

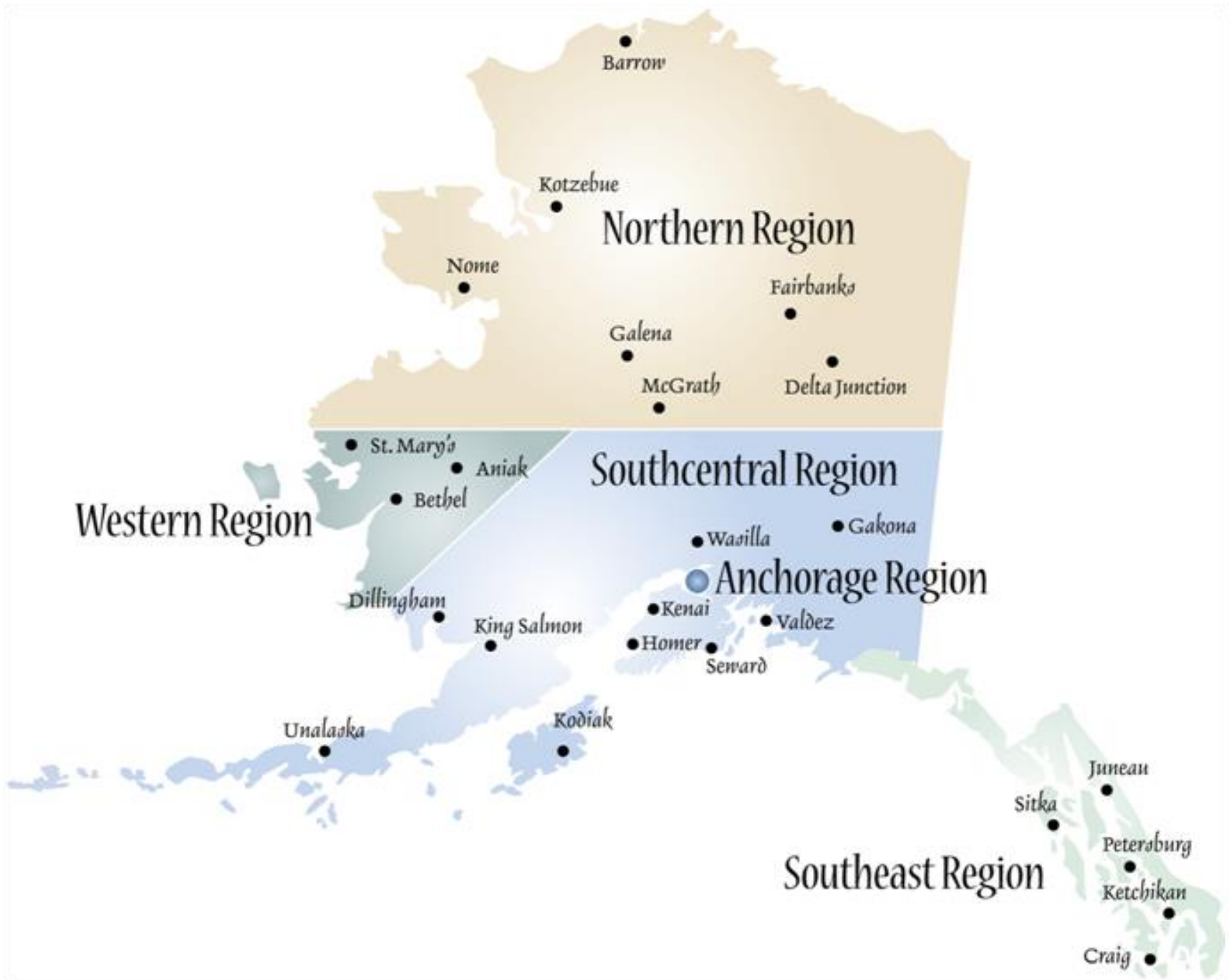
Transforming Child Welfare: OCS & Tribal Partnerships



