

*Alaska Citizens Review Panel  
Strategic Plan  
2005-06*



**Overview**

On March 17, 2005, members of the Alaska Citizens Review Panel came together in Anchorage to create a strategic plan for 2005-06. Citizens Review Panels are groups of citizen volunteers across the nation who are federally mandated to evaluate the child protective services system in their respective states. They are to make recommendations for improvement in child protective services in an annual report. These recommendations are to be responded to in writing by the state's child welfare agency.

**Members who attended/Contact Information:**

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### **History of Citizens Review Panels**

The Panel's strategic planning workshop was led by Dr. Blake Jones from the University of Kentucky. Dr. Jones is the Coordinator for Kentucky's Citizens Review Panels and has done extensive research and training in this area. Information may be obtained from Dr. Jones by emailing him at [Bljone00@uky.edu](mailto:Bljone00@uky.edu) or by visiting the National Citizens Review Panel Virtual Community at [www.uky.edu/socialwork/crp](http://www.uky.edu/socialwork/crp)

### **Brainstorming of Ideas**

The Panel came up with several ideas for evaluation in the coming year. Dr. Jones encouraged them to choose topics that were easily definable, that they could commit to, and which had an identifiable outcome in terms of recommendations for the annual report. The Panel brainstormed the following areas:

- Alaska's Foster care and Adoption Program

- Office of Children Service’s response to cultural diversity
- Public Outreach (including communication with OCS and continuance of public meetings)
- Working with OCS personnel in the Mat Su valley to strengthen services there
- Logistics (working on a budget for the Panel, recruitment of new members)

**Plans until June 30, 2005**

The Panel chose to break its work into “short term” and “long term” goals. The annual report from this Panel is due June 30, 2005, so they chose to focus on two short term goals until then. They formed teams around these goals as follows:

*Logistics Team*

*The focus of this team will be to develop a budget for the Panel for submission to OCS, engage in recruitment and training of new members, and bring publicity to the work of the Panel.*

*Chairperson:* Fred Van Wallinga

*Group Members:* Virginia Walter, Le Florendo

*Objectives and Action Steps:*

Objective 1: Develop a budget for the Panel

Actions steps:

- a. determine priorities
- b. do a cost analysis
- c. develop a budget and request

Objective 2: Recruitment and training

Action steps:

- a. develop or update brochure
- b. develop qualifications rubric

Objective 3: Publicity

Action steps:

- a. develop web page

*Timeline*

March: budget focus

April: budget focus and brochure

May: finalize budget

*Tasks to complete*

Fred: cost analysis

Le: Brochure

Virginia: web page and article

*Other Notes on Logistics*

Budget

- web site (explore)
- brochure
- mailing
- travel, per diem
- copying/printing
- staff?
- Convention travel/lunch
- Foods (snacks) meeting expenses
- Staff development (guest speakers, technical assistance, visit other CRPs)

Recruitment and Training

- Obtain 12-13 members
- Statewide, cultural, gender diversity
- Mental health background
- Rural (announce in Bethel: send brochure prior to Bethel meeting, have available at town meeting, place on website)
- Minimum qualifications for members

Publicity

- website
- brochure-update
- generic newspaper note about meetings
- travel newsletter, public announcements

## *Town Meetings*

*The Panel has been hosting town meetings in the past year as part of their federal mandate to engage in “public outreach.” The task of this team is to take the information gathered from those and subsequent meetings and turn them into recommendations for the annual report.*

*Chairperson:* Susan Heuer

*Group Members:* Shelis Jorgensen, Carol Olson

Objectives and Action Steps:

Objective One: Complete scheduled public comment function

Action steps:

- a. Change structure of focus group (professionals first, then OCS)
- b. Outreach to media (determine who will do this)
- c. Securing sites

Objective Two: Organize Comments from “Town Hall” Meetings

Objective Three: Recommendations formulated from public meetings

*Timeline:*

March: Secure sites for April meetings, develop announcement and perform outreach

April: Hold two town hall meetings

May: Compile comments & summary report developed and distributed

*Tasks for members*

Susan: Secure Aneh meeting site, meeting facilitation,

Bridget: Secure Bethel site, coordinate and disseminate announcements, take notes at the meetings

Shelis: Pull out themes from previous meetings and present to the group at the April teleconference

Everyone: develop recommendations by 6/1/05

**Plans after June 30, 2005**

The Panel's "long term" plan for July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006 is to focus on two areas:

- Issues of cultural diversity and child welfare
- A focus on how OCS functions at the local level (with special attention being given to the regional office in the Mat Su Valley)

These two items will be fleshed out at the June 9, 2005 face to face meeting of the Panel

**Other Items**

Virginia Walters has agreed to serve as chairperson of the Panel until June 30, 2005, and Fred Van Wallinga will serve as the Vice Chair. A new Chair and Vice Chair will be elected at the June 9, 2005 meeting.

**Teleconference dates and information:**

Date: Wednesday April 20, 2005  
Time: 2:00 p.m.  
Meet me number: 1-800-315-6338  
Code: 288#

Date: Wednesday May 18, 2005  
Time: 2:00 pm.  
Meet me number: 1-800-315-6338  
Code: 288#

Date: Wednesday June 15, 2005  
Time: 2:00 p.m.  
Meet me number: 1-800-315-6338  
Code: 288#

Face to face meeting:  
Date: Thursday June 9, 2005  
Time: 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Location: Room 1860, Atwood Building, Anchorage.