



Bi-Annual Report

January 1 – June 30, 2016

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Child Welfare Academy trains and develops professional workers who work with Alaska children and families to assure children are safe and families are strong.

To accomplish our mission, we:

- Provide state of the art training guided by the OCS Practice Model
- Develop and evaluate curriculum
- Work in collaboration with related disciplines and community partners
- Support positive outcomes for children and families

OUR STAFF

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"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." ~ Anne Frank

TRAINING SUMMARY

Summary of Services provided by the Child Welfare Academy	
Workers in Attendance	295
OCS Workers	207
Tribal Partners	33
Other Community Partners	88
Completed Training Days	95
OCS Contact Hours	5346

SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE and INSIGHT LEADING TO SUCCESS (SKILS)

In the last six months, we continued to develop SKILS. New training includes include more opportunities for the learner to practice new skills. For example, learners practice knocking on a door in a simulation lab, interviewing an actor, then typing notes to document that visit. Learners practice contacting tribal workers, writing case plans that include cultural appropriate services, and applying the ICWA to a case example through the life of the case. Feedback is given to learners throughout SKILS with discussion, specific interview feedback, and trainer feedback on documentation. Learners integrate feedback to further improve new skills.

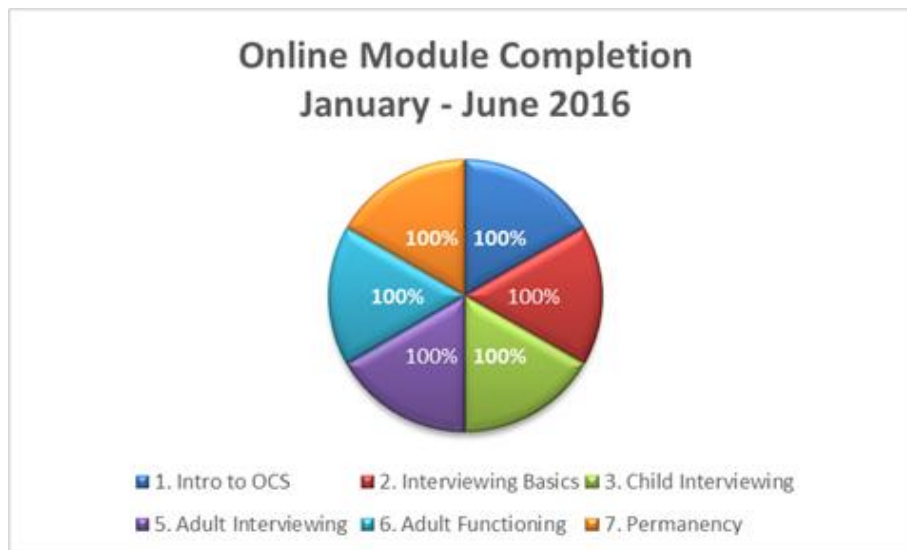
Sampling of participants about training topics:

- The multiple different ways the material is presented is helpful in keeping my attention.
- I appreciated all of the explanations about the process involved in the legal system as it relates to our job and providing lots of examples.
- I like that we were provided an opportunity to experience the simulated parent team meetings, and one-on-ones, along with the children.
- I AM SO VERY GREATFULL TO HAVE GOTTEN TO TAKE ALL THIS TRAINING. THANK ALL OF YOU SO MUCH.
- I enjoyed doing the hands on interviewing. It was intimidating @ first, but was good to get experience & feedback.
- I enjoyed the activity we did of having to knock on the parent's door.
- I always think that the activities are going to be corny, but by the time they are done, they are really helpful.
- Development and assessment of Fran/IDAA Reflection more discussion & critical thinking.
- How to do an IDAA step by step.
- Good discussion today on active efforts, ICWA, relative searches. Glad we received our completed documents back – helpful to see if we're doing things correctly.
- Discussing family engagement values & worker strategies.

