

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW Of the Death of a Youth Known to the Ministry

A. INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (The Ministry) conducted the File Review (FR) to examine case practice involving the subject youth (the youth) of the FR and the service involvement of the youth and family with two Ministry program areas.

The FR included an examination of Ministry records and BC Coroners Service documents focusing on the period of Ministry involvement until the death of the youth.

C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The Ministry became involved with the family due to high risk issues that affected how the parents functioned in their parental roles. The youth engaged in high risk behaviours and the family received services from two Ministry program areas over a relatively short-term period. The youth's parents engaged with the services provided to address the child protection concerns. The youth participated in some services, but was resistant to engagement in other services. The youth was not in care.

D. FINDINGS

The FR found that case practice by both Ministry programs was generally consistent with legislation, policy and standards. Minor practice concerns identified did not appear to be linked to the youth's death. The issues presented in the case are frequently identified by the Ministry when serving youth and families. As such, this presents an opportunity for reflection on how the Ministry responds to such issues and may provide effective interventions in the future.

F. ACTION PLAN

1. A particular policy describing how the two involved Ministry program areas are to share information will be reviewed with participants at a forum scheduled in the Service Delivery Area (SDA).

2. A one-day training session is provided on a particular topic related to the identified issue and some follow up training is provided to case practitioners from the program area.
3. The participants in a forum scheduled on a particular topic related to an identified issue will re-allocate services and resources in the SDA to address service delivery issues that emerged from a recent review by the program area manager. The re-design of services will be shared with the Director of Quality Assurance for the purposes of tracking its implementation.
4. Skills training regarding the identified issue will be provided to Ministry staff and others in the SDA.