





**Tribal & State Partnership
Working Together to Transform
Alaska's Child Welfare System**

Alaska Native Justice Center
September 28, 2023

Objectives



Overview of the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact.



Hear how the Compact serves as an instrument for Tribes to provide culturally relevant services.



Hear how critical it is for the State and Tribes to commit to an authentic partnership.

Why the work began

Significant Disparities

2,758 Alaska children are in State custody

1,868 are Alaska Native/American Indian

Disproportionality rate of 67.7%

(source: State of Alaska, ORCA, February 15, 2023)

Disparities of this nature generally indicate a system failure, and Alaska is no exception.

How the work began



Tribal State Collaboration Group

(29-Year Partnership)

- Composed of State and Tribal representatives, as well as other partners and stakeholders.
- Goals are to:
 - (1) strengthen Indian Child Welfare Act compliance;
 - (2) reduce Alaska Native/American Indian disproportionality; and
 - (3) build and strengthen working relationships.

Compact: Cutting Edge of Law and Policy

Government-to-Government agreement

Exercising Tribal Sovereignty

First of its Kind – State and Tribal formal child welfare
agreement



Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact

Overview

What → an **intergovernmental** agreement between the State of Alaska and 19 federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes/Tribal organizations to improve the life outcomes of Alaska's children and families, by transferring **negotiated** child welfare services and supports – along with their respective revenue streams – from OCS to the 'Tribal Co-Signers.'

Goal → **Transform** Alaska's Child Welfare system and to offer and provide culturally relevant services.

Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact cont'd

Precedence → modeled after the compacts the **federal** government routinely negotiates with Tribes and Tribal organizations under the Indian **Self-Determination** and Education Assistance Act.

Historical → the Compact is the first ever government-to-government agreement negotiated and executed at the state level (**history making!**).














Sovereignty → recognizes the **inherent authority** of federally recognized Alaska Native tribes <**think: local government**> to provide child welfare services and supports to their members.












Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact cont'd

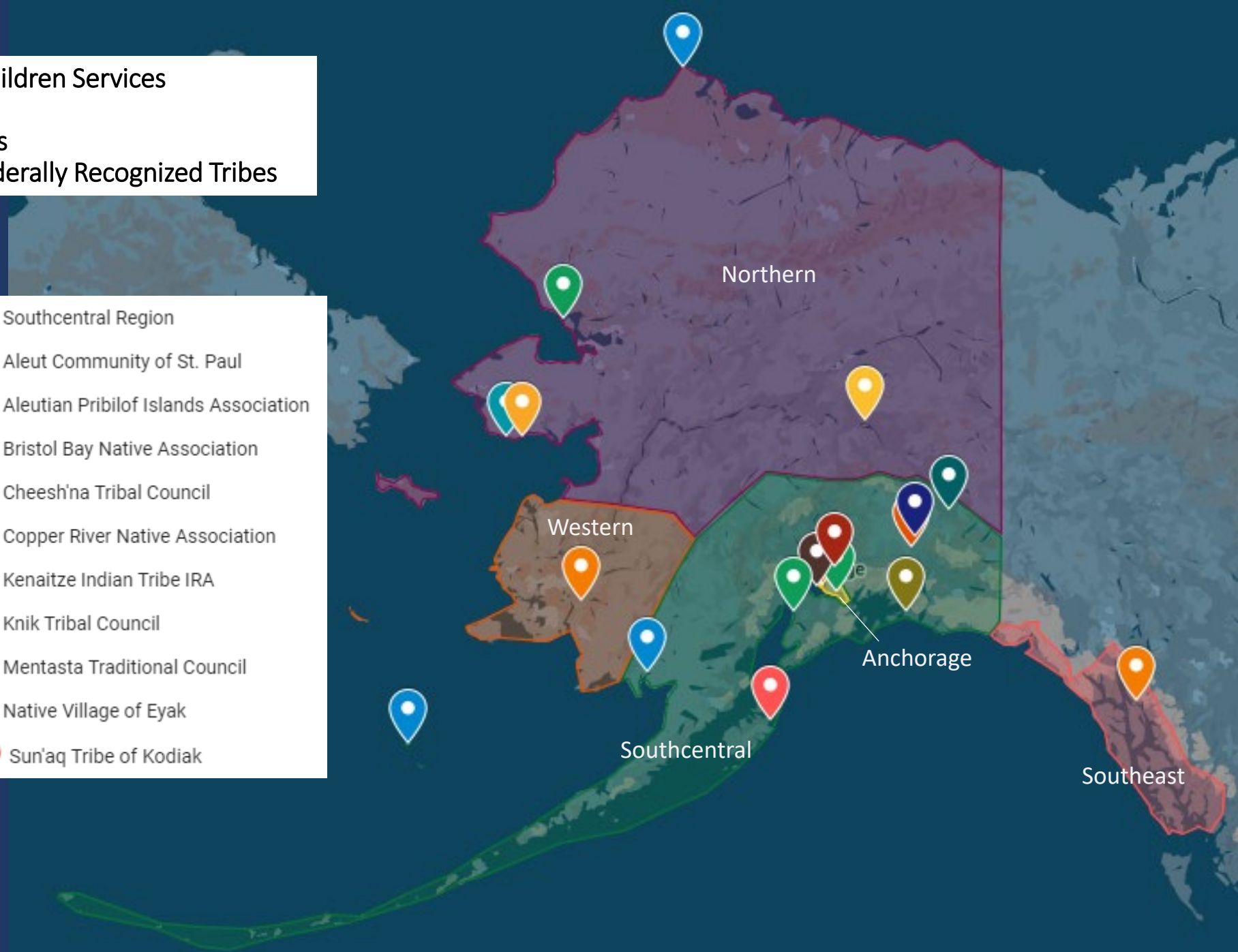
Prevention → focus on Tribes working with families **early on** whether through formal system (Protective Service Report Screen-outs) or self-identified by Co-Signers.

Cost-Savings → **spirit of proactivity** and working together rather than resolving issues within the legal system (i.e. lawsuits).

State of Alaska Office of Children Services
 5 Regions &
 19 Co-Signers
 Representing 165 of Alaska's 229 Federally Recognized Tribes

-  Northern Region
 -  Arctic Slope Native Association
 -  Kawerak Inc
 -  Maniilaq Association Corporate Office
 -  Nome Eskimo Community
 -  Tanana Chiefs Conference
-
-  Western Region
 -  Association of Village Council Presidents
-
-  Anchorage Regional Office
 -  Chugachmiut
 -  Cook Inlet Tribal Council
-
-  Southeast Region
 -  Central Council of Tlingit & Haida

-  Southcentral Region
-  Aleut Community of St. Paul
-  Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
-  Bristol Bay Native Association
-  Cheesh'na Tribal Council
-  Copper River Native Association
-  Kenaitze Indian Tribe IRA
-  Knik Tribal Council
-  Mentasta Traditional Council
-  Native Village of Eyak
-  Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak



ALASKA TRIBAL CHILD WELFARE COMPACT

(As of July 1, 2023)



Lessons Learned Over the Past 6 Years

Build Capacity

- Need additional resources
- Training resources
- Communication plan/teaming structure

Data system needed

- Assessment and identification of barriers
- Assess outcomes/outputs
- CQI

Implementation support and technical assistance

- Assistance with making implementation happen opposed to letting it happen

LONG TERM VISION

Alaska children and families will be served locally, as close to 'home' as possible.

Services provided will be culturally relevant.

Children and families will be more receptive to receive early intervention and prevention services, which will mean the number of children in state custody will decrease.

Outcomes for Alaska Native children and families will improve.



Quyana!

Thank You!