Robin Charlie
OCS Anchorage Regional Office ICWA
Specialist

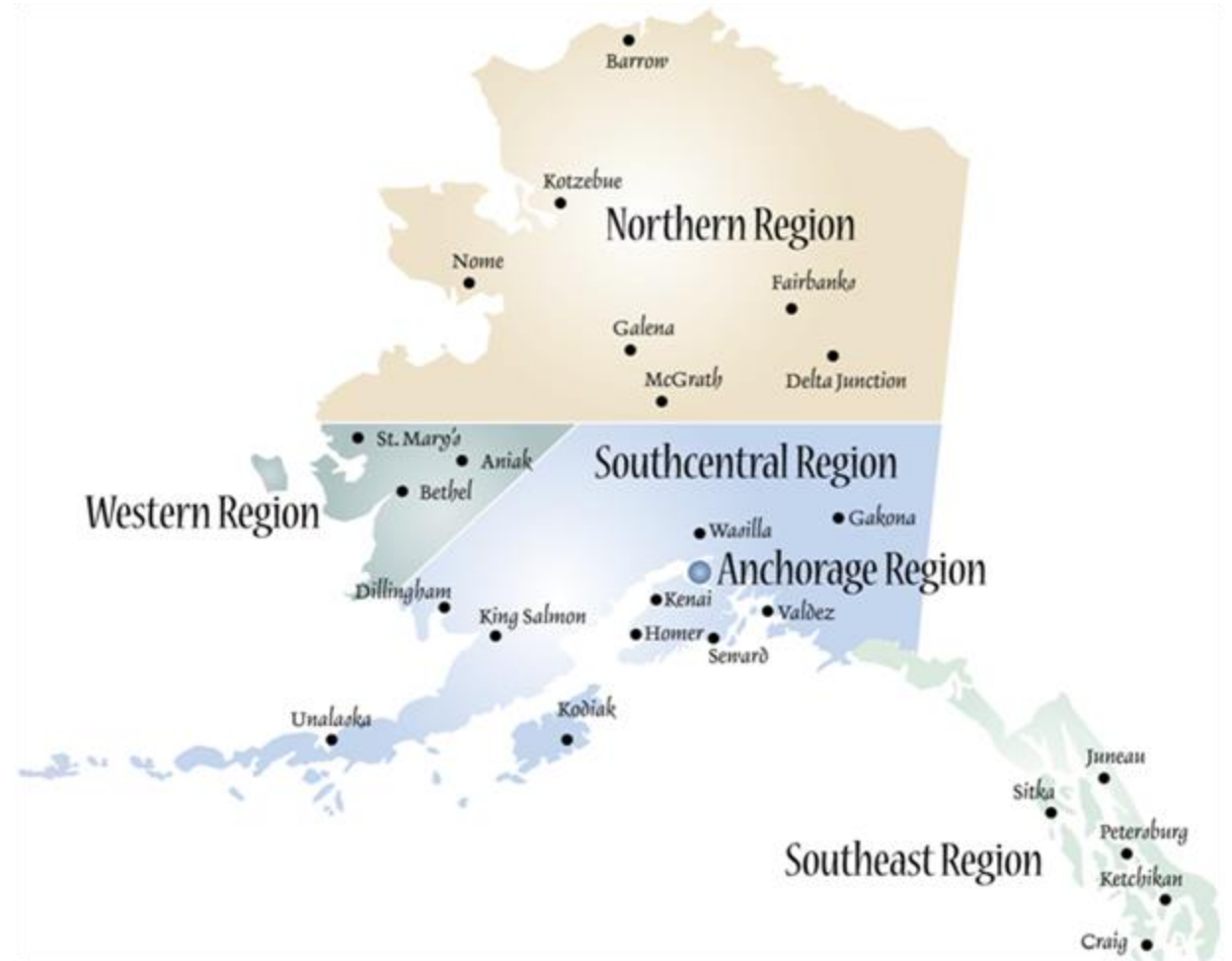


Tasha Yatchmeneff
OCS Statewide ICWA Coordinator



Disproportionality Statewide

**Of the 2,453 children
in state custody
1,694 are Alaska Native or
American Indian (69%)**



**Tribal State
Collaboration
Group**



TSCG's On-Going Work

- Data – Ongoing Evaluation
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)
- Addressing Out of Preference Placements
- Increasing Tribal interventions
- Confidentiality Agreements - PSRs
- Continued Tribal Title IV-E Infrastructure Enhancement
- Coordination of Training Efforts
- Cultural Resource Guide
- Transforming Child Welfare Outcomes for Alaska Native Children – Embrace the Spirit and Values of ICWA
- Implementation of the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact



