

## **SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW**

### **Of a Critical Injury 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 case practice and services provided to the subject child (the child) of the FR. The purpose of the FR was to: examine case practice in relation to legislation, policy, and standards; as well as inform and improve future case practice.

For the purpose of the FR, Delegated Aboriginal Agency (the Agency) records were reviewed. The FR focused on the year leading up to the critical injury of the child.

#### **B. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

1. Was the Agency's assessment of risk to the child consistent with relevant legislation, policy and service standards?
2. Was an appropriate service plan developed, implemented and monitored to ensure the safety and well-being of the child?

#### **C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY**

The Ministry and the Agency had extensive involvement with the child's immediate family. The concerns were in regard to the parent's high risk behaviors and inability to function in their parental roles. Both parents did engage with services during the time the Agency was involved. The child is Aboriginal and was not in care at the time of the critical injury.

#### **D. FINDINGS**

1. The Agency's assessments of risk was not consistent with relevant legislation, policy and service standards. The Agency did appropriately screen the child protection reports they received from community professionals and they did respond to these reports in a timely way. However, the Agency did not appropriately assess the risk to the child based on all available information.
2. An appropriate service plan was not developed to ensure the safety of the child. The primary parent did attend some services but there was a lack of coordination in regards to these services and the services did not meet all of the needs identified in the child protection reports.

## **E. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE**

1. From December 2014 to January 2015, the Provincial Director of Child Welfare practice analyst collaborated with the Agency's multi-disciplinary teams, incorporating all of the components of the Structured Decision Making *Family Plan* template into the agency's family service tracking, to ensure the plans meet standards.

## **F. ACTION PLAN**

1. The Agency redistributes and reviews with all staff the practice directive *Clinical Consultation and Support in Complex High Risk Child Protection Cases*.
2. The Agency creates a template letter for distribution to all community service providers actively involved with clients when the Agency closes a case, outlining the necessity of reporting any future child protection concerns.
3. The Agency has a tracking system which monitors complex, high risk child protection cases, supervisory consultations and the associated clinical decisions.
4. The Agency meets with staff from the local Ministry service delivery area to review and establish written guidelines for referrals, joint responsibilities and how the Agency and a specific Ministry program collaborate.
5. The Agency, in collaboration with the Ministry, provides regularly scheduled training on an identified practice issue.

**This case review was completed in November 2015. The above Action Plan was due for full implementation by December 31, 2015.**