



ALASKA CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL

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Chair, Alaska Citizen Review Panel

A Presentation to the

Tribal State Collaboration Group

May 4, 2017



PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- CRP overview
- Questions



HISTORY

- Congressional Mandate in 1996
- Established in May 2002
- State Statute (HB 53) in 2005
 - Budget: \$64,300
- OCS contracted with a private consulting firm to provide staff support to CRP
- Current annual budget is \$100,000
- Members are all volunteers: 1500-2000 hours of volunteer work each year.



FUNCTIONS - MANDATES

Federal Mandate (42 U.S.C. § 5106a.(c)):

- Examine the *policies, procedures, and practices of state and local child protection agencies* and *evaluate* the extent to which these agencies are effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities
- Conduct *public outreach* both to assess the impact of current policies and procedures, and to solicit public comment on the panel's recommendations.

State Mandate (AS 47.14.205):

“The CRP shall examine the policies, procedures, and practices of State and local agencies and where appropriate, specific cases, *to evaluate* the extent to which State and local child protection system agencies are effectively discharging their protection responsibilities.”



PRIMARY FUNCTIONS

Central focus

- Policies, procedures, and practices of OCS

Review/Evaluate (from statute):

- States' CAPTA Plan
- Child protection standards
- And any other criteria that the Panel considers important

Conduct public outreach (from statute):

- Assess the impact of OCS policies, procedures, and practices on children and families
- This assessment should inform its review function

Advocate for (from congressional record):

- Relevant changes based on its review



CENTRAL PURPOSE

- Congress created CRPs to help child protection systems be more responsive to community needs.
- A CRP is a mechanism for public participation in child protection.
- It should facilitate robust and meaningful participation by citizens in diverse roles.
- Those diverse roles will be performing the three functions.



OTHER WAYS TO LOOK AT IT...

- A forum for public dialogue
- A broker of relationships and collaboration
- A public awareness mechanism
- A Continuous Quality Improvement mechanism
- An external and independent voice for critical and constructive commentary



SPECIFICALLY FOR TSCG...

- CRP has a lot in common with TSCG, but also differs substantially.

TSCG	CRP
Non-Statutory	Statutory
Non-public	Public
Role of OCS/DHSS?	Can be independent of OCS/DHSS leadership
Not a public participation mechanism	This is primarily a public participation mechanism
OCS/DHSS make budget allocation decisions (?)	Budget is routed through OCS



FUNCTIONS – WHAT CRP DOES NOT DO

- Comment on proposed or pending legislation
- Get involved in individual cases, contract, or situations
- Micromanage OCS operations
- Program evaluation
- Lobby



CRP – A STATUTORY INSTITUTION

The CRP is an institution, with a statutory role and responsibility.

It is an organization of the state.

It facilitates citizen participation.

It must cultivate a critical, but constructive lens.

It exists to help OCS.

Its success depends on its relationship with OCS.

It has a delicate relationship with OCS.

16TH NATIONAL CRP CONFERENCE

MAY 10-12, 2017

ANCHORAGE, AK

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QUESTIONS?