



BI-ANNUAL REPORT

January 1 to June 30, 2018

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Child Welfare Academy (CWA) trains, develops, and supports Alaskans to assure children are safe, youth thrive, 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 & LOCATION

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TRAINING SUMMARY

Summary of Training provided by CWA January - June 2018		
ATTENDANCE	SKILS for New Workers	Other Training
OCS PARTICIPANTS	55	259
TRIBAL & COMMUNITY PARTNERS	4	43
TOTAL COMPLETED TRAINING DAYS	125	
TOTAL CONTACT HOURS	8,933	

SKILS

CWA staff have been busy making changes with SKILS 131 and 133 training slides, activities, and trainer notes to integrate new OCS policy and procedures. The addition of two new trainers has enriched the learning environment for new workers and allowed for additional updates to the training environment. There has been an emphasis on incorporating the Traditional Health and Wellness Guide and the Protective Factors into every aspect of the training. Updates and fine-tuning continue on every aspect of the training to make the training more realistic and relevant to a typical case in the field. CWA has applied current adult learning theories to the curriculum and added additional child interviewing information and simulations to the training. CWA continues to incorporate more in depth information about Alaska Native culture and teaching cultural humility throughout the training.

Our Blended Learning Community (BLC) also continually updated to reflect changes in OCS policies and changes to the ICWA regulations. Prior to coming to SKILS training, new workers complete 24 online modules. This enables workers to become familiar with their jobs and deepens the learning through recall once they arrive at SKILS. Over the past few years, OCS and CWA have consistently held new workers and their supervisors accountable to completing the online and on-the-job (OJT) training outlined in the Pre-SKILS section of the BLC. New workers are able to shadow workers in the field in a structured way to enhance their learning. The other on the job training (OJT) from the Pre-SKILS BLC helps the new workers prepare for the in person training and they are prepared to “hit the ground running”.

New workers also complete 17 online Post-SKILS modules in the BLC as well. These modules are a mix of OJT, online, and in person trainings that the workers complete in their first year of employment. This allows new workers to continue their professional development. CWA continues to update the current trainings in the BLC and add relevant trainings. Recent trainings that were developed and added to the

BLC include LGBTQ Youth training and Opioid Use Disorder training. This is a comprehensive approach to supporting new workers.

Overall, the feedback from the evaluations of SKILS was very positive. Workers like the variety of training activities, discussions, the interactive style of the training and the trainers. Overall, the workers indicate that they like the tools and guides to assist them in their work, going systematically through the life of one case, and the insights they gain from the Youth Panel.

Sampling of SKILS Participant Responses:

- » The youth panel was OUTSTANDING. I'd love to sit through another.
- » It was helpful to break down the steps for the IA process.
- » Thank you for starting & ending on time. Thank you for keeping the pace moving. Honestly, Day 5 kind of needs a faster pace - Also, pls. consider moving table group configurations around to mix it up. Also, use mentors more to tell "real life" examples, maybe.
- » I like when the experienced workers give personal examples, because I find them interesting and they're how I learn best. I look forward to hearing more!
- » The foster care panel was the most impactful. It really drives home how important the connections are that we make with the families we work with.
- » Everything in the class is amazing...But, I think there needs to be a focus on child interviewing for FS. Like an actual child interview outside of IA.
- » Having mentors will be a great tool to assist once we leave SKILS and work in the field.
- » One table was very loud & distracting. Even after being shushed and re-directed, the behavior continued. It was difficult to hear some of the trainers & learners due to this. I hope next week will be better! I really liked the connections we were able to make!
- » The tools and the practice will be helpful. As painful as the interviews were, they were very helpful and good feedback was given.
- » I think I'll dedicate much more time to constantly assessing any safety and reassessing any prejudices.

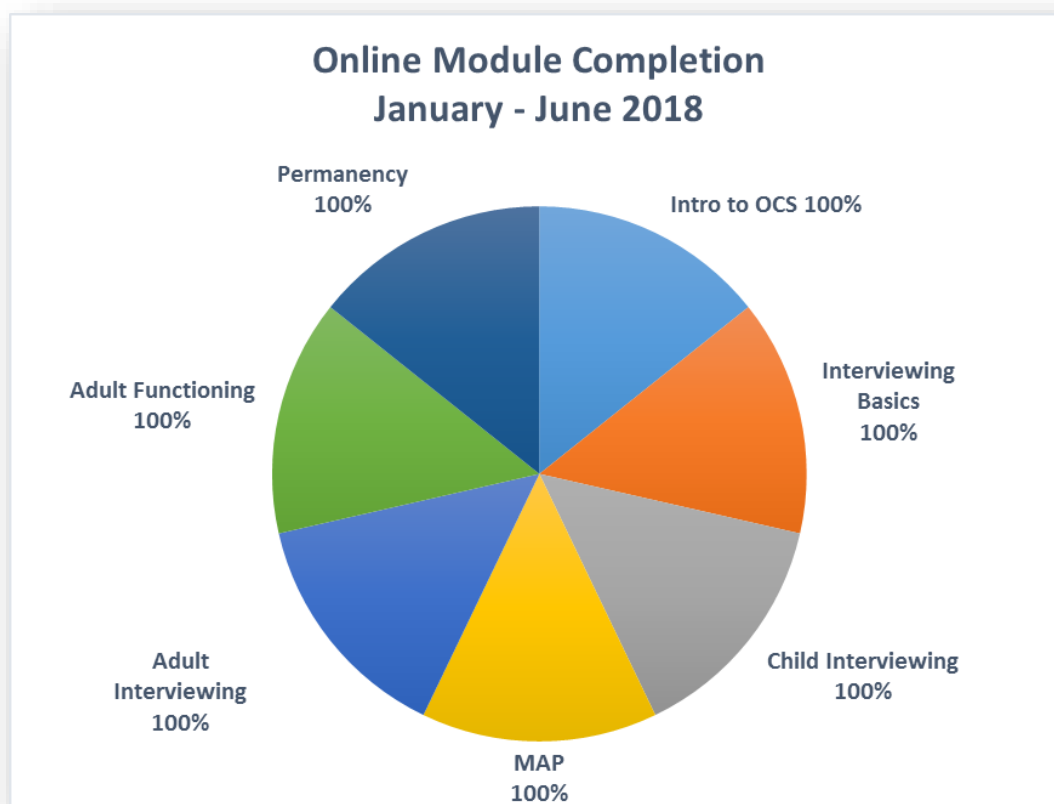
CWA staff have also developed and implemented Advanced SKILS training. Advanced SKILS is an additional two weeks of core training for front line workers within their first year of hire with OCS. Workers who have attended SKILS training and have been in the field carrying a caseload are invited to participate in Advanced SKILS. Their time in the field is an important foundation that Advanced SKILS builds upon with specialized topics such as Substance Use, Mental Health, and Domestic Violence.