Office of Children's Services ICWA Staff





**Kristen
Robinson**
SERO



**Tasha
Yatchmeneff**
Statewide
ICWA Coord.



**Leah
Warburton**
NRO



**Jenny
Dale**
SCRO



**Trim
Nick**
WRO



**Robin
Charlie**
ARO



**OCS Policy guides
workers to include an
Indian Child's Tribe in:**

- ❖ **Initial Assessment (2.2.5)**
- ❖ **Relative Searches (3.5.4)**
- ❖ **Case Planning (2.9.2)**
- ❖ **Service Delivery (3.2.2)**

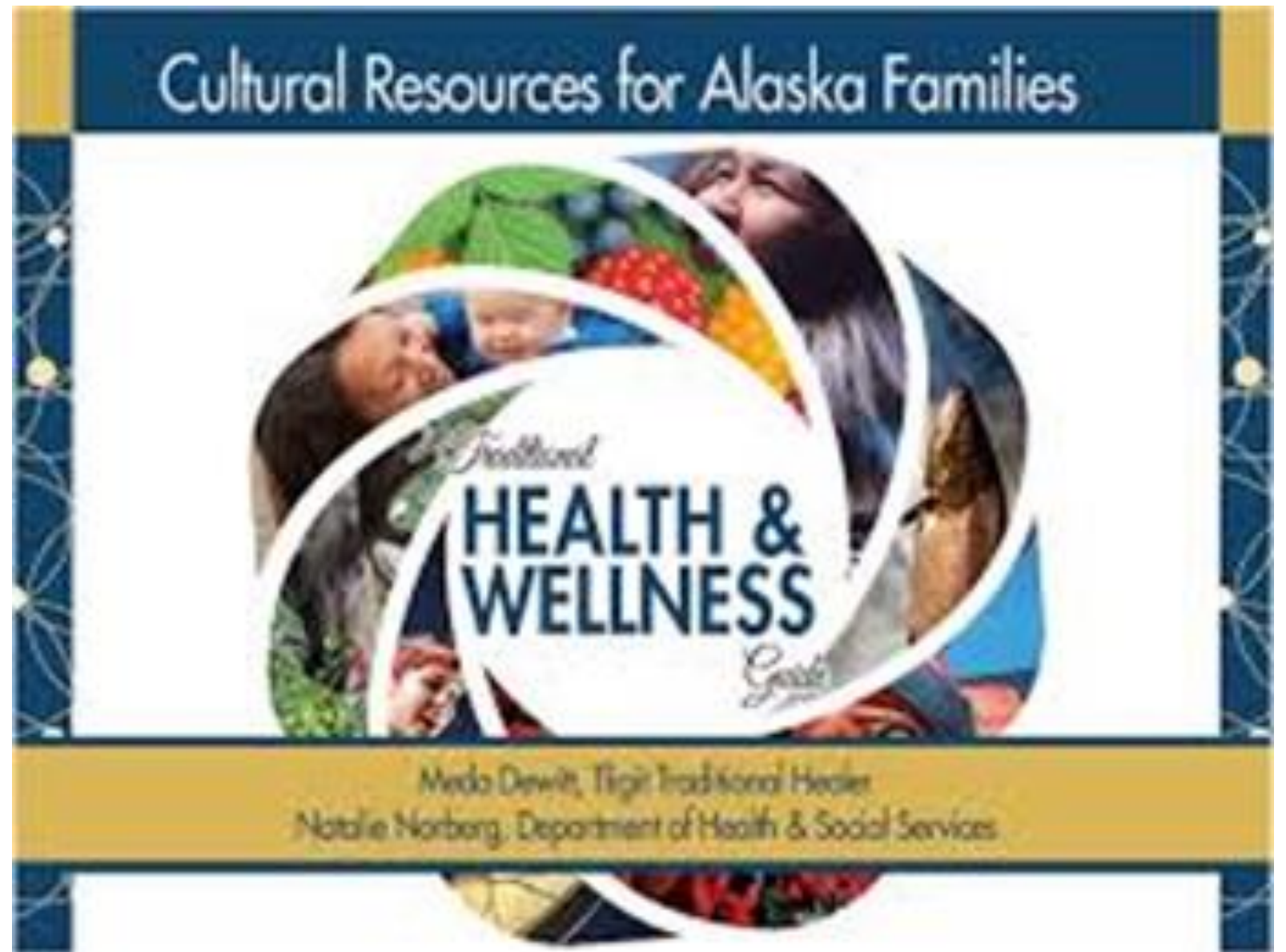
Distribution of Protective Service Reports

