

SUMMARY: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW Of the Critical Injury of a Youth Known to the Director in 2018

Circumstances of the Critical Injury

The review included an examination of case files, and discussions with the involved staff, for a youth who was critically injured due to neglect. The director was providing services to the youth and their family at the time of the critical injury in relation to conflict in the home.

Findings

The director received several reports about the youth's family situation over a two-year period. The final report resulted in a protection response; however, the director had not yet contacted the family to offer voluntary support services in relation to a prior report. Until the child protection investigation concluded, a safety plan was implemented to address the identified concerns; the youth was eventually placed in the care of the director. The director's contact with the family prior to the protection response, may have resulted in additional details and/or earlier planning in relation to the youth's situation.

Prior to the review being finalized, the delegation levels of social workers and social worker assistants were clarified, resource teams began to receive memos concerning youth in care, and a collaborative debrief about the situation occurred with the involved staff.

Actions

The involved Service Delivery Area leadership, the Child Welfare Policy team, and the Quality Assurance team developed an action plan that focused on revising policy to clarify which social workers are notified of a child protection report, reviewing with resource workers the need to discuss with caregivers any concerns with parenting their own children and the duty to report any child protection concerns, and finally, discussing with the After Hours response team about communicating practice concerns, as well as the agreed upon use of contracted agencies.

The review was completed in January 2020. The above action plan was due for full implementation in February 2020.