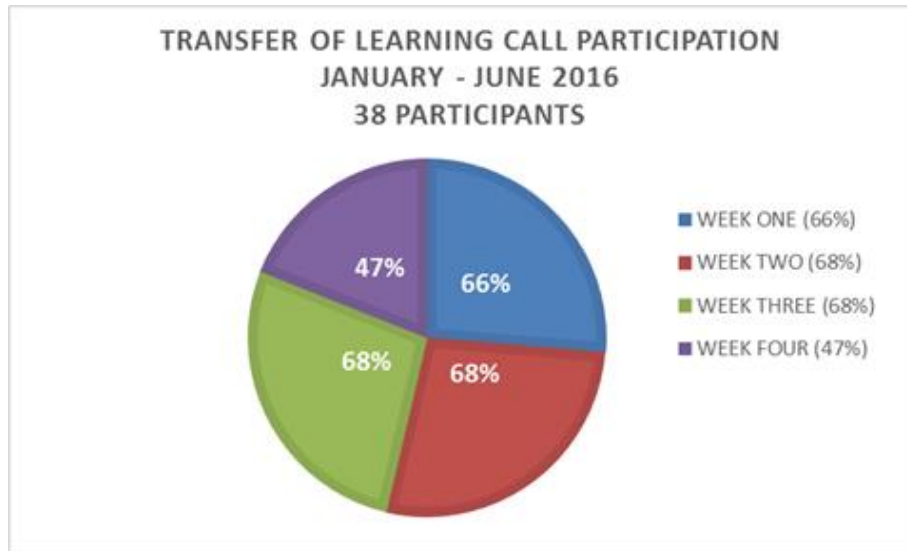
Continued sampling of participants about training topics:

- Activity w/ two groups putting together pieces of the case plan – how to identify each piece & put it together relating to protective capacities.
- Better understanding of how to do case transfers.
- Interviewing practice, note taking, writing activity notes, group activities.
- I'm really liking the actual application in class vs. just a lecture.
- The exercises that showed us the paperwork procedures.
- Interviewing and provision of permanent home procedures.
- Going through one case the entire three weeks was a great idea.
- Lots of material to learn but was all understandable. It is nice to read the actual case plan forms, helps put things into context.
- Having a completed case plan & evaluation to use as a guide for my future cases.
- The open discussion about the personal challenges in the job. Particularly talking about self-care, strengths, and weaknesses.

New workers are required to come to SKILS having taken seven online modules. Below show the completion rates.



CWA continues to provide weekly Transfer of Learning (TOL) calls the month after new workers have attended SKILS. TOL calls help to transfer the learning in the classroom to practice in the field.



There are two modules of worker safety taught in SKILS, Environmental Awareness and Crisis Prevention Intervention. Below are the workers' responses to the training of these two modules.

287 Environmental Awareness Training Evaluation Compilation January – June 2016			
Q#	QUESTIONS	RATING	PERCENTAGES
Q1	Rate the trainer:	1- Poor	0%
		2- Fair	0%
		3- Average	0%
		4- Good	16%
		5- Excellent	84%
100%			
Q2	Rate the content:	1- Poor	0%
		2- Fair	0%
		3- Average	8%
		4- Good	16%
		5- Excellent	76%
100%			

Q#	QUESTIONS	RATING	PERCENTAGES
Q3	Rate the training methods:	1- Poor	0%
		2- Fair	0%
		3- Average	3%
		4- Good	25%
		5- Excellent	72%
100%			
Q4	Rate the location’s contribution to the training experience:	1- Poor	0%
		2- Fair	0%
		3- Average	6%
		4- Good	38%
		5- Excellent	56%
100%			
Q5	Rate the extent to which this workshop was pertinent to your job:	1- Poor	0%
		2- Fair	0%
		3- Average	13%
		4- Good	25%
		5- Excellent	63%
100%			
Q6	Rate the training workshop/experience overall:	1- Poor	0%
		2- Fair	0%
		3- Average	3%
		4- Good	28%
		5- Excellent	69%
100%			

Sampling of Environmental Awareness Participant Responses:

- Environmental awareness & word judo
- Dialogue on AK experiences
- Welcoming; focused; content was relevant. Could easily have several more hours to discuss more
- Hands-on training / activities, videos that were very relatable to job, clear concise instructions, very engaging & relatable. Thank you!