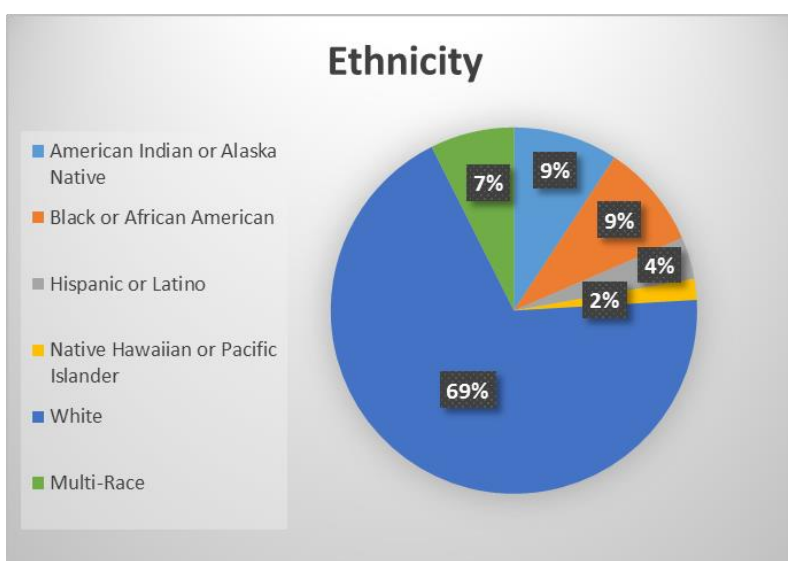
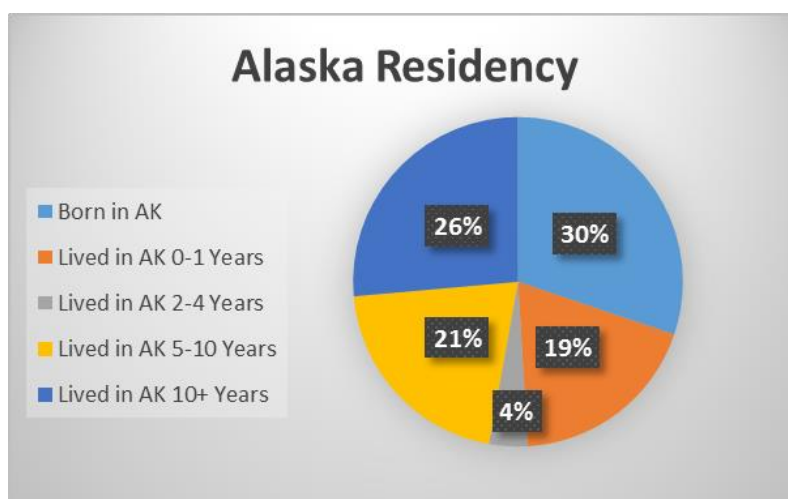
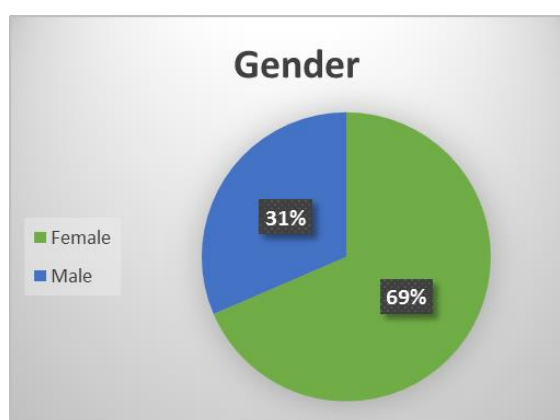
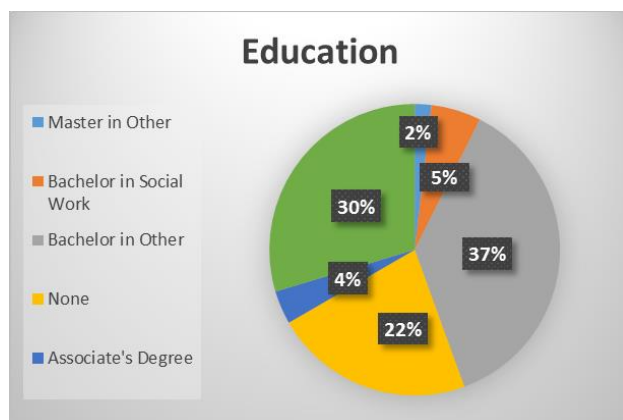
Advanced SKILS Week 1 is Advanced SKILS 231 and Week 2 is Advanced SKILS 233. Both Advanced SKILS 231 and 233 cover child welfare topics pertinent to Initial Assessment Specialists, Family Services Specialists, and Generalists. Regardless of role, workers are expected to take both Advanced SKILS courses as indicated on the Staff Development Plan (SDP).

Workers also get an in-depth look at a case through the quality assurance (QA) review process so they gain a better understanding of the QA process and the relevance of the data. Advanced SKILS also includes a day of advanced legal training and a presentation on historical trauma. CWA also hosts a Parent Panel of parents and caregivers who have been or are currently involved with OCS. Workers are able to hear the parent's perspective about what workers have done that helped them be successful or not. Advanced SKILS provides advanced interviewing skills to workers as well. The in-depth, interactive training builds on the foundation the workers received in SKILS and provided additional learning and professional development.

CWA staff continue to update and make changes to training slides, activities, and presentations for Advanced SKILS to reflect OCS policy changes and practice improvements.

