

**Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
Options Worksheet for Work Groups**

Working Group: Domestic Violence/Child Abuse

Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 1

Statement of problem:

There is a general lack of understanding or agreement about prevention and no coordinated/systematic approach.

Current Status:

Institutions/agencies do not integrate prevention into the way they structure their services, set priorities or 'do business'

Ideal Status:

- a) There would be a shared understanding, integration, and agreement about the purpose, scope, impact, importance of and commitment to prevention.
- b) Agency structure, priorities, goals, policies, procedures and practices will be developed and guided by prevention principles (i.e. recreational facilities are a priority for community development because it promotes health lifestyles, youth/family activities and prevents abuse/violence)

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

- a) Knowledge, attitudes and beliefs of individuals and the agencies/entities they are part of.
- b) Primarily the natural resistance to change inherent in institutions and agencies.

Option(s):

- a) Education, outreach, awareness from the grass roots up to galvanize a shared vision and community action.
- b) Incorporate prevention into all strategic plans, community & agency development of goals etc.

**Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
Options Worksheet for Work Groups**

Working Group: Domestic Violence/Child Abuse

Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 2

Statement of problem:

Little buy in from community & individuals for prevention

Current Status:

Prevention tends to be viewed as agency based and the responsibility of entities that are primarily set up for interventions

Ideal Status:

Prevention is an integral part of village life and is community & individual driven first.

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

Attitudes, lack of empowerment, chronic dependency and expectation that 'others' will do it for us. Turf problems/opposition from state and other agencies to tribal/village community initiatives on prevention.

Option(s):

Community based education/communication lead by elders/recognized traditional leaders with village and culturally specific knowledge.

**Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
Options Worksheet for Work Groups**

Working Group: Domestic Violence/Child Abuse

Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 3

Statement of problem:

Children and youth have adopted beliefs and attitudes that lead them to engage in violent acts and self-destructive behaviors.

Current Status:

Very limited and inconsistent approach to prevention initiatives for children and youth.

Ideal Status:

- a) Education/learning prevention “programs” both in school and in life with a focus on changing accepted ‘norms’
- b) People who have been doing the work, educating youth and children, living a life of cooperation, harmony and respect are the recognized/acknowledge leaders in prevention

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

- a) Racism, sexism, tribal/state politics, attitudes toward children, lack of funding for programs, activities and initiatives
- b) Changing the dominant culture’s attitudes and beliefs about indigenous knowledge – just because we can’t see it, or write it down or figure out where it comes from doesn’t invalidate its existence or value.

Option(s):

- a) Incorporating attitudes of respect toward women/girls, people of (different) color, persons with different abilities, etc. “Walking the talk”, empowering youth, keeping them safe.
- b) Develop and deliver (through local alcohol/drug counselors and elders) a culturally appropriate and comprehensive prevention curriculum in the school to educate children 1-8th grade on substance abuse and healthy relationships and behaviors.
- c) “Few Good Men” approach – let the people in the community identify and acknowledge the leaders/elders. Empower humble people to see themselves as the leaders they are. Pay attention and utilize cultural/traditional ways to recognize mentors.

**Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
Options Worksheet for Work Groups**

Working Group: Domestic Violence/Child Abuse

Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 4

Statement of problem:

Funding challenges for non profit agencies serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

Current Status:

Too many separate funding sources with no coordination between them. Money for pilot projects and not core services. Funding is competitive, unsure, and short term. High overhead and administration costs.

Ideal Status:

Long term, secure, operating funds with reasonable compliance guidelines.

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

Multiple funding sources, no coordination among funding agencies.

Option(s):

- a) Block grant/consolidation within departments, and coordination with compliance and reporting requirements.
- b) Provide educational & therapeutic services for sexual assault victims and child sexual abuse victims.

**Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
Options Worksheet for Work Groups**

Working Group: Domestic Violence/Child Abuse

Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 5

Statement of problem:

Impact of Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAE) on DV/CP

Current Status:

Handful of diagnostic teams in rural areas, estimated 30-40% of children in rural communities fetal alcohol exposed in Bristol Bay, for example.

