

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW

Of the Death of a Child Known to the Ministry

A. INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (the Ministry) conducted the File Review (FR) to examine the practice and services provided to the family prior to the death of the subject child of the FR (the child). The purpose of the FR was to identify practice strengths and challenges, as well as inform and improve future case practice.

For the purpose of the FR, Ministry and BC Coroners Service documents were reviewed. The time period of the FR was from the Ministry's initial involvement with the family and throughout the child's life.

B. BACKGROUND

The Ministry had periodic involvement with the family throughout the child's life. The parent's involvement with the Ministry was in regards to high risk issues. Initially, the parents received supports from a Ministry social worker to connect them with voluntary services. The parents received additional supports from a Ministry social worker after an incident involving the child.

C. CRITICAL ACTIONS AND ANALYSIS

Social work practice did not meet Ministry standards with regards to assessment of and response to child protection concerns. One child protection report regarding the family was not entered on the system or responded to as a new intake as required by standards.

The steps and timeframes for assessing child protection reports were not followed consistently. Insufficient actions were taken by the Ministry after protection reports were received. The response to child welfare concerns did not appear to take into consideration the parent's history and the vulnerability of the child.

D. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE

1. The Team Leaders for the Child Safety & Family Support (CSFS) services in the Service Delivery Area (SDA) maintains a tracking sheet regarding particular cases that is reviewed monthly with the Community Services Managers (CSMs).
2. The CSMs and Executive Director of Service for the SDA take time during scheduled supervision to discuss particular cases. The CSMs and CSFS Team Leaders also do this.
3. The Director of Practice for the SDA has a monthly Communities of Practice teleconference with all of the CSFS Team Leaders in the SDA where particular cases are reviewed and discussed.

E. ACTION PLAN

1. The CSM will review the Provincial Practice Directives on the particular issues with the CSFS staff.
2. The CSM will review expectations with the CSFS staff on the consistent use of the Screening Assessment Tool to guide staff on when to code a protection report as an Investigation (INV) and when to code as a Family Development Response (FDR).
3. The CSM will review the expected FDR and INV assessment steps and time frames, as set out in the Chapter 3: Child Protection Response Model, with the CSFS staff.
4. The CSM will review the Integrated Case Management (ICM) User Guide in relation to multiple incidents being reported and loaded into ICM, as well as the Standards for Documenting All Reported Incidents and Notifying Parent(s) outlined in the Chapter 3: Child Protection Response Model.