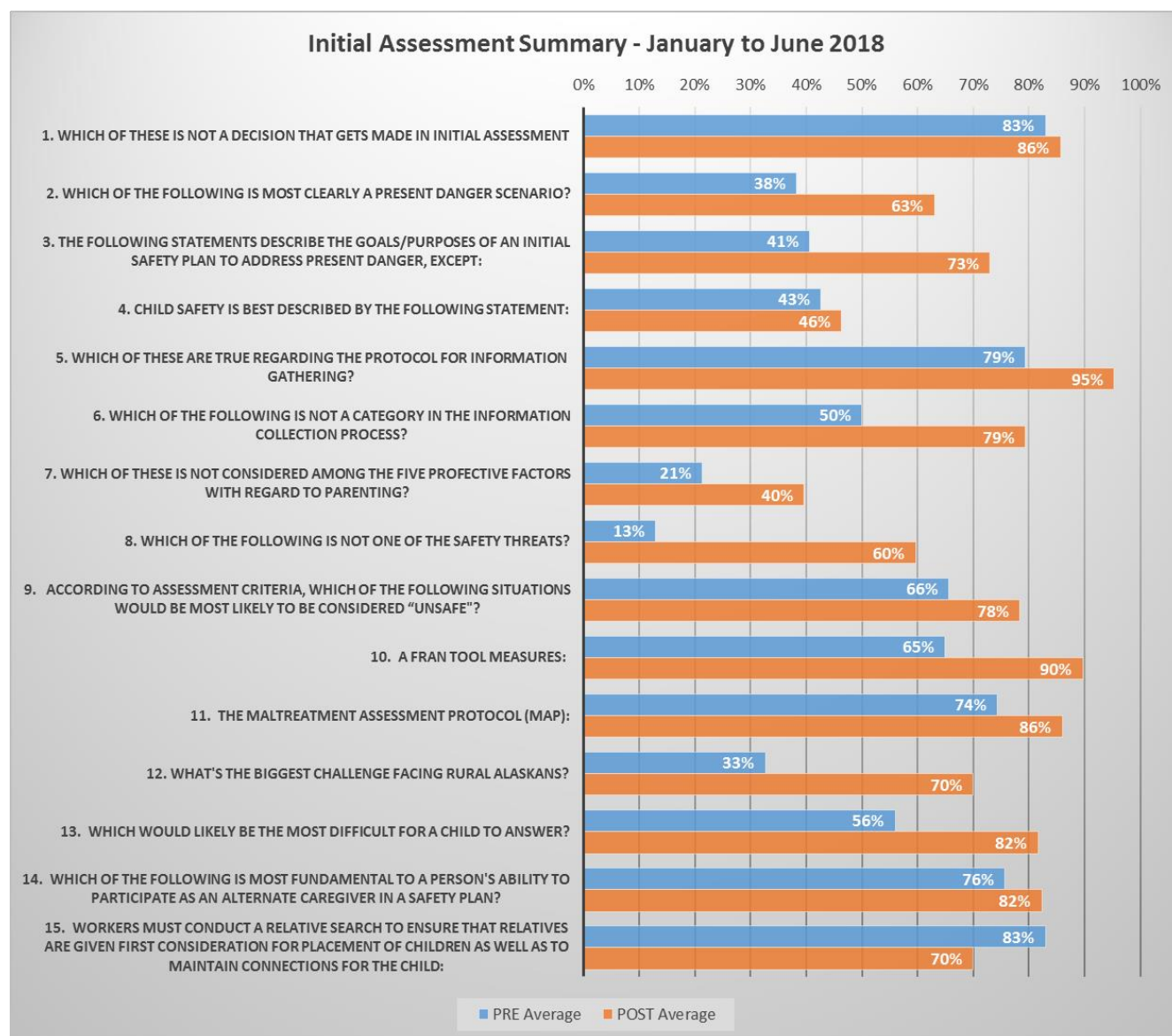
New workers are required to come to SKILS having taken online modules in the BLC. The following charts indicate each module's completion rate along with workers' demographic information. Demographic percentages are based on attendees who completed the survey.

