

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW

Of a Critical Injury of a Youth Known to the Director

Circumstances of the Critical Injury

This review examined the case files for an Indigenous youth who was critically injured while residing with a relative. The youth had been placed with the relative as part of a safety plan, which was created with the youth's parents, a relative and the director. Services were being provided to the youth and their family in relation to neglect concerns in the parents' home.

Findings

The director received multiple concerns of neglect for this youth and created Safety Plans with the parents. The court granted a Supervision Order, which outlined the required planning to address neglect in the home; however, the youth's parents often failed to follow through on implementing these plans. The youth's safety and well-being were not addressed and alternative measures, including bringing the youth into the care of the director, were not considered.

The youth and their sibling were placed with a family member as part of a Safety Plan; however, the ministry did not complete an assessment of the home prior to placement. Five months later, the youth was assaulted at the family member's home.

There was minimal collaboration with the youth's Indigenous community in addressing the safety concerns and supporting the youth and their family. Meeting with the youth's family and community together could have resulted in a plan that focused on culturally relevant outcomes for the youth.

Prior to the case review being finalized, the Directors of Operations and Practice met with the local team leaders to discuss the importance of involving a child's Indigenous community in planning. Additionally, the practice consultant met with local service area staff to discuss the need for collaboration with a child's Indigenous community, as well as the requirement for staff to complete Initial and Detailed Record Reviews.

Actions

The involved Service Delivery Area leadership and the Quality Assurance team developed an action plan for the Director of Practice to review the use of Safety and Family Plans with the involved staff.

The review was completed in July 2019. The above action plan was fully implemented in September 2019.