285 Crisis Prevention Institute Training Evaluation Compilation			
January - June 2016			
Q#	QUESTIONS	RATING	PERCENTAGES
Q1	Use nonverbal techniques to prevent acting-out behavior.	5- Strongly Agree	60%
		4- Agree	27%
		3- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree	10%
		2- Disagree	0%
		1- Strongly Disagree	3%
100%			
Q2	Implement verbal de-escalation strategies, such as limit setting.	5- Strongly Agree	57%
		4- Agree	30%
		3- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree	10%
		2- Disagree	0%
		1- Strongly Disagree	3%
100%			
Q3	Make use of CPI's Principles of Personal Safety to avoid injury to all involved in a crisis situation.	5- Strongly Agree	50%
		4- Agree	40%
		3- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree	4%
		2- Disagree	3%
		1- Strongly Disagree	3%
100%			
Q4	Use safe physical intervention procedures as a last resort when a person is a danger to self or others.	5- Strongly Agree	57%
		4- Agree	37%
		3- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree	3%
		2- Disagree	0%
		1- Strongly Disagree	3%
100%			
Q5	Build Therapeutic Rapport with acting-out individuals after a crisis is over.	5- Strongly Agree	57%
		4- Agree	33%
		3- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree	7%
		2- Disagree	0%
		1- Strongly Disagree	3%
100%			
Q6	Applied the course content to a variety of examples.	5- Strongly Agree	87%
		4- Agree	10%
		3- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree	0%
		2- Disagree	0%
		1- Strongly Disagree	3%
100%			

Q#	QUESTIONS	RATING	PERCENTAGES
Q7	Stimulated interest in the subject matter.	5- Strongly Agree	81%
		4- Agree	16%
		3- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree	0%
		2- Disagree	0%
		1- Strongly Disagree	3%
100%			
Q8	Created an enjoyable learning atmosphere.	5- Strongly Agree	83%
		4- Agree	14%
		3- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree	0%
		2- Disagree	0%
		1- Strongly Disagree	3%
100%			
Q9	Emphasized the philosophy of Care, Welfare, Safety, and Security SM .	5- Strongly Agree	67%
		4- Agree	30%
		3- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree	0%
		2- Disagree	0%
		1- Strongly Disagree	3%
100%			
Q10	The program content was relevant to my needs.	5- Strongly Agree	61%
		4- Agree	19%
		3- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree	17%
		2- Disagree	0%
		1- Strongly Disagree	3%
100%			
Q11	How would you rate the web-based portion?	5- Strongly Agree	29%
		4- Agree	42%
		3- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree	16%
		2- Disagree	13%
		1- Strongly Disagree	0%
100%			
Q12	How would you rate the classroom-based portion?	5- Strongly Agree	68%
		4- Agree	26%
		3- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree	0%
		2- Disagree	3%
		1- Strongly Disagree	3%
100%			

Q#	QUESTIONS	RATING	PERCENTAGES
Q13	How would you rate the program overall?	5- Highest	45%
		4	36%
		3	16%
		2	0%
		1- Lowest	3%
			100%

Sampling of Crisis Prevention Intervention Participant Responses:

- *Learned new techniques and gained confidence*
- *Can de-escalate clientele*
- *Know how to escape dangerous situations*
- *Learned non-violent Responses to acting out*

Additional comments on the program, teaching methods, course materials, and/or the Instructor:

- *Experienced instruction w/ good teaching skills and good program*
- *Emphasis on learning new methods of physical intervention*
- *Great stories and physical examples*
- *Very relaxed, informative, good perspective*

TRAINING and TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

For the past two fiscal years, OCS has included travel funding for each region to receive 10 days of training and/or technical assistance from the CWA. Each region decides how they would like to use the days. The majority of the training and technical assistance was focused on the new Family Services Assessment process and leadership issues including emotional intelligence. The chart below shows the region/office and topic of training and technical assistance in the past 12 months, FY16.

ANCHORAGE	TOPIC	# Days	DATE	TRAINER
Anchorage	Safety plan training w/TDM	1	9/30/2015	Tammy
	FSA 2.0	2	6/27-28/16	Cory / Tom
ARO Total days:		3		
SOUTHCENTRAL	TOPIC	# Days	DATE	TRAINER
SCRO				
Wasilla	Emotional Intelligence	2	4/14-15/16	Tammy, Cory
	Family Services	1	5/20/2016	Tammy
SCRO Total days:		3		