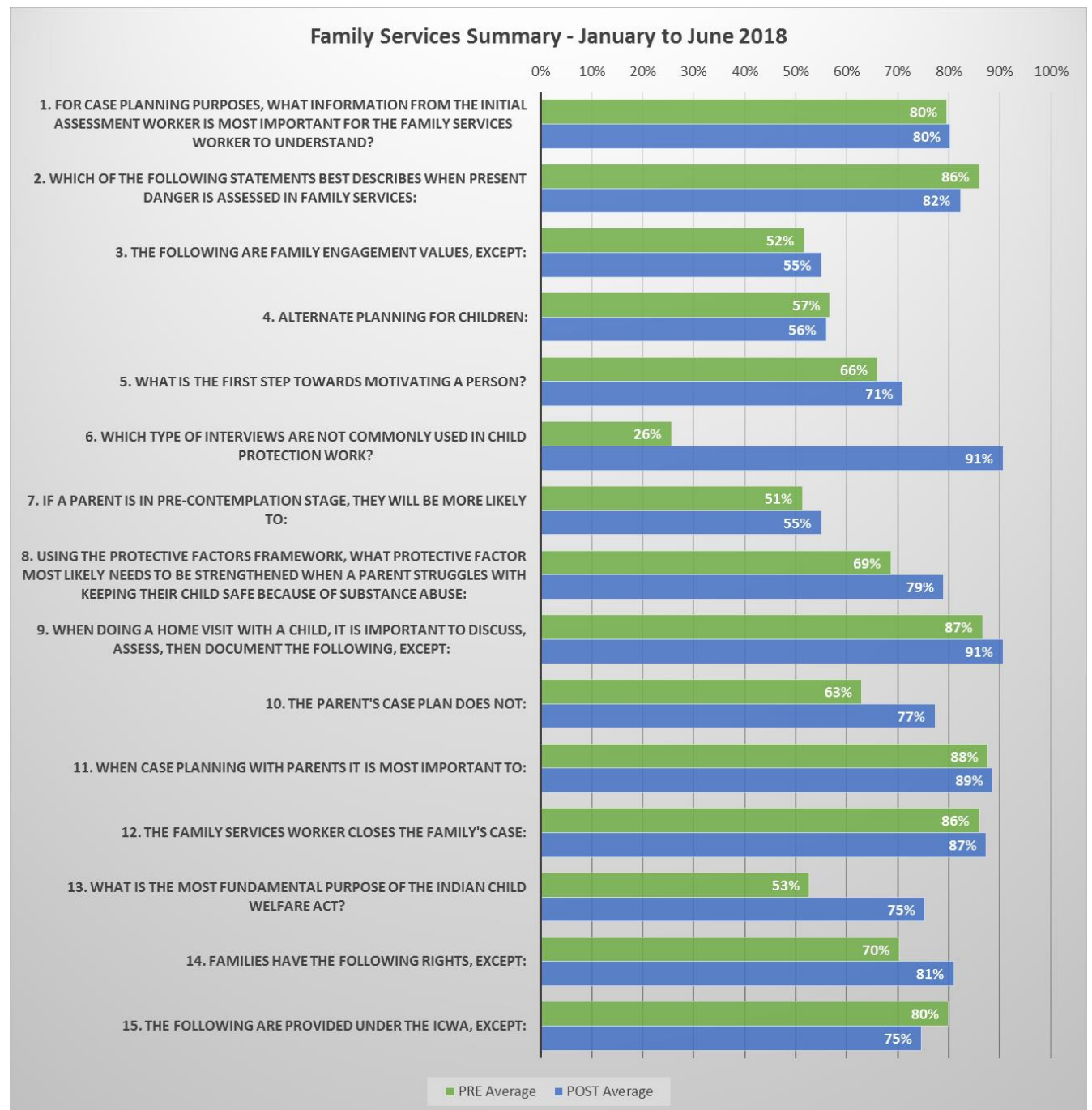




Measuring the Effectiveness of SKILS

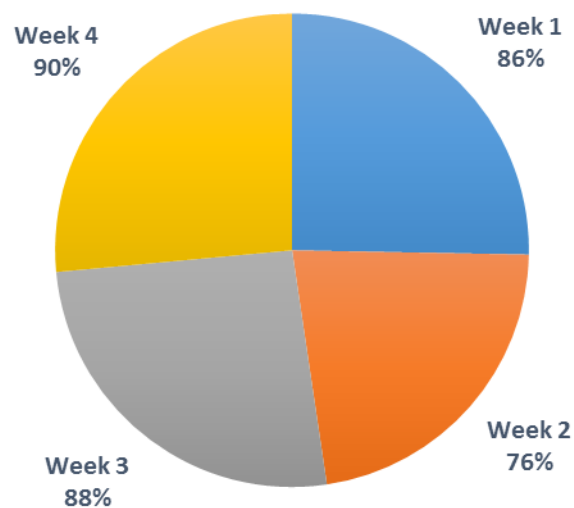
CWA uses a pre- and posttest for SKILS 131 Initial Assessments and SKILS 133 Family Services. The tests cover basic concepts trained in SKILS that measure workers' knowledge before SKILS and then compares it with knowledge gained through training. The results provide us with information on areas of growth for the learner as well as opportunities for changes or improvement in training. For example, we eliminated questions that data indicated were too easy to answer in the pretest and refined difficult questions to be clearer and more direct. The following IA and FS assessment summary charts reflect significant improvements in scores in most areas from the pretest to the posttest which suggest workers have a better understanding of many important concepts associated with field practice.





CWA continues to provide weekly Transfer of Learning (TOL) calls the month after new workers have attended SKILS. TOL calls are essential to support the transfer of knowledge gained in the classroom to practical application in the field.

TRANSFER OF LEARNING CALL PARTICIPATION January - June 2018



Within the two modules of worker safety taught in SKILS, there are Environmental Awareness and Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI). Below are the workers' responses to the training of CPI, using the program specific evaluation.

Crisis Prevention Intervention

Crisis Prevention Institute - 48 Participants			
Dates: January - June 2018			
Q#	QUESTIONS	RATING	PERCENTAGES
Q1	Use nonverbal techniques to prevent acting-out behavior.	5- Strongly Agree	50.0%
		4- Agree	41.7%
		3- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree	8.3%
		2- Disagree	0.0%
		1- Strongly Disagree	0.0%
			100%
Q2	Implement verbal de-escalation strategies, such as limit setting.	5- Strongly Agree	54.2%
		4- Agree	33.3%
		3- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree	10.4%
		2- Disagree	2.1%
		1- Strongly Disagree	0.0%
			100%
Q3	Make use of CPI's Principles of Personal Safety to avoid injury to all involved in a crisis situation.	5- Strongly Agree	45.8%
		4- Agree	29.2%
		3- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree	18.8%
		2- Disagree	4.2%
		1- Strongly Disagree	2.1%
			100%
Q4	Use safe physical intervention procedures as a last resort when a person is a danger to self or others.	5- Strongly Agree	52.1%
		4- Agree	29.2%
		3- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree	16.7%
		2- Disagree	0.0%
		1- Strongly Disagree	2.1%
			100%
Q5	Build Therapeutic Rapport with acting-out individuals after a crisis is over.	5- Strongly Agree	51.1%
		4- Agree	36.2%
		3- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree	12.8%
		2- Disagree	0.0%
		1- Strongly Disagree	0.0%
			100%
Q6	Applied the course content to a variety of examples.	5- Strongly Agree	66.7%
		4- Agree	27.1%
		3- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree	4.2%
		2- Disagree	2.1%
		1- Strongly Disagree	0.0%
			100%

Q#	QUESTIONS	RATING	PERCENTAGES
Q7	Stimulated interest in the subject matter.	5- Strongly Agree	58.3%
		4- Agree	25.0%
		3- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree	16.7%
		2- Disagree	0.0%
		1- Strongly Disagree	0.0%
100%			
Q8	Created an enjoyable learning atmosphere.	5- Strongly Agree	66.7%
		4- Agree	25.0%
		3- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree	8.3%
		2- Disagree	0.0%
		1- Strongly Disagree	0.0%
100%			
Q9	Emphasized the philosophy of Care, Welfare, Safety, and Security SM .	5- Strongly Agree	64.6%
		4- Agree	29.2%
		3- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree	4.2%
		2- Disagree	2.1%
		1- Strongly Disagree	0.0%
100%			
Q10	The program content was relevant to my needs.	5- Highest	50.0%
		4- Agree	37.5%
		3- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree	10.4%
		2- Disagree	2.1%
		1- Lowest	0.0%
100%			
Q12	How would you rate the program overall?	5- Highest	60.4%
		4- Agree	27.1%
		3- Neither Agree, Nor Disagree	12.5%
		2- Disagree	0.0%
		1- Lowest	0.0%
100%			

Sampling of CPI Participant Responses:

- » I enjoyed the role playing because it forced me to practice what we learned.
- » I feel as if I have a better understanding for escalation and ways to avoid reaching the physical stage.
- » I don't like that there is a test. I was thinking more about taking the test than listening to the techniques.
- » [It] would be beneficial to have someone skilled in self-defense [to] show techniques.
- » Great balance of hands-on, book learning, visual aids, examples from fellow students

