

**Adam Crum**  
Commissioner

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**Department of Health  
and Social Services**

Anchorage, Alaska

**STATE OF ALASKA**

**PRESS STATEMENT**

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**Press Statement: DHSS Hires Tammie Wilson as Policy Advisor**  
*More Support Needed for Alaska's Children & Families*

In the FY21 budget, Governor Mike Dunleavy has asked for a new Deputy Commissioner within the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) to oversee the Office of Children's Services (OCS) and the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), to give these vital divisions the support and attention they need to take care of Alaska's youth and families. This is an important step toward needed reform. However, to ensure progress can be made as soon as possible, Governor Dunleavy and DHSS Commissioner Adam Crum developed a policy advisor role in the DHSS Commissioner's office. This new policy advisor will be Tammie Wilson. She will act as a parent resource and help support family resiliency, by helping families navigate the child welfare system and by working with OCS on positive reform.

Governor Dunleavy has challenged all state departments to improve systems. Improving state systems that affect youth and families are especially important so future generations can benefit from increased support and succeed. This step will help reform efforts, and strengthen the important work that DHSS does in partnership with families and communities to support the well-being of Alaska's children and youth.

**Statement from Commissioner Adam Crum, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services**

*"We look forward to having Ms. Wilson in this policy advisor role, where she will act as a resource for parents and help support family resiliency, by helping families navigate the child welfare system and working with OCS on positive reform. She has spent many years working on child welfare issues and has become a known and trusted figure across the state that will tirelessly work to keep families strong. Having Ms. Wilson in this position will allow us to focus on evaluating and working to build up community support options so Alaskan families can grow ever more resilient."*

**Statement from Acting Deputy Commissioner Clinton Lasley, Family, Community & Integrated Services, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services**

*"I am excited to have Ms. Wilson join my team as a Policy Advisor with a focus on children's services in our state. Tammie has been a vigorous advocate of child safety and family rights in the state of Alaska. Ms. Wilson's dedication and passion will be integral to the department and demonstrates our commitment to enhanced support for families, while ensuring a culture of safe children and strong homes."*

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