Ideal Status:

Women of child bearing age who are sexually active will not drink alcohol.

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

- a) Lack of effective prevention programs.
- b) Inter-generational FAE adults having FAE children.
- c) No statewide resource for information and referral.

Option(s):

Prevention programs aimed at family planning, alcohol abuse and domestic violence for all men and women.

**Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
Options Worksheet for Work Groups**

Working Group: Domestic Violence/Child Abuse

Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 6

Statement of problem:

Prevention programs in rural Alaska do not have sufficient resources to do prevention.

Current Status:

a) Kawerak has a dual track program, provides prevention services to children and their families. *(MOA available for review).*

State DHSS offers a few mini grants to provide preventive services (Safe and Stable Families Title IVB funding).

AFN Wellness initiative provided for some prevention type programs in rural Alaska.

Wellness Initiative – 4 areas covered: Control of Alcohol, Supporting VPSO, Enforcing local option law, and violence prevention. Best practices shared among villages.

b) ANDVSA DELTA project (CDC grant) funds prevention programs in Valdez, Sitka, Juneau, Dillingham

c) TCC and YKHC Regions have Tribal Family and Youth Specialists in every village, but they are stretched with multiple duties that do include prevention activities but also include child protection services. Nothing targeted specifically for prevention.

d) Tundra Women's Coalition in Bethel has a prevention program for teens.

Ideal Status:

a) Prevention programs coordinated, non-duplicative, cultural appropriate effective locally or village based provided throughout Rural Alaska.

b) An initiative in each village to spearhead prevention workshops and healthy activities

c) Have smaller organizations work together, coordinating regularly

d) Utilize successful already established models.

e) Have well funded prevention projects with capacity for intervention when prevention work uncovers issues.

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

a) Very few Funding opportunities for prevention activities.

b) Funding and expertise

c) Different funding streams not being coordinated at village or statewide level.

d) Funding mechanisms do not exist to help groups providing services or new funding

e) Most of time spent in intervention rather than prevention

Option(s):

- a) Prevention programs available in the schools and offered by DV/SA, tribal, state and non-profit health organizations, tribal councils or AK Native Village agencies that provide crisis intervention services.
- b) Review of Family Wellness Warriors Initiative (Southcentral Foundation) and other local and regional initiatives.
- c) Statewide curriculum available for use in every village, with statewide staff support for technical assistance to the villages
- d) Existing programs have funds to offer newly developing prevention projects the training and technical assistance they need to build a foundation.

**Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
Options Worksheet for Work Groups**

Working Group: Domestic Violence/Child Abuse

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Option# D- DS 7

Statement of problem:

There are not enough healthy youth and family activities in rural Alaska.

Current Status:

Youth Opportunity Grant programs have been in operation (8 in TCC region), but U.S. Department of Labor funding cuts are curtailing the program.

Ideal Status:

- a) A position and/or capacity/plan in each village to coordinate youth and family activities.
- b) Cooperation and collaboration in the local and state level.

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

Lack of funding and interest

Option(s):

- a) Small funding sources through the state or the federal Wellness Initiative to support opening gyms after hours, craft materials, game nights, etc.
- b) Continued and expanded U.S. Department of Labor funding for Youth Opportunity grants

**Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
Options Worksheet for Work Groups**

Working Group: Domestic Violence/Child Abuse

Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 8

Statement of problem:

There are not enough advertising and educational materials about the problems of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

Current Status:

Informational pamphlets located in court buildings, shelters.

Ideal Status:

Effective education and dialogue on DV/SA and child abuse at local, regional, and statewide levels

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

- a) Could offend people seeing and hearing about more, but then that makes the public more aware to address the issue.
- b) Lack of funding and interest

Option(s):

Disseminate information (posters, pamphlets, etc.) in public places and infomercials (i.e. TV, Radio, etc.)

**Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
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Working Group: Domestic Violence/Child Abuse

Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 9

Statement of problem:

Current perceptions regarding what constitutes DV/SA “prevention” are too limited.

Current Status:

- a) Currently available systems are not adequate to interrupt the cycles that lead to criminal behavior and prevent re-occurrence.¹
- b) There is a lack of treatment services during incarceration.
- c) Post-incarceration transition and treatment services is not incorporated into a continuum of treatment options.
- d) Incorporate by reference the Current Status statement for Problem Area 1 of the Local Capacity Matrix (i.e., (i.e., D- LC 1-1 and 1-2).

Ideal Status:

- a) A continuum of treatment options to coordinate programs that assist transition and continuity from treatment during incarceration and re-entry into the community.²
- b) Supervision and monitoring of treatment after release from custody by court and/or probation, including for misdemeanor offenses, to promote successful completion of treatment, aftercare, and transition goals.
- c) Incorporate by reference Ideal Status in Problem Area 1 of Local Capacity Matrix (i.e., D- LC 1-1 and 1-2).

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

- a) Lack of understanding of the scope of “prevention efforts.” This includes a failure to recognize that the presence of local, culturally relevant justice systems that hold people accountable for their behavior also serves as an essential component of “prevention.” This is as important as treatment, victim or batterer services, and prosecution.

¹ E.g. in December 2004 in Fairbanks, 65 individuals were arrested and charged with domestic-violence related crimes. Of these, 44% were re-offenses. 315 of those charged had more than three prior domestic violence charges, and only 14% were ordered to an alternatives to violence program. 40% of those who were re-offending were not court-ordered to attend an alternatives to violence program. See LEAP Alternatives to Violence Program December, 2004 DV Statistics in Fairbanks

² In its final report in 2000, the Alaska Criminal Justice Assessment Commission found that it is imperative to reduce substance abuse-related crimes through prevention and treatment programs, and that in 97% of crimes committed by Alaska Natives, alcohol or drugs are a factor, and that substance abuse plays a role in 81% of reports of harm involving Alaska Native children.

- b) Current state policy on tribal justice activities has had a chilling effect that impedes local ability to fully engage in meaningful prevention efforts.
- c) Dearth of transitional and aftercare programs due to lack of funding.
- d) Incorporate by reference “structural barriers” identified in Problem Area 1 of Local Capacity Matrix (i.e., D- LC 1-1 and 1-2).

Option(s):

- a) Elevate VPSOs to status of fully-certified law enforcement officers.
- b) Make substance abuse and DV/SA treatment programs available during incarceration.
- c) Develop, adequately fund, and coordinate transitional substance abuse and DV/SA services for post-incarceration;
- d) Provide for post-incarceration supervision and monitoring through the court and/or probation, even for misdemeanor offenses, to promote successful completion of treatment goals.
- e) Incorporate by reference “Options” identified in Problem Area 1 of Local Capacity Matrix (i.e., D- LC 1-1 and 1-2).

**Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
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Working Group: Domestic Violence/Child Abuse

Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 10

Statement of problem:

Not all victims & communities have access to immediate safety

Current Status:

- a) 21 domestic violence/sexual assault programs listed with Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) Community Outreach.
- b) These programs serve all of rural Alaska but resources and geography inhibit ideal safety in the rural areas.

Ideal Status:

Each community has a safety plan to address victim and community safety

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

No single local organizing entity is identified to facilitate community development;
no single point of contact for safety issues.

Option(s):

- a) Have one organization that helps to identify the basic components for safety.
- b) The domestic violence/sexual assault programs provide technical assistance and consultation so each community can develop a safety plan.

**Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
Options Worksheet for Work Groups**

Working Group: Domestic Violence/Child Abuse

Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 11

Statement of problem:

Domestic violence and Sexual Assault programs are not adequately funded.

Current Status:

Domestic violence and sexual assault programs have been flat funded by the state for the past several years, while costs including utilities and health care have skyrocketed. Programs cannot offer competitive salaries (wages may be close to minimum wage). This, combined with high stress of job, leads to great turnover.

