



CRP-OCS Monthly Meeting
Hybrid Via Zoom & In Person
4141 B Street, Suite 204
Anchorage, AK 99503

MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Citizen Review Panel (CRP)

Retchenda George-Bettisworth, Chair
Colin Underwood, Vice-Chair
Kimberlee Saunders
Sharon Sparks
Trevor Storrs

Office of Children's Services (OCS) Representatives

Kim Guay, Director

Coordinator Staff

Denali Daniels
Hannah Laird

Ombudsman Office

Jacob Carbaugh

Call to order (Chair)

- **The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m.**

Roll Call (Coordinator)

- As above

August Meeting Notes (Chair)

- **Lucinda motioned to approve the August 2023 CRP-OCS Monthly Meeting Notes. Trevor seconded the motion. No further discussion. August 2023 CRP-OCS Monthly Meeting Notes have been approved.**

OCS Discussion

- Director Guay shared OCS updates on new initiatives around improving community partner outreach. Those initiatives include new grant opportunities, recruitment of additional foster families or relative placements, and reimaging licensing similar to Hawaii’s “Ohana Model,” which emphasizes kinship care and whole-family adoption. A discussion about the Alaska Child Tribal Care Compact was held. Director Guay stated the current frontline staff turnover rate is 54%.
- Director Guay reminded the Panel that OCS is working to update its data management system (ORCA) with a new one aligned with federal regulations. The current outdated system does not meet federal regulations. This transition can take up to 5 years.

Annual Retreat Update (Chair)

- Retchenda provided an update on the 2023-2024 CRP Work Plan development. Part of the work plan involves exploring the opportunities for improvement around HR hiring practices that were noted in the 2022-2023 CPR Round Table reports. Retchenda requested to meet with Director Guay, Commissioner Koval, and someone in the HR department at OCS to discuss this part of the work plan.
 - Director Guay noted that OCS is beginning a new HR process. That process will include an external talent acquisition team to streamline the hiring process and has a tentative start date of October. Retchenda commented that the CRP may need to revisit its HR focus in light of these changes. Director Guay answered that there are still challenges with pay and benefits at OCS, and she has concerns that the State of Alaska is no longer competitive with pay. There are still opportunities for the CRP to support improvements at the HR level.
- Another focus of the work plan for this year will be looking at OCS’s “screening out” practices, statutes, policies, etc. Director Guay shared that around 20,000 reports come in each year; 35% are screened into the OCS system for investigation. Of those that are screened in, 8% are taken into custody.
- Director Guay noted a concern about the CRP 2022-2023 Round Table report being skewed by the small sample size. She recommended that the CRP expand the size of the round table discussions in the future. She suggested the Panel review the most recent annual staff survey from OCS if they haven’t already done so.
- Retchenda suggested OCS share more about the new Wellness and Resiliency Officer position at the next monthly meeting.
- Other Panel Business - Questions? (Chair)
 - No additional business
- Public comment**
 - No public was in attendance

- Adjourn (Chair)
 - **Retchenda asked for a motion to adjourn. Trevor moved to adjourn. Sharon seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was unanimously passed.**
 - **The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 p.m.**

***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.*