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Tribal State Collaboration Group

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Tribal State Collaboration Group (TSCG) was established in 1994 and is comprised of tribal representatives, the Office of Children's Services (OCS), and Federal Region X. TSCG meetings take a collaborative approach to address issues pertaining to Alaska Native or American Indian families and youth. The group's focus is to decrease disproportionality in Alaska's child welfare system, increase compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), promote healthy racial and ethnic identity, and develop authentic partnerships.

Through the years, TSCG has made significant progress in improving the child welfare system for Alaska Native or American Indian children and families. Highlighted efforts include:

- Establishment of Tribal Title IV-E Pass-Through Agreements for Administration & Short Term Training. Currently there are 11 agreements.
- Creation of one statewide ICWA Coordinator and five regional ICWA Specialist positions.
- Creation of ICWA Help Desk Positions (tribal or native organizational positions within OCS).
- Establishment of required trainings for OCS employees designed to foster racial and cultural identity awareness.
- Creation of basic and advanced ICWA training for all state and tribal workers. The specialized training instructs workers on historical trauma, racism, and ICWA law and practice.
- The Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (including 15 other Alaska Title IV-B Tribes) applied for and received technical assistance (a four-year process) for work on a systems change initiative through the Western and Pacific Child Welfare Implementation Center (WPIC). OCS and the Alaska Court System are partners in this work with an emphasis on tribal in-home services, tribal foster homes, and direct services that are culturally consistent with the families served.

TSCG tribal organizations have the ability to represent the positions of other TSCG tribal organizations unable to attend meetings due to time and/or budgetary constraints. The Tribal members of the TSCG meet telephonically twice a month.