Ideal Status:

Domestic violence and sexual assault programs would be viewed as important public safety/public health agencies and well funded.

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

Legislative and Governmental priority-setting.

Option(s):

- a) Increased funding for domestic violence and sexual assault programs.
- b) Provide educational & therapeutic services for sexual assault and child sexual abuse victims.

**Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
Options Worksheet for Work Groups**

Working Group: Domestic Violence/Child Abuse

Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 12

Statement of problem:

Not all areas of the State have access to certified Batterer's Intervention Programs (BIPs).

Current Status:

CDVSA Batterers Intervention Program (BIP) Appears to be 10 BIPs located in AK (Fairbanks, Palmer, Anchorage, Kenai, Homer, Port Graham, Dillingham, Valdez, Sitka, Ketchikan)

Ideal Status:

- a) Have more BIP's & courts to enforce requirements.
- b) Have accessibility to BIPs available in each hub community
- c) Culturally appropriate BIPs
- d) Create a network of BIPs in each rural hub

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

- a) Lack of funding and lack of expertise to run programs.
- b) lack of agreement in the DV/SA community about the effectiveness of programs, therefore diminishing overall support.

Option(s):

- a) Recommend usage of technology to provide BIP services
- b) More funding provided for BIPs programs

**Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
Options Worksheet for Work Groups**

Working Group: Domestic Violence/Child Abuse

Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 13

Statement of problem:

Courts often refer batterers to anger management programs or non state approved batterers intervention programs which aggravates violence

Current Status:

Defendants convicted of domestic violence crimes, or ordered to do an intervention program as part of a custody case or protective order, are sometimes referred to inadequate programs or no program at all because it is not available.

Ideal Status:

Court would refer all domestic violence criminal defendants and battering parents to a state approved domestic violence program.

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

Courts do not have enough education about batterers intervention programs and have fundamental misunderstandings about the cause of violence.

Option(s):

Supervised misdemeanor probation to enforce BIP participation.
Statutory changes to sentencing guidelines and to custody law to enforce that court can only send batterers to a state approved program.

**Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
Options Worksheet for Work Groups**

Working Group: Domestic Violence/Child Abuse

Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 14

Statement of problem:

Monitoring of individuals referred to programs is insufficient; programs no longer offered in prisons

Current Status:

- a) Inconsistent monitoring of BIP program participation by courts lead to less accountability and rehabilitation
- b) Lack of clear outcome measures creates skepticism of program's success.

Ideal Status:

Built-in outcome measures for BIPs: wellness, accountability, strengthened local support for BIPs

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

No probation officers assigned to monitor those on misdemeanor probation.

Option(s):

- a) CDVSA adopts outcome measure regulations
- b) More probation services for misdemeanants

**Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
Options Worksheet for Work Groups**

Working Group: Domestic Violence/Child Abuse

Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 15

Statement of problem:

- a) Too few substance abuse treatment providers.
- b) Not enough programs & accessibility.

Current Status:

Mental Health and Alcohol programs approved by the state in the rural areas.

Ideal Status:

- a) More established & accessible programs and assessments
- b) More dual track & culturally appropriate programs.

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

Insufficient funding and availability of building space in rural Alaska.

Option(s):

See options submitted in Section 9 (i.e., D- DS9) regarding transitional programs developed and fully funded, and substance abuse programs during incarceration and after incarceration for offenders.

**Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
Options Worksheet for Work Groups**

Working Group: Domestic Violence/Child Abuse

Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 16

Statement of problem:

Inconsistent screening of DV/SA, substance abuse and dual diagnosis.

Current Status:

Some DV/SA programs screen for substance abuse and some substance abuse screen for DV/SA but not consistent or standardized

Ideal Status:

Routine screening (for the purposes of helping people in trouble identify the issues they are facing and resources available) is incorporated in all DV/SA and chemical dependency (CD) programs

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

- a) From the perspective of DV/SA programs: limited client confidentiality and program's mandatory child abuse reporting make programs hesitant to document substance abuse for fear of harming victim (who therefore would never return to program).
- b) Resources are already stretched thin and programs cannot perform this function without more funding.