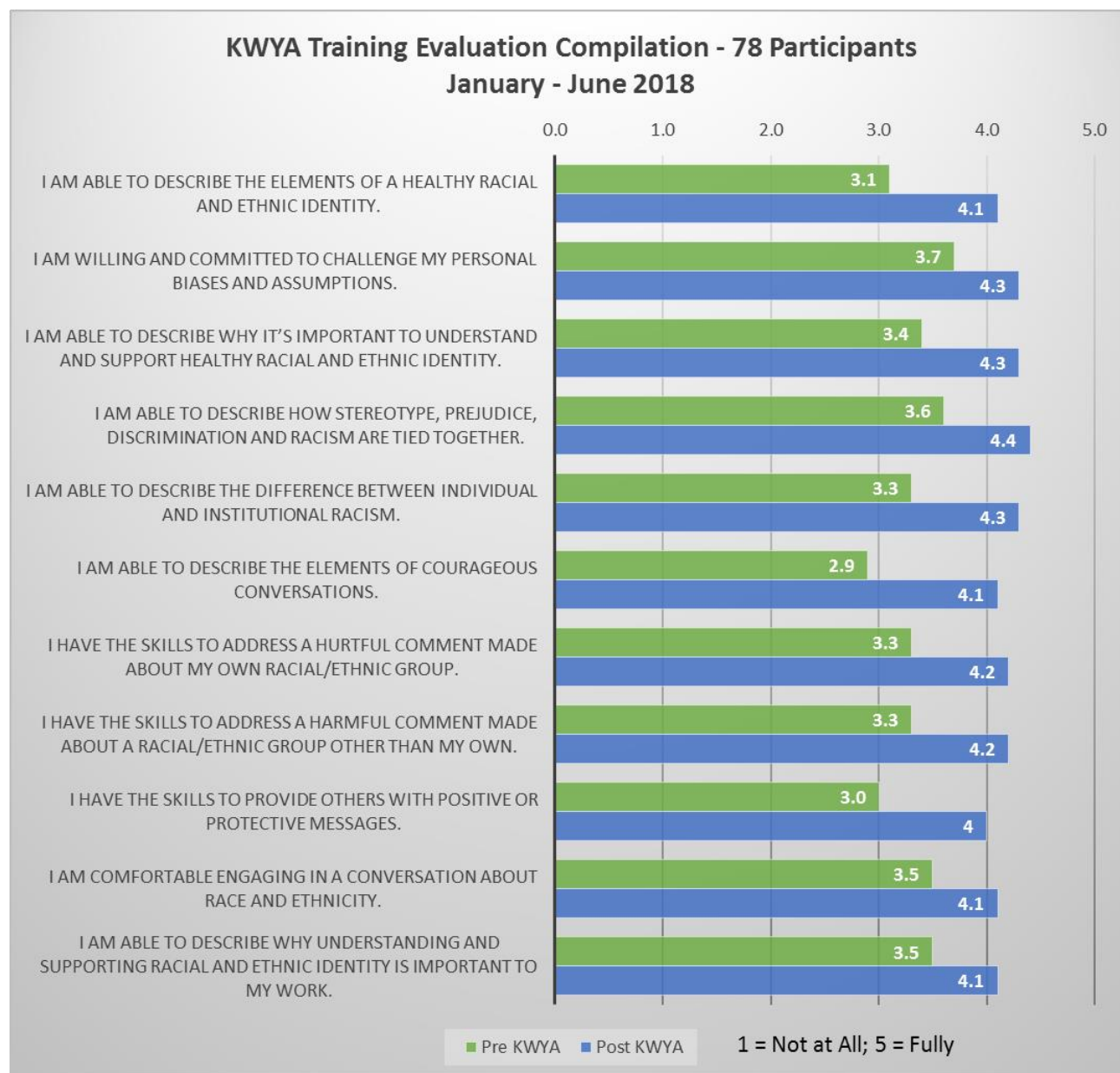
TRAINING and TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Training and technical assistance that has been completed from January 1 to June 30, 2018, are the following:

SCRO REGION	TOPIC	# Days	DATE	TRAINER(S)
Wasilla	Strengthening Families	2	5/16-5/17/18	Tammy
NRO REGION	TOPIC	# Days	DATE	TRAINER(S)
Kotzebue	Case Planning	1	2/23/2018	Tammy & Valerie
Fairbanks	Case Planning	0.5	3/9/2018	Tammy
Fairbanks	Case Planning	0.5	3/23/2018	Tammy
SERO REGION	TOPIC	# Days	DATE	TRAINER(S)
Juneau	Understanding Sexual Abuse Accommodation & Recantation, Unexplained Injuries	1	5/23/2018	Cory
WRO REGION	TOPIC	# Days	DATE	TRAINER(S)
Bethel	Safety Planning Refresher, Interviewing Refresher, Impact of Trauma on Children & Families, Secondary Trauma for Managers & Supervisors	2	5/21-5/22/18	Tracey & Vanessa

KNOWING WHO YOU ARE (KWYA) WORKSHOPS

During the first half of 2018, we held five KWYA workshops across the state: Anchorage (2), Juneau, Palmer, and Fairbanks. Seventy-eight participants completed the workshop during this period. Below is a summary of the participants' feedback where averages are based on attendees who submitted evaluations.



Sampling of KWYA Participant Responses:

- » Thank you all for your commitment to racial equality
- » Was a very helpful/powerful/wonderful workshop & experience
- » I think if we're going to talk about oppression/isms that all facets should be covered.
- » This was a lot better than last KWYA workshops – I liked the emphasis on “share to your level of comfort”. Very low pressure.

In April, the 36th annual National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) Conference was held in Anchorage. Members of our KWYA network were honored to present an overview of KWYA to conference attendees. The positive feedback for our presentation was a demonstration of the importance of American Indian and Alaska Native youth, families, workers, and service providers having a healthy racial and ethnic identity.



Pictured: Valerie Dudley, Casey Groat, Trim Nick, and Rachel Hanft

Save-the-Date! We are excited to announce we will be hosting a facilitator training in **Anchorage** on **February 26-28, 2019**, at the **BP Energy Center**. This 3-day training of facilitators is for folks who have attended a KWYA workshop before and are interested in becoming a facilitator. Contact Casey Groat at casey.groat@alaska.gov or Valerie Dudley at vjdudley@alaska.edu for more information.

For workshop dates at a location near you, visit our website at www.kwya-ak.org. Workshop dates and locations are also posted on the CWA course calendar at www.uaa.alaska.edu/cwa.

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT (ICWA) TRAINING

CWA has continued to support OCS Regional ICWA Specialists and Tribal partners to deliver ICWA Training in each of the five OCS regions.

ICWA II trainings were held in Bethel (February 7-8), Wasilla (March 21-22 and May 23-24) and Fairbanks (May 13-14).

Thank you to the Tribal partners who joined the OCS Regional ICWA Specialists to co-train ICWA II. Valerie Andrew from AVCP joined Trim Nick in the WRO in Bethel. Also, Krista Perala from Sitka Tribe of Alaska was able to co-train three trainings. She joined Jenny Dale for both SCRO trainings in Wasilla and even with Leah Warburton in the NRO in Fairbanks.

We continue to encourage Tribal partners to attend ICWA II and sit side-by-side OCS workers to encourage relationship building and collaboration. We saw this happen during several of our trainings and OCS workers often comment on how meaningful and helpful it is to have Tribal workers in attendance.

