

The Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact

36th Annual Alaska Tribal Court Conference
Fairbanks, Alaska
April 29, 2019

Debra O’Gara, Tribal Court Judge
Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

How did the work begin?

- Tribal State Collaboration Group: 24-year history
 - Reduce Disproportionality
 - Indian Child Welfare Act Compliance
- Tribal Title IV-E Agreements
 - 11 Tribes/Tribal Organizations receive federal reimbursement for Administrative and Short-term Training
 - 2 of the 11 also include Maintenance (foster care, adoption and guardianship payments)
- Some progress is being made but outcomes for Alaska Native children and families are still disparate

DATA POINTS – as of January 1, 2019:

- 3,053 Alaska Children were in State Custody 1,962 of which are Alaska Native/American Indian Racial Disproportionality Rate: 64%
- The percent of maltreated Alaska Native/American Indian Children who experienced repeat maltreatment in 2018 was 16.7% while the rate was 8.9% for Non-Native children.
- The percent of discharged Alaska Native/American Indian Children who were reunified in 2018 was 55%, while the number of discharged Non-Native children who were reunified was 49%.

Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact

- A business agreement between the State of Alaska and Alaska Tribes and Tribal Organizations
- Addresses information sharing and confidentiality
- Recognizes Tribes' inherent authority to serve their citizens
- Defines the services to be carried out by Tribes and Tribal Organizations in a defined jurisdiction or service area

18 TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE SIGNED THE COMPACT - Representing 161 Individual Tribes

- Aleutian Pribilof Islands Assoc.
- Arctic Slope Native Association
- Association of Village Council Presidents
- Bristol Bay Native Association
- Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
- Cheesh'na Tribal Council
- Chugachmiut
- Cook Inlet Tribal Council
- Copper River Native Association
- Native Village of Eyak
- Kawerak, Inc.
- Kenaitze Indian Tribe
- Maniilaq Association
- Mentasta Traditional Council
- Nome Eskimo Community
- Aleut Community of St. Paul Island
- Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak
- Tanana Chiefs Conference

Timeline of Implementation

- FY2018: Program development, infrastructure and capacity building, training and technical support through individual agreements
- FY2019: Sharing Protective Services Reports (Screen Out/Screen In) Initial Diligent Relative Search, negotiating new scopes of work
- FY2020: Implement new scopes of work

Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact
12.15.17

Diligent
Relative
Search
FY19

Ongoing
Placement
Search
FY19

Safety
Evals of
Relative
Homes
FY19

Foster
Home
Licensing
FY20

Family
Contact/
Visits
FY20

Public-Private Partnerships

Casey Family Programs has had a committed presence in Alaska since 2000.

Provides technical and financial assistance to State and Tribal Child Welfare programs to incorporate national best practices related to addressing:

- disparate outcomes;
- well-being of children in foster care;
- decreasing length of time for children in foster care;
- Assisting older youth transition from foster care.

Long term vision:

- Families will be served by local staff, in their own communities;
- Services provided are more cost effective and efficient;
- Families will be more receptive and engaged in changing behavior which will mean over time that the number of Alaska Native children in foster care will decline as does the rate of maltreatment;
- Outcomes for all Alaska children will be improved; particularly those of Alaska Native children.

Thank you~