Option(s):

Screening tools & interagency agreements for responding to this information are readily available.

**Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
Options Worksheet for Work Groups**

Working Group: Domestic Violence/Child Abuse

Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 17

Statement of problem:

There are not enough programs that offer long term in-patient substance abuse treatment to women with children; need integration of DV/SA and CP programs.

Current Status:

Some “model” integration of DV/CP program-Anchorage, Kenai, Dillingham.
There are some programs where women can take children – FNA’s Women’s and Children’s program, Old Minto Program, Southcentral Foundation’s Dena A Coy program in Anchorage, SEARHC program.

Ideal Status:

Integrated services available to parents with children in at least each hub community.

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

Funding Coordination between DV/SA programs and substance abuse treatment programs.

Option(s):

Create one program in each rural hub that is culturally appropriate and provides all necessary services to chemically dependent women with children.

**Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
Options Worksheet for Work Groups**

Working Group: Domestic Violence/Child Abuse

Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 18

Statement of problem:

- a) After care programs are not available in many villages.
- b) Need more alternative/traditional treatment options.

Current Status:

- a) 4-Rivers Mental Health has alcohol counselors in most of the villages that they serve
- b) Norton Sound Health Corporation has village based counselors in many villages in Bering Strait region. They are at various levels of certification to provide substance abuse counseling and treatment. Most cannot do substance abuse assessments. Itinerant clinicians travel to villages periodically to do assessments and provide treatment and counseling, but overall there is not consistent, adequate local treatment and counseling for substance abuse.
- c) Family recovery and spirit camps (Minto, Curyung, Sitka, etc.)

Ideal Status:

- a) Aftercare programs in every village or one year residential aftercare programs as available options in hub villages for aftercare.
- b) Alternative/traditional Native based programs in at least each region.

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

Limited funding and expertise in the villages

Option(s):

- a) Have residential aftercare programs in hub villages to re-orient people before returning to their own village and have trained alcohol counselors in every village³
- b) Increase Native traditional treatment programs in regional hubs.
- c) Increase programs for family treatment
- d) Increased training, support and technical assistance for village based volunteers and family members.
- e) Integrate a long term aftercare/family care program with a job training/career development program.

³ See the Alaska Criminal Justice Assessment Commission Report, 2000, which recommended increasing the number of substance abuse beds for Alaskans in need of residential treatment, supporting culturally relevant programs for alcohol treatment, and increasing the programs available in rural areas. See also CFSR Review of Alaska OCS, September, 2002, finding that reunification efforts in child protection cases are affected by overall lack of access to relevant services in parent's community, and scarcity of alcohol treatment and follow up services, Review at 38.

**Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
Options Worksheet for Work Groups**

Working Group: Domestic Violence/Child Abuse

Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 19

Statement of problem:

- a) Alaska Native children are disproportionately overrepresented in the foster care system. (62%).
- b) Tribal and kinship foster homes are often not utilized due to state's rigid foster care standards.

Current Status:

Native children are placed in non-Native foster homes because relative placements and tribal member homes in small communities don't meet the state licensing requirements for a variety of reasons.

Ideal Status:

- a) State will recognize community standards as the norm, while recognizing the differences between Rural/Urban Alaska.
- b) More Native children will be placed with their families, tribes and communities.

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

- a) Tribal Foster Care standards exist although they are not currently recognized by the state. This may be due to state's concern over liability issues if children are hurt in foster care.
- b) Same concern over liability may exist for non-profit tribal organizations that provide services assisting tribes with tribal foster care licensing.
- c) AK statutes or regulations should be changed to recognize the differences between rural/urban areas.

Option(s):

- a) Contact/Review other P.L. 280 states that allow for arrangements/ agreements with tribes in order to place Native children appropriately, and address liability concerns. For example Oklahoma, Oregon, Washington and Wisconsin.
- b) State finds acceptable solution (to tribes and state) to address concerns preventing implementation of agreement utilizing tribal foster care standards so that state recognizes and uses tribally licensed foster homes to place Native children.⁴ This may include changes to state law regarding liability of state and tribal orgs.