Below is a summary of the participants' feedback:

ICWA Training Feedback - 53 Participants					
Dates: January - June 2018					
Please rate the Training in the following areas:	Low				High
	1	2	3	4	5
Rate your understanding of the topics covered in this two-day class.	0%	4%	6%	23%	68%
The learning activities helped prepare me to do my job.	0%	4%	6%	23%	68%
Rate your initial ability to apply what you learned in this two-day class to your job.	4%	2%	6%	25%	64%

Sampling of ICWA II Participant Responses:

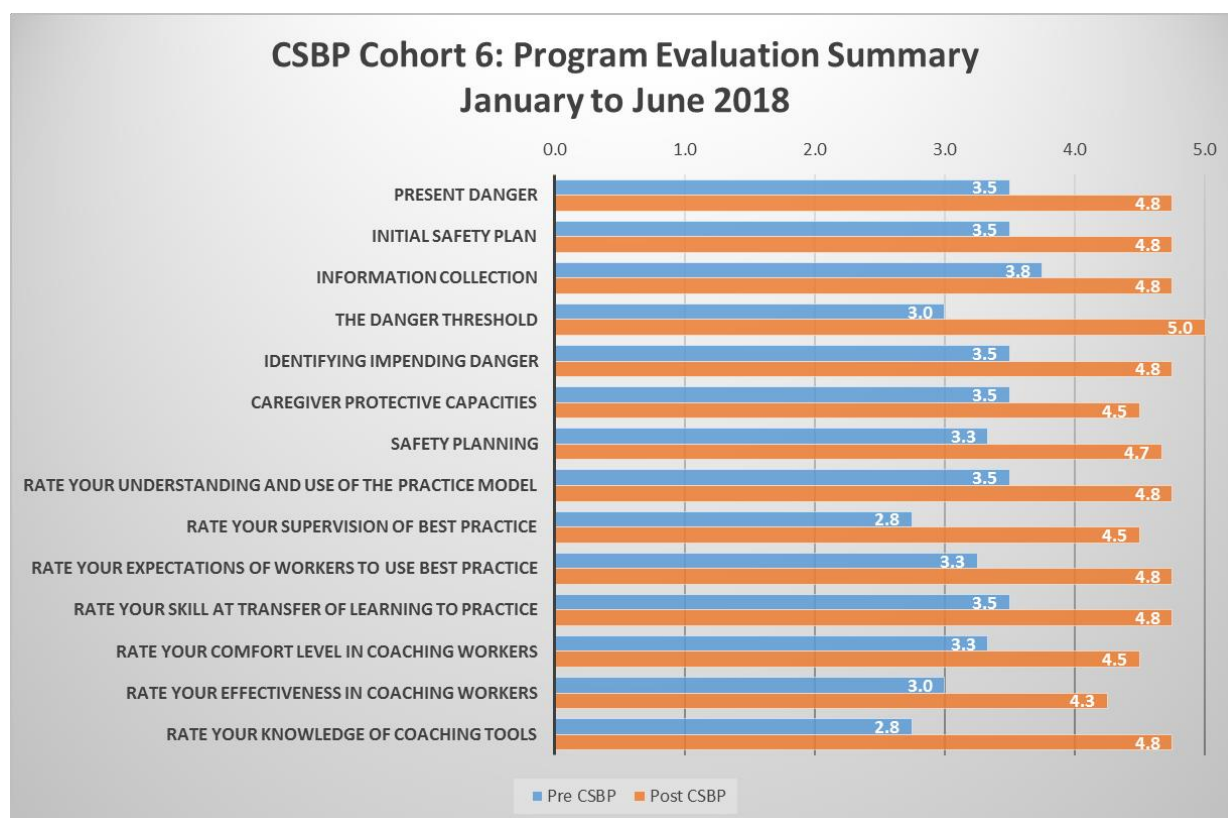
- » Stories and first hand examples to explain the importance of the trauma, healing, and culture.
- » Love that an ICWA worker helped teach this class. Gave a better understanding of the ICWA side.
- » I better understand the role ICWA workers play and the resource they are in our cases.
- » Just a better understanding of how to apply ICWA in working with families. I plan to keep in better communication with the Tribe.

SUPERVISOR TRAINING

There were 13 supervisors who completed Supervisor Training during this period. The six-day training took place over two sessions in February and June. In February, supervisors explored leadership in the OCS system, emotional intelligence, worker retention and resiliency. They received an introduction to coaching skills, which they will continue to develop in CSBP. In June, supervisors took a deeper look at individual, secondary and organizational trauma. They engaged in activities designed to facilitate creative leadership strategies that promote agency wellbeing. Examples of training aspects supervisors felt were particularly helpful were “the group activities,” “hearing from others [about their] ideas,” “planning and team development,” and “...the activities. Easier to see how things can be applied. Lots of good ideas.”

COACHING SUPERVISORS TO BEST PRACTICE (CSBP)

After much feedback about their attendance, Protective Services Managers Is (PSM Is) made up Cohort 6. Seven PSM Is started the program and five completed the program. There was much discussion all throughout the program just why knowing and being expert at the practice model can help improve outcomes for children and families. Most of the managers indicated they were committed to reinforcing the correct use of all the practice model decision making tools. As indicated in the Cohort 6 chart, Supervision of Best Practice was one of the greatest changes in the rating pre/post CSBP, where 1 = low and 5 = high. On the final day of the program, there was an in-depth debriefing of the program and practice issues lead by Travis Erickson and Kim Guay in lieu of a qualitative evaluation process.



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, the following work was completed:

- » Outreach continued with the Fairbanks CAC to assist them in their application to the National Children's Alliance for Accreditation. On June 14 and 15, 2018, CWA in coordination with OCS, completed a site visit to Stevie's Place, the Child Advocacy Center in Fairbanks. The visit was two days in length and individual meetings took place with all disciplines on the Team as well as observing case review. A report from CWA is in process and a draft will be provided to OCS for review.
- » CWA provided telephonic outreach and assistance to multiple CACs including Dillingham, Kodiak, Bethel, Fairbanks and Juneau. St. Paul Island and Sitka are working on their response to child sexual abuse and have reached out for assistance in their development, which was provided and will be ongoing.

