



Panel Members

Current membership

There are eight Citizen Review Panel members representing the areas of Anchorage, Soldotna, Nome, Kodiak, Fairbanks, Willow, and Ketchikan.

Required membership

The panel shall be composed of volunteer members who are broadly representative of the state, including members who have expertise in the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

Questions or comments

Please contact Coordinator Sylvan Robb at 907.450.2456 or sylvan@iialaska.com if you have questions or comments regarding the Citizen Review Panel.

CRP Members

Fred Van Wallinga, Chair

-- Willow, AK

Carol Olson, Vice Chair

-- Anchorage, AK

Pamela Dupras

-- Kodiak, AK

Dana W. Hallett

-- Soldotna, AK

Arthur S. Hansen, D.D.S.

-- Fairbanks, AK

Susan Heuer

-- Anchorage, AK

Esperanza Redelfs, LCSW

-- Ketchikan, AK

Ralph Taylor

-- Nome, AK

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Alaska's Citizen Review Panel

Protecting Alaska's Children



"When every human child is receiving the physical and emotional support needed from family and community to actualize the full potential of his or her humanity, we will know we are on course to a new human future. The current state of our children tells us just how far we have yet to travel."

~ David C. Korten

Alaska's Citizen Review Panel

Mandate for the Group

The Citizens Review Panel (CRP) is federally mandated through the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA); Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003 [Section 2.a.xiv.] The CRP is also mandated through Alaska statute Sec. 47.14.205.

CRP Duties

Evaluate OCS compliance with federal and state laws, examine policies and procedures for patterns of problems, review cases with fatalities or near fatalities.

The CRP shall evaluate the extent to which OCS is effectively discharging its child protection responsibilities under:

1. The state plan submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under 42 U.S.C. 5106a(b);
2. Child protection standards under federal and state laws; and
3. Any other criteria that the CRP considers important to ensuring the protection of children, including the level and efficiency of coordination of foster care and adoption programs in the state and a review of child fatalities and near fatalities.

In carrying out these responsibilities the CRP shall examine the policies, procedures, and practices of OCS, and, where appropriate, evaluate specific cases of child abuse or neglect.

Additional duties include: Maintaining confidentiality: A person attending a CRP meeting or a CRP member or CRP staff may not make any disclosure related to information obtained during a review by the CRP unless authorized. A violation is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$2,500 for each violation.

Conducting public outreach: The CRP shall conduct public outreach and gather public comment on current OCS procedures and practices involving children and family services.

Producing an annual report: The CRP shall prepare and make available to the governor, the legislature, and the public an annual report containing a summary of its activities and recommendations for the improvement of child protection services in the state.

Meeting at least quarterly: The CRP must meet every three months, but it may meet telephonically.

Mission

The CRP is committed to reviewing and evaluating the practices and procedures of the Office of Children's Services (OCS) and in making recommendations relative to their findings to insure the safety and the appropriate placement of children in need of aid.

The CRP will achieve this commitment by examining the policies and procedures of State and local agencies; examining, where appropriate, specific cases; evaluating the extent to which agencies are carrying out their child protection responsibilities; and preparing and making available to the public, an annual report.

Vision

To enable the Office of Children's Services to implement its policies and procedures in a culturally sensitive and consistent manner across the state.

