



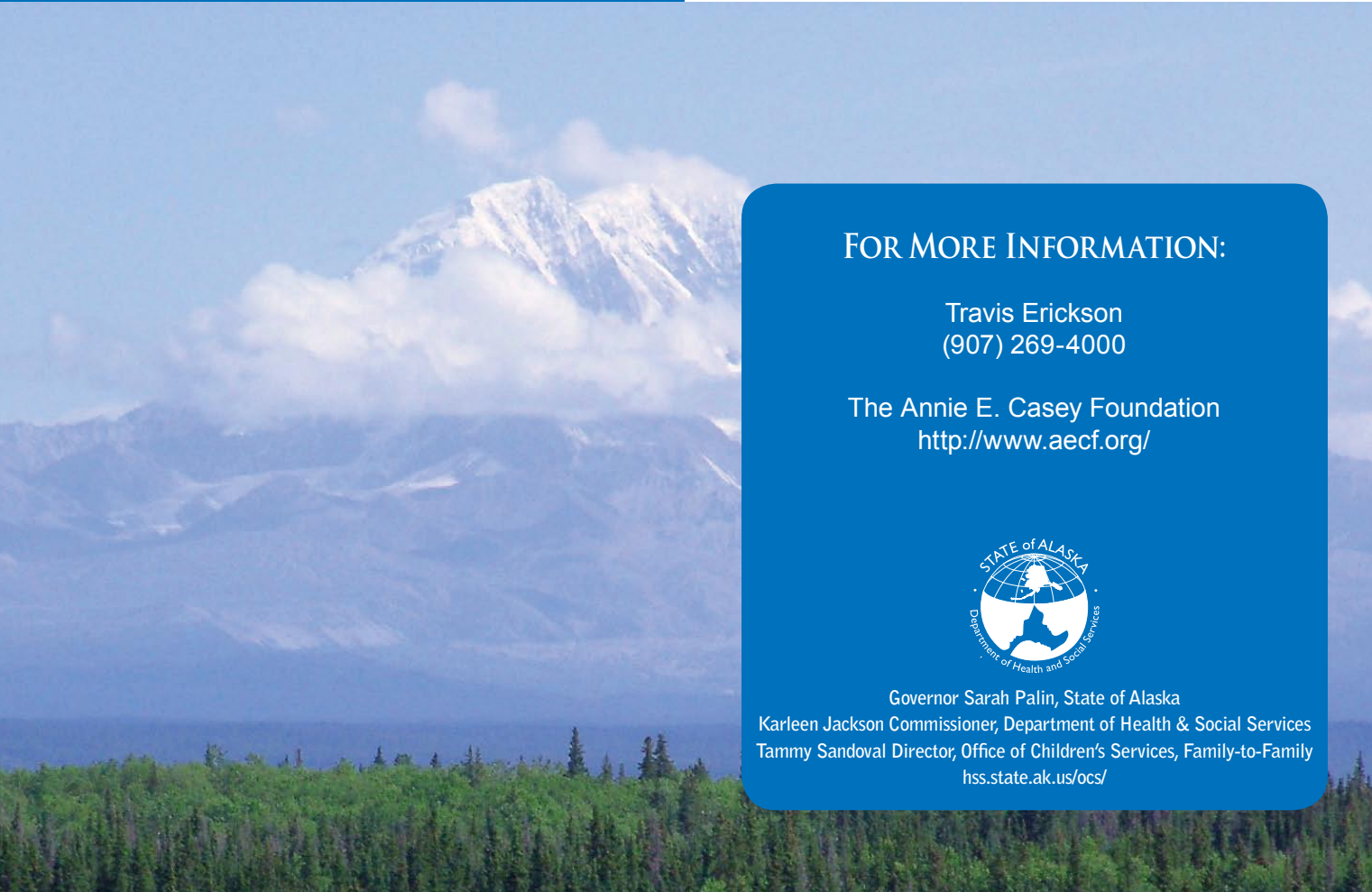
THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
BELIEVES . . .

- A child's safety is paramount
- Children belong in families
- Families need strong communities
- Partnering with the community on all levels means children are more likely to get their needs met

Family-to-Family has been successfully tested in communities throughout the country. With the support of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Rasmuson Foundation, the Alaska Office of Children's Services began implementing the Family-to-Family initiative in January 2004.

family -to- family


BUILDING BRIDGES IN THE COMMUNITY



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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The Annie E. Casey Foundation
<http://www.aecf.org/>



Governor Sarah Palin, State of Alaska
Karleen Jackson Commissioner, Department of Health & Social Services
Tammy Sandoval Director, Office of Children's Services, Family-to-Family
hss.state.ak.us/ocs/





Family-to-Family is . . .

a commitment by the Office of Children's Services to improve the outcomes for children and families with an emphasis on safety, stability, permanence, and well-being.

That commitment includes:

REDUCING:

- The number of children placed away from their families
- The number of children in institutional care
- The disproportionate numbers of Alaska Native children involved with the Office of Children's Services

DECREASING:

- The time children spend in out-of-home placements
- The number of children re-entering placement
- The number of moves children experience

INCREASING:

- Reunification of children with their families
- The number of siblings placed together
- The number of children placed in their own culture and community

GOALS OF FAMILY-TO-FAMILY

To achieve these results, the Office of Children's Services is committed to the following improvements:

- If children are not safe in their home, help the family determine what they need to keep them safe and how they can access appropriate services
- Develop a safe, supportive and community based network of resource families (foster parents/relatives)
- Place children with extended family when they can't safely live with their parents
- Provide the services families and children need so they can be safely reunited as soon as possible
- Involve parents, foster parents and extended family as team members with our agency and with one another
- Become a neighborhood resource for children and families

STRATEGIES

To achieve these changes in the child welfare system, the Office of Children's Services is committed to implementing four core strategies:

RECRUITING, DEVELOPING, AND SUPPORTING RESOURCE FAMILIES:

Finding and maintaining foster parents and relatives who can support children and families in their own communities.

BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:

Establishing relationships with a wide range of community organizations and individuals to collaborate and create an environment that supports families involved with Office of Children's Services.

MAKING DECISIONS AS A TEAM:

Involving resource families, caseworkers, community members, youth and their families in all placement decisions, to ensure a network of support for the children, and for the adults who care for them.

EVALUATING RESULTS:

Collecting and using data about child and family outcomes to find out where we are making progress and to show where we need to change.