⁴ See CSFR Review of Alaska OCS, September, 2002, finding that OCS needs to improve implementation of licensing standards regarding foster care and Title IV-E funding and the licensing process, and recognize tribally licensed foster homes. Current licensing standards do not take into account cultural and child rearing practices of some communities, Review, at 83.

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Options Worksheet for Work Groups**

Working Group: Domestic Violence/Child Abuse

Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 20

Statement of problem:

Funding for first degree relatives is not equivalent to funding strangers may get under the state and tribal foster care systems, so relatives may not be financially able to provide foster care.

Current Status:

When children are placed in first degree relatives homes, they have to apply for child-only TANF funding which is considerably less than foster care funding, especially when there are multiple children in the home.

Ideal Status:

Family members who take in relatives for foster care (grandparents, for example) would be reimbursed at the same rate as foster parents.

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

Federal regulations on tribal foster care, Alaska statutes or regulations.

Option(s):

Explore regulation changes to support close relatives in the care of children in need of aid.

**Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
Options Worksheet for Work Groups**

Working Group: Domestic Violence/Child Abuse

Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 21

Statement of problem:

State currently does not allow reimbursement for maintenance payments for Native children in tribal foster care under Title IV-E reimbursement program, which hinders ability to have more children placed with tribal members in more culturally appropriate settings.

Current Status:

- a) Title IV-E of Social Security Act allows reimbursement for federally eligible foster care expenses, including maintenance (foster care payments), administration and training. Tribes and State have authority to license foster homes. State is currently the only entity authorized by federal government to access these funds. State entered into Title IV-E agreements with tribes and tribal organizations and reimbursement must be conducted through the state. Lower 48 tribes have access to reimbursement for maintenance but state of Alaska will not allow Alaska tribes and organizations to access this-so Native children in tribal foster care do not qualify for reimbursement.
- b) Kawerak has funding for tribally owned foster care payments, but could, through reimbursement, expand funding and consequently opportunities for Native/tribal member foster homes.

Ideal Status:

Tribes are able to access Title IV-E for maintenance, expanding ability to provide funding for tribal foster homes.

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

State's position regarding tribal access to maintenance for Title IV-E.

Option(s):

- a) Recommend Title IV-E agreement – State allow reimbursement to tribal entities for foster parent planning to be tribally licensed homes.
- b) Alternatively, federal government allows tribes in Alaska direct access by eligible tribes and tribal organizations to federal Title IV-E reimbursement.⁵

⁵ See Alaska Federation of Natives Resolution 04-38 adopted at the 2004 Annual Convention, a resolution "Requesting Direct Access to Federal Title IVE Reimbursement." See also CSFR Review of Alaska OCS, September, 2002, finding that OCS needs to improve implementation of licensing standards regarding foster care and Title IV-E funding and the licensing process.

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Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 22

Statement of problem:

Lack of group/children homes for children not appropriate for or able to access foster care.

Current Status:

Rural/Native children taken into state custody are often shipped to Anchorage or other urban areas for placement in an inadequate group homes.

Ideal Status:

Group home in at least every rural hub community for children with specially trained, financially supported culturally appropriate residential custodians/foster parents.

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

State standards for group homes are strict and inflexible, liability issues, lack of funding.

Option(s):

Increased and redistributed funding, more flexibility on standards to reflect community values, specialized training for group home parents & operators.

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Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 23

Statement of problem:

Insufficient capacity of major service delivery entities to meet needs of children and adults affected by DV/SA and child abuse.