REGION	TOPIC	# Days	DATE	TRAINER
NRO				
Nome	Kawerak Providers	1	11/3/2015	Tammy
Fairbanks		3	4/27-29/16	Tammy
Barrow		2	6/9-10/16	Cory
NRO Total days:		6		
REGION	TOPIC	# Days	DATE	TRAINER
SERO				
Juneau	Emotional Intelligence	1	4/19-20/16	Tammy / Cory
Juneau	IA/FS	2	4/21/2016	Cory
Sitka	Family Services	1	4/21/2016	Tammy
Ketchikan	IA/ FS	2	4/27-28/16	Tom
Petersburg	Family Services	1	4/29/2016	Tom
Juneau	Practice Model Overview for State Office and Strategic Planning for Regional Leadership Team	1.5	5/11-12/2016	Tammy
SERO Total days:		8.5		
REGION	TOPIC	# Days	DATE	TRAINER
WRO				
Bethel	Leadership	2	6/6-7/16	Tom / Cory
Bethel	IA/FS	3	6/14-16/16	Tom
WRO Total days:		5		

KNOWING WHO YOU ARE (KWYA) WORKSHOPS

CWA has continued to support the KWYA workshops offered by OCS, Tribes and Tribal organizations, and other community partners. This workshop is open to Tribal, State, and community partners to increase their awareness and ability to work with youth-in-care around the importance of developing a healthy racial and ethnic identity.

The end of 2015 was a pivotal time for Knowing Who You Are in Alaska as the curriculum was released by Casey Family Programs allowing Alaska to adapt the program to meet our unique needs. The statewide leadership group, known as the KWYA Steering Committee, saw this as an opportunity to review the process and content of the workshop and make it our own. So far, some of the new updates include introducing a pre-workshop teleconference and distributing a packet to be completed prior to attending the workshop. Other curriculum changes will be introduced in the near future.

While these updates are being planned, workshops are continuing to happen around the state. Since January, three workshops (Anchorage, Palmer, and Fairbanks) have taken place where 36 OCS workers, Tribal partners and community members have been trained.

CWA is also excited to announce that moving into the new fiscal year, OCS and the Steering Committee have approved a proposal for the academy to have a more involved role in administering the KWYA program including planning statewide workshops, creating a KWYA website, and offering a Training of Facilitators. We are excited about continuing to support this important workshop.

In addition to supporting KWYA in child welfare, the Lower Kuskokwim School District (LKSD) has contracted with CWA in an effort to roll out of KWYA to their district office staff, site administrators, and community liaisons. CWA is very excited to be a part of this important work knowing it is being spread through the state and into the field of education.

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT (ICWA) TRAINING

With the disproportionality rate of children in foster care in Alaska consistently high for Alaska Native children, CWA continues to find ways to improve ICWA training offered to OCS staff. Earlier this year, with the guidance of the ICWA Training Workgroup (established by the Tribal State Collaboration Group), CWA lead efforts to revamp the following continuum of ICWA trainings:

- *Intro to ICWA*
- *Basic ICWA*
- *Advanced ICWA* (formerly known as Specialized ICWA).

Intro to ICWA: Updates were made to this brief and introductory online module. *Intro to ICWA* is required prior to workers attending SKILS in order to establish a baseline understanding of the purpose of this important law which effects nearly 55% of OCS's cases.

Basic ICWA: The two activities listed on the OCS Staff Development Plan (SDP) make up what is known as *Basic ICWA* which first entailed meeting with Regional ICWA Specialist to debrief "Yuuyaraq: The Way of the Human Being" by Harold Napoleon. Secondly, it involved meeting with Tribal Partners or Representatives. Both of these activities are designed to be completed after a worker attends SKILS and before 6 months on the job. *Basic ICWA* is designed to be facilitated at the regional level in order for the new worker to become familiar with their region's OCS ICWA Specialist, Tribes, and Tribal Organizations. The workgroup also adapted questions to guide discussion when debriefing of the pivotal reading about the "Great Death" that affected the Alaska Native peoples.

Advanced ICWA: The largest of these projects was to update the two-day training formally known as Specialized ICWA to the new version- *Advanced ICWA*. This curriculum, designed to be co-facilitated by a Regional ICWA Specialist, a local Tribal Partner, and a CWA Trainer, reinforces the collaboration and relationship building between the State and Tribal workers serving families that fall under ICWA. This training is to be completed within the first year of hire and provides workers the opportunity to review key sections of the law, explore historical events effecting Alaska Native peoples, and reinforce best practice at key points in ICWA cases.

In June 2016, *Advanced ICWA* was offered at the following four locations: Fairbanks, Ketchikan, Juneau, and Nome. A total of 76 participants earned certificates of completion including OCS Staff, Tribal workers, foster parents, service providers, and community partners.

