



CRP and OCS Monthly Teleconference  
November 16, 2021 – 12PM to 1PM  
Call In Number: 1-888-601-5515 no pin

## MEETING NOTES

- Call to order; read rules and conduct of the meeting – Chair
  - Chair called meeting to order at 12:05PM
- Roll Call – Chair
  - Cameron Adams (Chair, CRP)
  - Lucinda Alexie (Vice Chair, CRP)
  - Retchenda George-Bettisworth (CRP)
  - Sharon Sparks (CRP)
  - Trevor Storrs (CRP)
  - Travis Erickson (OCS)
  - Katheryne Calloway (OCS)
  - Virginia Moring (OCS)
  - Denise Duff (Ombudsman)
  - Tricia (Denali Daniels + Associates)
  - Denali Daniels (CRP Coordinator)
  - Logan Daniels (CRP Coordinator)
- September CRP/OCS Meeting and October Quarterly Meeting Notes
  - Removed from agenda as notes are not finalized at this time.
- Dillingham/Kenai Site Visit Reports
  - OCS guests: Katheryne Calloway and Virginia Moring
    - Starting with Kenai Site Visits.
    - Lots of good information from frontline workers, less so from stakeholders in the communities.
    - Great worker collaboration with local efforts in the communities.
    - Difficulties in the court system causing delays in cases.
    - Great feedback on OCS Supervisors in the region.

- Issues around feelings of safety for OCS workers in the communities.
- OCS question around the comments made around tribal entities.
  - CRP was unable to meet with tribal entities due to scheduling conflicts.
- OCS relying on Wasilla and Kenai offices to support more rural areas while they experience staffing shortages.
- Clarification of language around the differences between Intake and Initial Assessment as Intake is not done at the Kenai offices.
- OCS question on what Child Advocacy Center frustrations were around.
  - CRP did not have specifics for that question.
- OCS question around where break down for services was happening with family services.
  - CRP stated that they heard that the frustrations were coming from the activation and hand off to family services.
- Dillingham Site Visit.
- Great turn out from OCS workers.
- CRP also heard from foster parents to understand their perspective.
- OCS frontline staff expressed frustrations around turnover rates and isolation.
- ICWA workers expressed difficulties in communicating with OCS.
- Foster parents expressed difficulties with contacting their OCS workers. To the point of the foster parents taking matters into their own hands sometimes without notifying their OCS worker beforehand.
- OCS workers expressed challenges with traveling taking up too much time and not having time to build relationships in their home community.
- ICWA workers had a positive relationship with the foster parents.
- OCS stated that their case load has doubled in the Bristol Bay area in the past 2 years.
- Week on week off positions in Dillingham are going to change to full time positions.
- PCS from another OCS office is moving to the Dillingham office.
- That will give 3 more full time positions in the Dillingham office.
- OCS experiencing travel stress to fill gaps statewide.

- OCS feels as through their relation ship with Bristol Bay Native Corporation has grown over the past year and they are appreciative of the work they do.
- OCS stated that resources continue to be an issue, but they are moving in a positive direction and additional staff are key to keep that going.
- CRP asked how they can support OCS to share the struggles they are experiencing.
- OCS stated that the lack of supportive services is causing them to provide emergency child removals which might be prevented had those services been available.
- Simply having formal supports such as counseling and community supports can help with those problems.
- OCS has had meetings with areas and asked them “how can we support you”.
- Engaging with tribal compacting and helping to communicate with those communities to find what they need as support for their communities.
- Tribal partners have identified problems such as travel to Anchorage and back for Suboxone treatment and when those community members return, they bring drugs and alcohol into the community.
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- Workforce Retention Project update
  - CRP OCS Monthly Teleconference has been canceled for CRP to focus on the Workforce Retention Project.
  - OCS is still welcome to participate in that discussion.
- Other panel business - Questions?
- Public comment\*\*
  - Rhonda called in for public comment
    - Rhonda is a foster parent and wanted to share the idea of creating a COVID risk rate pay for licensed foster homes. This would be for unvaccinated children in foster care. The Nome school as relaxed COVID mitigation measures and this has had an impact, mainly isolation and teaching from home, on the foster homes while they navigate how to manage COVID exposure for their foster children.

- Travis responded by thanking Rhonda for her continued support as a foster parent and thanked her for raising awareness for an issue and providing a solution. He would take her idea and comments back to the leadership team to see what they could do.
- Adjourn – Chair
  - Char adjourned meeting at 1:02PM

*\*\*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.*