This information sharing may occur for any of the following reasons:

- ❖ Tribe may work collaboratively with OCS to investigate allegations of child abuse and neglect;
- ❖ Tribe can aid in providing services or placing a child if releasing the information is in the child's best interest;
- ❖ Tribe has requested the information from OCS and indicates the request is for a purpose related to child protection, including investigating the allegations in the Protective Services Reports ("PSR")



**Cultural
Resource
Guide**



CULTURALLY SPECIFIC SERVICES

Alaska Native groups come from different eco-regions, speak different languages, and have diverse cultures; however, they share a commonality of living well on the land.

The 'Alaskan style' of living well encompasses traditional health-based practices which are similar throughout the state. These practices consist of:

Providing	Hunting, fishing, and trapping.
Gathering	Flowers, berries, greens, roots, and beach foods. (Plants for food and medicinal use.)
Growing	Cultivating natural spaces, community gardens, and covered growing.
Sharing	Sharing food, medicine, time, and made items are significant cultural actions.
Learning	Language classes, Elders' teachings on traditional ecological knowledge, cultural presentations, storytelling, and other educational offerings.
Getting Ready	Preparing food, gathering and chopping wood, mending nets, making and mending outdoor gear, cleaning and repairing hunting and trapping gear, home and yard maintenance, land management, and walking the land.
Craftsmanship (Art)	Weaving, carving, painting, beading, sewing, leather tanning, basket making, regalia making, and building.
Community Gatherings	Storytelling, song, dance, games, competitions, ceremonies, women's and men's houses, feasts, and the potlatch.
Community Support Systems	Elder advisors, leaders, mentors, culture bearers, community doers, and volunteer networks.
Rites Of Passage	Birth, puberty, first harvest/catch, marriage, death, burial, and memorial. Teaching roles and expectations as a member of society.

Traditional Resiliency Strategies- building resilience for the next 10,000 years.

Traditional Healing methods are an integral part of living well in Alaska. These are provided by a trained traditional healer.

Traditional Talk Therapies

Women's and men's house, culturally appropriate debriefing, and listening/talking circles.

Traditional Healing Services

Guidance, spiritual counseling, massage, bone setting, energy work, reflexology, counseling, ceremony, plant medicine, prayer, and nutritional counseling.

Specialized Traditional Therapies

Cryotherapy, steam bath (sweat lodge), fasting, journeys, cleansing, blessing, and ceremony.

Cultural Support Services

- ❖ OCS can compensate Community Support Providers that are willing to provide cultural services to parents who have a case plan.
- ❖ If you have identified an Elder or other natural support person, please contact the OCS ICWA Specialist in your region so they can be added as a provider and a request for funds can be issued for compensation.
- ❖ Please note that services are to be formally authorized prior to the services being delivered.

Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact

**Intake, Investigation &
Assessment or In-Home
Case Management**

**Initial & Ongoing Diligent
Relative Search**

**Safety Evaluations for
Unlicensed Relatives or
Initial Licensing, Renewal
and Support**

**Out of Home case
management or family
contact, or transportation**

**Adoption and
Guardianship Home
Studies**



Thank You!