



Alaska Children's Alliance
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Another class of *ChildFirst@ Alaska* Forensic Interviewing of Children graduates!



June, 2015 saw another successful class of child forensic interview trainees, including 11 law enforcement officers, 12 Office of Children's Services staff, 1 Child Advocacy Center manager, 2 Advocates, and 1 Assistant Attorney General. They serve across the state, including Anchorage, Bethel, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai, Kotzebue, Nome, Selawik, Soldotna, Palmer and Wasilla. Additionally, 2 individuals participated as future faculty. This course teaches students to apply the latest research in real-life interviews and in preparing children for court. Students also learn the value of the multidisciplinary team approach and the importance of corroborating evidence in supporting a child's statements. Through the *ChildFirst* protocol, children from different cultures have the opportunity to talk to a trained forensic interviewer at their own pace. The protocol guidelines can be intertwined throughout the interview, and most importantly, the cultures of Alaskan children are respected and this respect plays a major role in how the interview is conducted. At the end of the course students must pass a written test and, using trained and highly skilled actors, to successfully demonstrate the interviewing skills they have learned throughout the week.



Thanks to instructors Milton Bohac, Deven Cunningham, Carla Erickson & Brittany Dunlop, Pam Karalunas and Virginia Moring who provided the training. Thanks also to their organizations for their ongoing commitment to improving the lives of child victims of abuse in Alaska: Kodiak Area Native Association, Anchorage Police Department, Alaska Department of Law, Alaska Children's Alliance & Office of Children's Services

ChildFirst Alaska is a collaborative effort by the Alaska Children's Alliance, the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Law, Office of Children's Services, UAA Child Welfare Academy and Child Advocacy Center staff and Multidisciplinary Team members.