	X
	Establish CRP presence on OCS website	X			
	Ensure diversity in membership recruitment	X	X	X	X
	Engage with community stakeholders in all regions of Alaska			X	X
Collaborative Relationship With OCS	Follow-up with OCS on last year's recommendations and programs that have been implemented	X			
	Gather information from OCS on organizational culture and wellness metrics	X			
CRP Education & Development	Attend CRP 101 presentation from the Capacity Building Center for States	X			
	Continual engagement with the Capacity Building Center for States	X	X	X	X
	Attend CRP National Conference				X
	Annual review of CRP policies & procedures	X			

## **CRP Acronym List**

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CRP - Citizen Review Panel

CAPTA - Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act

CPS - Child Protective Services

OCS - Office of Children's Services



## **2022-2023 WORK PLAN**