A special thank you to all of the ICWA Training Workgroup members for their wisdom, contributions, and guidance in making the important updates: Judge Kimberley Sweet, Danielle Holt, Lenora Walker, Lola Stepetin, Racheluz "Pinky" Tooyak, Keith Rueben, Jeri Museth, Linda Fiechtl, April Stahl, Jennifer Dale, Tim Bolles, Misty Archibald, and Kim Guay. Also, a very BIG thank you to the first round of co-facilitators of the new *Advanced ICWA* curriculum (underlined).

Lastly, with the new ICWA regulations published this June, CWA will continue to incorporate updates to all ICWA trainings to reflect the changes in the law.

SUPERVISORY TRAINING

Session 2 of the supervisory training was scheduled for February 2016, however, due to the OCS travel freeze, Session 2 was distance delivered over a 4-month period. Prior to the beginning of Session 2, Transfer of Learning calls were used to help keep the supervisors connected to what they had learned and to discuss how they were using this new knowledge. Session 2 included teleconferences along with webinars on topics such as adult learning styles, strategic planning and appreciative inquiry, team development, and conflict resolution. These supervisors then began the CSBP program in April of 2016.

COACHING SUPERVISORS TO BEST PRACTICE (CSBP)

The second cohort of CSBP concluded in March 2016. As a result of the feedback from Cohort 1, the program was revised to be more streamlined and easier to follow from week to week. The changes seemed to really help. Participants said the readings were very helpful and they would use them with workers and in unit meetings. A couple of supervisors said they loved the program and that they are specifically using the practice model now and they can walk through each step of practice, articulating the why, how and what of their work. Supervisors also reported being able to help their workers develop greater critical thinking skills so that they are more comfortable making decisions on their caseload.

Feedback from the supervisor's managers included strong positive support for the program, however, they want supervisors to be held accountable. They also thought the matching of the supervisor and coach was highly successful in some cases, but not so in others. The managers seemed to appreciate the program in terms of its focus on specific goals, giving the manager concrete areas to guide discussion/supervision and support their supervisor. Unintentionally, having a supervisor involved in the coaching program also seemed to have positive impacts on the managers' own work as they had to be sure they could walk their own talk, so to speak.

Below is a compilation of evaluations on knowledge of Cohort #2 supervisors before and after coaching.

Rate Your CSBP Knowledge		<div> <div></div> <div>Low to High</div> <div></div> </div>				
		1	2	3	4	5
Present Danger	BEFORE:		20%			80%
	AFTER:					100%
Protective Action Plans	BEFORE:			40%	40%	20%
	AFTER:				40%	60%
Information Collection	BEFORE:			40%	60%	
	AFTER:				20%	80%
The Danger Threshold	BEFORE:			20%	80%	
	AFTER:				80%	20%
Identifying Impending Danger	BEFORE:		20%	60%	20%	
	AFTER:				60%	40%
Caregiver Protective Capacities	BEFORE:		20%	40%	40%	
	AFTER:				40%	60%
Safety Planning	BEFORE:		0%	100%		
	AFTER:				25%	75%
Rate your Understanding and Use of the Practice Model	BEFORE:		25%		75%	
	AFTER:				50%	50%
Rate your Supervision of Best Practice	BEFORE:			75%	25%	
	AFTER:				50%	50%
Rate your Expectations of Workers to Use Best Practice	BEFORE:			60%	20%	20%
	AFTER:			20%	20%	60%
Rate your Skill at Transfer of Learning to Practice	BEFORE:		40%	40%	20%	
	AFTER:			20%	40%	40%
Rate your Comfort Level in Coaching Workers	BEFORE:			40%	20%	40%
	AFTER:				40%	60%
Rate your Effectiveness in Coaching Workers	BEFORE:			100%		
	AFTER:				80%	20%
Rate your Knowledge of Coaching Tools	BEFORE:		20%	80%		
	AFTER:				20%	80%

Cohort 3 is currently in process. This cohort includes the newest supervisors to be hired in the past year. Evaluation results will be done after the final case presentation, however, below are quotes from supervisors currently going through the program about their experience thus far.

“As a 12yr veteran of OCS, I’ve only ever worked permanency. This Cohort has provided an amazing opportunity for me to expand my horizons and delve into the world of IA. The amount of information is overwhelming and a great deal of time and commitment needs to be given, but it’s been extremely beneficial.”