Current Status:

- a) OCS has double the caseload size recommended by the Child Welfare League of America, yet all of the federal CSFR responsibilities to meet.
- b) Tribal social services agencies are not funded adequately to provide services to all tribal members impacted by DV/SA and child abuse.
- c) DV/SA shelters and victim service agencies have been virtually flat-funded for five years despite 20-30% increase in the number of shelter nights provided and persons served, 70-85% increases in health care costs and 30-50% increases in the cost of basic necessities (food, freight, fuel, utilities, etc.) in rural areas received no increase in funding despite increase in persons served.

Ideal Status:

All agencies and communities serving persons impacted by DV/SA and child abuse will be staffed at nationally recommended levels that ensure capacity and quality to meet services.

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

- a) Conflict and disagreement over how to fund all agencies.
- b) Limited state funds.
- c) Limited federal funds.
- d) Restrictions on federal funding.
- e) Lack of commitment of general populace to addressing DV/SA and child abuse.

Option(s):

- a) Build in 10% increase in budgets to increase funding for all agencies serving victims/witnesses of DV/SA and child abuse.
- b) Develop a five year plan to gradually meet national standards for OCS staff. OR but require legislation to reduce the statutory requirements for OCS until national staffing standards are met.
- c) Implement and adequately fund prevention and education efforts on the long term effects of DV/SA and child abuse including documentation of the effectiveness of education and prevention in reducing costs and increasing safety and why education and prevention will save money and lives in the long run.

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Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 24

Statement of problem:

Too few professionals in Rural Areas.

Current Status:

Qualified professionals only stay for short terms in rural communities.

Ideal Status:

Early recruitment in the schools for professionals, Social Workers, Clinicians, Law Enforcement etc.

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

Adequate housing a barrier throughout rural Alaska.

Option(s):

Provide housing for professionals keeping service providers in rural communities.

**Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
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Working Group: Domestic Violence/Child Abuse

Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 25

Statement of problem:

Agencies experience high staff turnover rates.

Current Status:

Lack of appropriate housing, high caseloads, increased costs of travel, food, etc., lend to professional staff turnover and burnout.

Ideal Status:

Incentives for professional staff, for example, reduced housing, loan payoffs programs.

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

High cost of living in rural Alaska not conducive for professional staff trying to pay on school loans and live comfortably.

Option(s):

Construction of rental units

**Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
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Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 26

Statement of problem:

Many juveniles are either not receiving treatment at all or are being sent out of state for residential substance abuse or mental health treatment.

Current Status:

a) No residential programs for dual diagnosis children to receive treatment in state. **ACTUALLY, SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION HAS A RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM FOR NATIVE ADOLESCENTS THAT DOES ACCEPT DUAL DIAGNOSIS CLIENTS. IT IS THE PATHWAY HOME. SEE <http://www.southcentralfoundation.org/index.cfm?pg=37>**

b) Limited substance abuse programs for youth.

Ideal Status:

Culturally appropriate local effective juvenile treatment programs and facilities available for both voluntary/ mandatory.

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

- a) Funding
- b) Lack of understanding of the scope of the problem

Option(s):

Development of culturally appropriate local effective juvenile treatment programs and facilities.

**Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
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Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 27

Statement of problem:

Lack of information/data regarding Alaska State Trooper (AST) response to DV/SA and abuse of minors.

Current Status:

Grant through UAA to examine issues associated with sexual assault investigations.

Ideal Status:

Sufficient information/data available confirming that DV/SA and abuse of minors are adequately investigated by AST.

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

Data are collected but not regularly evaluated.

Option(s):

Internal/External quality control audits by AST to provide sufficient information/data confirming AST is adequately responding to DV/SA and abuse of minors.

**Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
Options Worksheet for Work Groups**

Working Group: Domestic Violence/Child Abuse

Component: Development of Services

Option# D- DS 28

Statement of problem:

Traditional experts often not recognized and utilized.

Current Status:

Local experts are often not recognized for their work and given the opportunities to help.

Ideal Status:

System developed for recruiting, retaining, mentoring traditional experts/home grown professionals.

Structural Barriers (e.g., statutes, regulations, etc.):

Federal funding often requires professional degrees.

Option(s):

Incentives by employers to help local people become more qualified for professional positions.