



OCS Monthly Teleconference
January 19, 2021 – 12PM to 1PM
Call In Number: 1-888-601-5515 no pin

AGENDA

Attendees

Citizens Review Panel (CRP): Cameron Adams (Vice Chair), Patricia Williams (Secretary), Lucinda Alexie.

Office of Children’s Services (OCS): Kim Guay (OCS), Travis Erickson (OCS).

Coordinator: Denali Daniels and Logan Daniels.

Call to order; read rules and conduct of the meeting – Chair

- The meeting was called to order by the Vice Chair Cameron Adams.

OCS Update to CRP

- OCS shared discussions to reorganize the Department of Health and Social Services, which also open the possibility of dividing certain functions of OCS.
- This may separate investigations from family services so that families feel more open to the family services that are offered without having to interact with those conducting the investigations.
- There are consultations underway with tribes to hear how this change would affect them.
- This has not been done historically in other states, so Alaska is leading the charge on this.
- There have been difficulties with timing amongst COVID and other program updates that are happening.

CRP Presentation on 2020-2021 Workplan

- Vice Chair Adams presented the relevant sections of the CRP Annual Workplan since OCS present were familiar with the CRP work.

- Of the five enduring priorities, there was discussion around the shared importance between OCS and the CRP to maintain a healthy CPS system. This is important for both the families but also OCS employees and will help with high turnover rates.
- There was also discussion that the CRP has prioritized ways to appropriately engage within tribal systems in conducting their work. There was a shared interest in finding cultural sensitivity training opportunities.

Other discussion

- There was a discussion about whether in person site visits were appropriate for the CRP and the possibility of virtual site visits.
- Locations identified in the annual work plan include Kenai Peninsula, Bristol Bay and Southeast Alaska.
- Virtual site visits were attempted in spring 2020 and did not occur due to local challenges associated with COVID.
- Director Guay shared that the panel budget for the next fiscal year was currently at the amount of \$75,000 in the governor's budget.

Public comment**

- There was no public comment.

Adjourn – Chair

- The meeting was adjourned by the Vice Chair Cameron Adams.

***Public testimony occurs at the end of the agenda; however, agenda topics do not have specified times. We encourage members of the public to listen to the entire meeting to hear the discussions of the CRP members.*