“CSBP has been a great experience! I feel that the program supports and has strengthened me as a supervisor and better equipped me to transfer learning and application of the practice model to staff through a coaching model which drives workers to think critically with accountability. It has provided a platform for me to slow down, step back and really connect the model and tools to casework, which ultimately, will transfer down to workers and families we serve, driving better outcomes for families.”

CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS/MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS (CAC/MDT)

CWA continues its work with MDTs and CACs across the State to provide training and technical assistance. During this six-month period, CWA took on two major projects.

CWA continued to work with the Barrow MDT in their response to child maltreatment. CWA staff traveled to Barrow for a day of technical assistance including a walk thru of the allocated space for the CAC to determine the lay out. The team met and made a list of next steps toward opening their CAC and established a goal of opening by October 1, 2016. Additionally, team members and CWA staff made a list of needed equipment to be purchased for the CAC. The forensic interviewing equipment has since arrived and is waiting to be installed. CWA then collaborated with statewide experts in the CAC/MDT world and took a team to Barrow to provide training on how a CAC functions. The trainers walked a case through the process from the initial call to the case review prior to prosecution. At that training, the new CAC Coordinator was present, the second week of her job. The team continues to work on their Policy and Procedures for the CAC and to hone their Protocols. They have had some turnover and may have more due to some of the changes taking place in government. However, this has not stopped their team's passion in doing what is in the best interest of children.

CWA took the lead in organizing and facilitating the 2016 OCS CAC Grantee meeting on May 11th and 12th. The meeting included a collaborative effort with the Alaska Children's Alliance and OCS. Its purpose was to address issues related to CACs and to provide an opportunity for training and discussion on a range of topics. Recently, referrals to CACs across Alaska have increased, in some cases more than doubling. CACs are seeing more types of cases, including more with allegations of domestic violence, neglect, and for sexual abuse cases involving juvenile offenders than they have seen historically. While it is great that CACs are utilized more as a resource, it is important that they have the capacity to do this additional work and the necessary support from partners. These topics and others were part of the discussion over the busy two days.

Work continues with the Bethel CAC with updating their protocols. CWA facilitated a teleconference with the Core Team to update them on protocols. The team also attended Team Week and aided them in continuing their work on team development and protocols.

CWA has representation on the Alaska Child Maltreatment Planning Committee for the upcoming Conference in November of 2016 and will be presenting at the conference.

CWA had a request from a Mat-Su Team member for some technical assistance for their team. The CWA representative connected with several MDT members and it was determined the team would attend Team Week and then decide if additional training was needed.

ChildFirst™ ALASKA

Since its inception in 2012, CWA has been a partner on the Leadership Team of ChildFirst™ Alaska (CFA) including providing some of the administrative tasks for the training. In the past six months, Cory Bryant, one of the trainers at CWA has become a CFA trainer and CWA has agreed to take on additional coordination duties for this statewide forensic interviewing training. In addition, CWA was tasked with developing a website for CFA, and it was formally completed in May of 2016, <http://childfirstalaska.org/>

The CWA representative attended the National ChildFirst Summit in Atlantic City in June of 2016. ChildFirst™ Alaska continues to be a collaborative effort amongst many organizations across the state.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES ALASKA

CWA continued to support expansion of the Strengthening Families Alaska in the north and western areas of the State. A two-day training was provided in Bethel in February. There were a total of 22 participants from AVCP Head Start, UAF Qungasavik Project Center for Alaska Native Research, Bethel Youth Facility, ANTHC, Orutsararmiut Native Council, OCS, Tundra Women's Coalition, and Bethel Public Health Center. Two mini-grants were awarded to Tundra Women's Coalition and Bethel Youth Facility. Other Bethel agencies expressed interested in becoming more active in the fall.

In June, a two-day training was provided in Hooper Bay in partnership with the UAF Qungasavik Project. Sixteen participants moved in and out of the training. Although the local community chose the timing for the training, unfortunately, it coincided with the fish coming in. Many participants had to leave to fish for their families' subsistence needs. There was a great deal of interest, however, and the community would like us to return in October when more people are available to engage in the full training.

In December, the Nome Community Center made the decision to embed Strengthening Families in their program. Training was provided agency-wide in February and a mini-grant was provided. The communities of Noorvik and Golovin also received mini-grants and continued their community activities.