- » CWA provided technical assistance to the Bethel CAC. This work focused on meeting the NCA Standards for Accreditation. CWA provided in person facilitation with the CAC and MDT, meeting on January 29th and 30th. The agenda focused on forensic interviewing peer review, protocol development, weather and flight difficulties in serving families, case review and working with the new Director. A follow up in person meeting to help the MDT complete their Protocols was held and CWA facilitated this meeting. Additionally, ongoing telephonic support is provided by CWA to assist in trouble shooting areas of concern or coaching the new Director.
- » In collaboration with OCS, CWA did a site visit with the Juneau CAC, S.A.F.E. Child Advocacy Center. This was a day of meetings with multiple Team members about the functioning of the CAC, relationships, confidentiality and the National Standards for Accreditation. A report was drafted for review and sent to the OCS Grants Coordinator.
- » CWA is working with CAC and MDT representatives to address the system response to youth with problematic sexual behaviors. CWA facilitates these meetings, scheduling, agendas, taking notes, etc. as well as provides insight and input. Calls are generally every six weeks.
- » CWA is a member on the planning committee and the forensic interviewing sub-committee for the upcoming 2018 Statewide Child Maltreatment Conference. Meetings were every three weeks.
- » CWA continues to work with OCS, ACA and two representatives from CACs to identify, clarify and revise reporting standards that are consistent for all CACs. CWA facilitates these meetings, scheduling, agendas, taking notes, etc. as well as provides insight and input.
- » In March of 2018, the Utqiagvik CAC requested to reschedule a previous training focusing on the Roles and Responsibilities of Team members as well as training for First Responders on what to do when they are called to take a report of child sexual abuse. Retired Detective Sergeant Cindi Stanton was willing to collaborate with CWA to provide this training. PowerPoints were created and planning took place. Unfortunately, significant changes in Utqiagvik has caused the closing of the CAC. I have reached out to the new Chief of Police and Health Director to offer assistance as they consider how to continue providing CAC services in the future.
- » CWA strives to work collaboratively with the Alaska Children's Alliance in providing training and technical assistance. The ACA coordinator participated in several of the onsite training that occurred during this period with funding from CWA.

ChildFirst™ ALASKA

CWA is a partner in ChildFirst™ Alaska as a member of the Leadership Team, co-coordinator of the program and has two trainers that are certified ChildFirst™ Alaska trainer. CWA coordinates the monthly meetings for the Leadership Team and provides notes to the group. One ChildFirst™ Alaska training was held during this period in April located in Anchorage. CWA provided coordination for this training including administrative assistance. Thirty-one people attended this training.

At the annual Trainer and Leadership Team Strategic Planning Meeting in December, decisions were made to expand ChildFirst™ to incorporate a three-day training called Understanding the Forensic Interview. This training is specifically for MDT members who will not be doing forensic interviews but who will be observing them thus needing to have the understanding of what a forensic interview is, its importance, the components and what it should look like. This training is also for those OCS workers who work in Family Services who will benefit from learning techniques but who will not be doing forensic interviews at the CACs. CWA has facilitated the creation of this curriculum and is completing work on the PowerPoints and other materials. The first 3-day training will take place in August of 2018.

In March, a CWA representative was able to attend the Annual Violence Intervention and Prevention Summit, the National Conference for ChildFirst states across the country. The Assistant District Attorney on the Leadership Team for ChildFirst™ Alaska also attended.

CWA has updated the ChildFirst™ Alaska Website, <http://childfirstalaska.org/>.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES ALASKA

CWA delivered a record number of training events and participants in this reporting period. OCS requested the two-day training in several communities around the state. With a good mix of OCS staff and community participants, the events were especially conducive to strengthening communities and parents in general. The community cafe information was collected and sent back to the participants in each community. The feedback from the training was overwhelmingly positive and the chart demonstrates the degree of learning as a result, 1 = low, 5 = high.



Participants report the training helped them to do the following:

- » This workshop helped me to tangibly be able to relate and reach parents.
- » This training has given me the tools to be intentional about staying strengths-based.
- » This workshop gave me a framework for my work.

Some of the new ideas participants would like to try:

- » Incorporating activities into family meetings so that they are tangible tasks for the family
- » I would love to hold a "SPA" for parents.
- » Group visits so parents can make connections

Participants made some suggestions for improving the training such as:

- » Invite early childhood educators and educators
- » OCS specific but more examples of how to realistically engage families in this program
- » Discuss process for referrals and take time to brainstorm funding

In response to requests for more information about how to apply the protective factors when working with families, CWA developed a Strong Parents Alaska (SPA) Facilitation Guide. The SPA is a 7-week program for parents to enhance their protective factors. The Facilitation Guide includes an agenda and instructions for how to host each of the seven weeks such as ice breakers, lessons on each protective factor, activities, parent cafe, and closure. The SPA has been distributed to hundreds of training participants and has been met with great anticipation.

HIGHLIGHTS

» CWA welcomed two new trainers, Elsie Boudreau and Terrell Walker:

Elsie Boudreau is a licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) and a proud Yup'ik Eskimo from the village of St. Mary's, Alaska. Her Yup'ik name is Apugen, after her maternal grandmother. Prior to joining the team at CWA, Elsie created a non-profit, Arctic Winds Healing Winds. Through that, a number of villages around Alaska participated in a Leadership Summit where they created solutions addressing issues stemming from historical trauma. She brings with her that desire to integrate healing into the work with CWA. She has worked in the child welfare field for many years and takes great pride in various roles she plays from serving on the Alaska Children's Trust board to participating in a workgroup with the Capacity Building for Tribes. One activity, though, holds a special place in her heart. In partnership with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Elsie helped create and continues to facilitate the annual Garden of Roses Camp for Girls. This camp serves Alaska Native girls who have been sexually abused, providing a safe, culturally grounded place to begin the healing process knowing they are not alone and are not at fault. Elsie has years of working with MDT's and CAC's as an advocate and a forensic interviewer. She helped establish an Alaska Native Unit within Alaska CARES, a Child Advocacy Center. As a prior Children's Justice Act Project Coordinator for the Tribal Law & Policy Institute, she helped develop an educational video project highlighting child sexual abuse in Alaska, grasping the wisdom of Elders and identifying ways for healing to apply to traumatic experiences. She has also worked with law firms Manly & Stewart and Cooke Roosa Law Group as a Victims Advocate providing support to approximately 300 victims of clergy child sexual abuse in Alaska, South Dakota, Oregon and Montana. Her advocacy work was featured in many venues including FRONTLINE (PBS) and The Huffington Post. Elsie holds a bachelor's degree in social work from Carroll College in Helena, Montana and a master of social work degree from the University of Alaska Anchorage. She is married and has three children and two grandchildren. She enjoys working with and for her people and strongly believes that all children have the right to grow up in a safe and loving environment. "Children are to be SEEN, HEARD and BELIEVED."