Additional Strengthening Families activities included the following: a presentation to the Alaska Center for Pediatrics; a 3-hr. video-conference training for the UAA LEND Program with 88 participants across the state; orientation of the ECCS Program Officer; a workshop presentation at the Early Childhood Mental Health Institute; a two-day training for the communities of Talkeetna, Willow, and Trapper Creek; support for the ECCS mini-grant awarded to Sunshine Health Clinic for hosting Parent Cafes; representation at Help Me Grow meetings; a two-day training for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; participation in the SF child care program annual meeting; a two-day training for RurAL CAP *Parents As Teachers* statewide staff (22 participants); a presentation at the World Association of Infant Mental Health Conference in Prague, Czech Republic; development of SF posters for the western, southeast, and southcentral regions of Alaska; and responding to requests for materials and information. Below is a compilation of the training completed in the past six months.

Strengthening Families Alaska Training Evaluation Compilation				
Q#	QUESTIONS - 58 Attendees	RATING	BEFORE TRAINING	AFTER TRAINING
Q1	My knowledge of the 5 Protective Factors	5-Highest	3%	41%
		4	28%	55%
		3	47%	3%
		2	21%	0%
		1-Lowest	2%	0%
			100%	100%
Q2	My knowledge of Strengthening Families	5-Highest	0%	41%
		4	19%	55%
		3	47%	3%
		2	28%	0%
		1-Lowest	7%	0%
			100%	100%
Q3	My knowledge of how to incorporate protective factors into my work <i>Note: Missing one response on After Training</i>	5-Highest	0%	34%
		4	21%	53%
		3	53%	10%
		2	21%	0%
		1-Lowest	5%	0%
			100%	98%
Q4	My understanding of my role in supporting families using the SF Protective Factors concept <i>Note: Missing one response on Before and After Training</i>	5-Highest	2%	36%
		4	22%	59%
		3	50%	3%
		2	19%	0%
		1-Lowest	5%	0%
			98%	98%
Q5	My satisfaction with this training <i>Note: Missing two responses</i>	5-Highest	N/A	62%
		4		33%
		3		2%
		2		0%
		1-Lowest		0%
				97%

Sampling of Strengthening Families Alaska on Participant Responses:

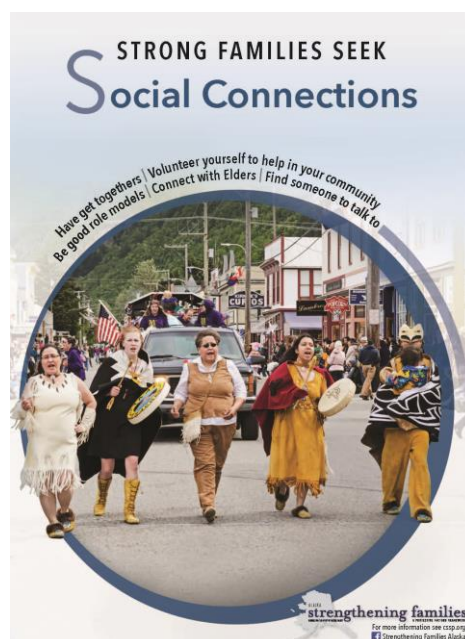
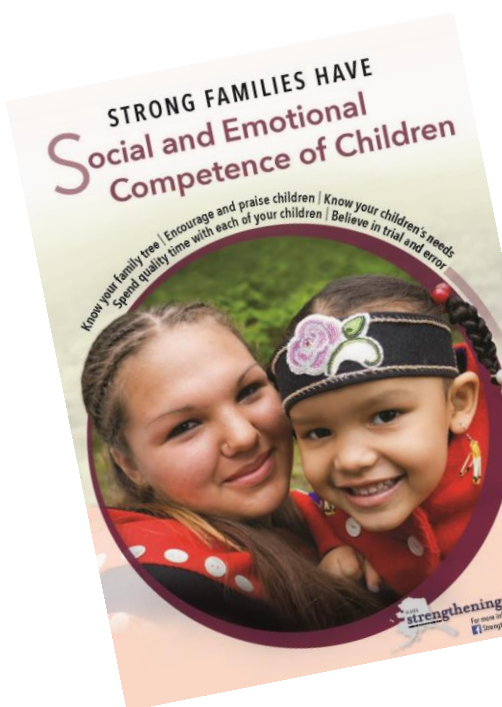
- *Changes my perspective as a parent in a community, knowing that small interaction can have greater impacts, and leaves me with a stronger feeling that community can be a large extension of family.*
- *Strengthening Families information is applicable for all families. The curriculum is great! The knowledge of the group was pretty awesome. I think I'll try to keep passing on info to family, NOT HOLD back.*

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ In April 2016, CWA provided a two-day training to Advocates working with women and children who have suffered domestic violence and are in shelter care. The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault requested the training with a focus on working with children who have experienced trauma and how to handle some of the challenging behaviors their staff experience on a daily basis.
- ❖ CWA provided a presentation at the rural provider's conference entitled: "Protecting Our Children – Understanding & Preventing Child Sexual Abuse," held on March 29-31, 2016, and sponsored by BIA Human Services, Alaska Region. The presentation addressed how the system works when there is an allegation of child sexual abuse and how to improve responses in rural areas that may not have a Child Advocacy Center.
- ❖ CWA provided 26 hours of executive coaching to a total of six managers.

ON THE HORIZON

We are looking forward to distributing new posters of Strengthening Families Protective Factors-, which are Alaska region-specific. Here is a preview of the southeast region poster series:



ETV PROGRAM

Education and Training Voucher Program 2015-2016



The Child Welfare Academy (CWA) administers the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program for eligible foster youth pursuing higher education at the University of Alaska. Youth receive funding support through the Education and Training Voucher and Foster Youth Tuition Waiver. The Youth Education Coordinator offers ongoing case management as well as support for incoming students on the enrollment/admissions process, housing, medical and social emotional support. The program also offers an annual Foster Youth Education Conference for youth to learn about campus life, financial aid, and post-secondary education and training.

Program Highlights

Collaboration between the OCS Independent Living Program and the ETV Program allows for early identification of students. This has shown an increase in the number of foster youth enrolled in college throughout the state. The ETV Program has shown an increase in the number of foster youth attending University of Alaska Campuses and doubled the number of foster youth enrolled throughout the state. The 2015-2016 academic year has proven the continued success of foster youth enrolled at University of Alaska Campuses. Below are just a few of the highlight from this year:

- Support services (housing, health, advising, and mentorship) for youth continue to increase, university and community stakeholders are more informed and invested, and in general youth are experiencing more success.
- The ETV Program increased support during the 2015-2016 Academic year with a BSW intern.
- The ETV Program partnered with UAA staff in various departments to sponsor a gift drive to collect holiday present for 26 students in Anchorage and the Matsu Valley.
- 41 foster youth attended University of Alaska Campuses during the 2016-2016 Academic Year
- 41 students received an Education and Training Voucher award, 30 students received a Presidential Foster Youth Tuition Waiver from University of Alaska, and 11 students received and OCS Tuition Scholarship.
- The Annual Foster Youth Education Conference at UAA hosted more than 20 foster youth from throughout the state.
- College graduation rates reached a record high for foster youth in Alaska with 7 students graduating during the 2015-16 academic year.

TRAINING CALENDAR

January to June 2016 Trainings		
Event	Dates	Location
285 CPI & 287 Environmental Awareness	January 20	Anchorage
131 SKILS IA	January 11-22	Anchorage
133 SKILS FS	January 11-29	Anchorage
235 Knowing Who You Are	January 20, 21, & 23	Anchorage
140 Social Services Associates	February 9-11	Anchorage
285 CPI & 287 Environmental Awareness	February 12	Anchorage
237 ChildFirst	February 22-26	Anchorage
131 SKILS IA	March 14-25	Anchorage
133 SKILS FS	March 14-31	Anchorage
285 CPI & 287 Environmental Awareness	March 23	Anchorage
235 Knowing Who You Are	April 21-22	Palmer
131 SKILS IA	May 2-13	Anchorage
133 SKILS FS	May 2-20	Anchorage
285 CPI & 287 Environmental Awareness	May 11	Anchorage
235 Knowing Who You Are	June 14-15	Fairbanks
229 Advanced ICWA	June 16-17	Fairbanks
229 Advanced ICWA	June 20-21	Ketchikan
229 Advanced ICWA	June 23-24	Juneau
229 Advanced ICWA	June 27-28	Nome

January to June 2016 Webinars	
Topic	Date
Preventing Sex Trafficking & Strengthening Families: Understanding Prudent Parent, APPLA, & Older Youth	January 26
Child Maltreatment Prevention	April 19
Foster Parent Success: Stories Not Told	May 5
Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)	June 14