Terrell Walker attended the University of North Texas where he earned a Bachelor of Applied Arts & Sciences, with majors in Behavioral Analysis, Sociology, and Music, as well as, a Master's of Science in Sociology. He worked more than 15 years as a fundraising executive in health and human services in Dallas, TX, and New York, NY, for organizations such as United Way, YMCA, American Red Cross, and Volunteers of America. Upon returning to Alaska, he worked as a Protective Services Specialist in Kotzebue for four years. He initially worked as a generalist before moving to Family Services. In 2014, Terrell was one of two OCS Workers across the state hired in St. Mary's, AK (first as a generalist; ultimately as a Family Services worker) to pilot a program designed to increase retention of caseworkers in Rural Alaska. The program was deemed successful, and was quickly adapted and replicated to other regions around Alaska. Terrell remained in St. Mary's for four years before he left to join the CWA Team in April 2018. Terrell was a self-declared "CWA fan" from the first day he walked into SKILS. His desire is to help trainees further develop their competence, confidence,

compassion, and commitment. Originally from Jacksonville, Florida, Terrell is a proud alum of East Anchorage High School.

- » On its third year of working with the National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC) of Fox Valley Technical College, CWA continues to provide technical assistance to grantees of the Office of Victims of Crime. In addition, both entities are collaborating on a Regional Grantee Summit to be held in Anchorage in August where CWA will provide several presentations.
- » CWA provided a two-day training for the Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault. This training focused on childhood trauma, trauma informed care, and the five Protective Factors to enhance a parent's capacity to safely parent their children. The training was for domestic violence advocates from across the state who work with children in shelter care.
- » In response to child maltreatment, the Village of St. Paul Tribal Government provided funding for CWA to facilitate and train on the Multidisciplinary Team Process. This also included the development of working protocols for collaboration.
- » CWA facilitated a daylong meeting with OCS leadership focusing on The Indian Child Welfare Act and courageous conversations about what is currently happening within OCS. This was the beginning of the process. A second day is planned for July 2018.
- » In an effort to promote worker retention and learn from experiences at the front lines, OCS has established a Staff Advisory Board. Two PSS I/II's from each region and one from intake will sit on the board. The role of the Board members is to bring forward creative ideas to promote positive system change. Board members will have the opportunity to serve on various workgroups across the agency. CWA is providing facilitation services to guide the Board's development through team building, visioning and assignment of roles and responsibilities.
- » As Alaska's landmark Tribal Child Welfare Compact moves forward, CWA has provided curriculum development services to support Tribal Compact Co-Signers with their training needs. During this period, CWA joined the Tribal Child Welfare Compact Services Workgroup (see photo below) to create training on the topics of Diligent Relative Searches and Safety Evaluations of Relatives Homes. A train-the-trainer session took place in May to prepare



Co-Signers to train staff to complete diligent relative searches. In June, CWA joined the services workgroup in Juneau to support Co-Signers with customization of Diligent Relative Search training materials as well as creation of the Safety Evaluations training.

ETV Program

We've expanded our efforts to serve foster youth!

The Child Welfare Academy (CWA) in collaboration with Facing Foster Care in Alaska (FFCA) launched the Office of Youth Empowerment (OYE)! OYE focuses on youth empowerment, advocacy, college enrichment, training, and mentoring programs for foster youth across the state. OYE is modeled on successful statewide collaborations between universities and foster care advocate groups, and we are among only a handful of states using this innovative approach to improve the lives of foster youth and the system.



OYE Staff and Youth at the 2018 Kawerak Tribal

OYE houses the following programs:

Education and Training Voucher Program. Financial assistance and academic support to eligible foster youth to pursue post-secondary education and training.

Facing Foster Care in Alaska. Youth advocacy and mentoring focused on effective guidance and engagement of Alaska foster youth including; Youth Leadership Board, peer support, foster care education, laptop distribution and youth representation on coalitions and initiatives.

Speakers Bureau. Foster youth professionally trained in facilitation, public speaking, and leadership skills to coordinate foster youth presentations for their peers, child welfare staff, caregivers, legal parties and the community.

OYE builds on the existing efforts by CWA that have led to a record number of foster youth enrolled in higher education, and FFCA's work to promote peer support and fully engage youth in life skills and youth lead activities. Amanda Metivier is Associate Director of OYE, and Sarah Redmon was recently hired as our Project Coordinator. Amanda and Sarah both have, "lived experience," in the system and a wealth of experience engaging foster youth to build social capital. This collaboration will lead to increased support and empowerment of foster youth throughout Alaska.

Education and Training Voucher Program

- » For many foster youth, post-secondary education and training can be the ticket to their success. We experienced another record breaking year with the ETV Program, with over 60 OCS youth attending University of Alaska Campuses Statewide and seven additional students attending other colleges. Seven students graduated from Certificate and Degree programs during the 2017-18 academic year!
- » Governor Bill Walker recently signed House Bill 151 in to Law. We hosted a big celebration at the Academy during our annual summer Foster Youth Post-Secondary Education Conference. The Bill supports a caseload standard for OCS frontline staff, increases training at the Academy up to six weeks, supports sibling contact for children in care, promotes the Prudent Parent Standard allowing foster parents to make decisions, promotes normalcy, and encourages youth engagement in case planning. This bill is expected to greatly improve outcomes of children and families over the next five years.



Foster Youth with Gov. Walker



Members of CWA and OYE Staff with Gov. Walker

TRAINING CALENDAR

January to June 2018 Trainings		
Event	Dates	Location
131 SKILS IA	January 8-19	Anchorage
133 SKILS FS	January 8-26	Anchorage
285 CPI & 287 Environmental Awareness	January 19	Anchorage
554 Supervisor Training Part 1	February 6-9	Anchorage
229 ICWA II	February 7-8	Bethel
231 Advanced SKILS I	February 12-16	Anchorage
235 Knowing Who You Are	February 13-14	Juneau
233 Advanced SKILS II	February 19-23	Anchorage
229 ICWA II	March 21-22	Wasilla
131 SKILS IA	March 5-16	Anchorage
133 SKILS FS	March 5-23	Anchorage
285 CPI & 287 Environmental Awareness	March 14	Anchorage
237 ChildFirst	April 2-6	Anchorage
231 Advanced SKILS I	April 23-27	Anchorage
233 Advanced SKILS II	April 30 - May 4	Anchorage
131 SKILS IA	May 7-18	Anchorage
133 SKILS FS	May 7-25	Anchorage
285 CPI & 287 Environmental Awareness	May 16	Anchorage
229 ICWA II	May 23-24	Wasilla
555 Supervisor Training Part 2	May 30 - June 1	Anchorage
235 Knowing Who You Are	May 31 - June 1	Wasilla
235 Knowing Who You Are	June 11-12	Fairbanks
229 ICWA II	June 13-14	Fairbanks

January to June 2018 Webinar	
Topic	Date
Cultural Resource Guide	June 2018