

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

A. INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (the Ministry) conducted a File Review (FR) to examine case practice involving the subject youth (the youth).

The FR reviewed Ministry electronic and physical records. The FR focused on the Ministry's involvement with the family and an assessment of the collaborative involvement of community agencies. The critical injury of the youth and injuries inflicted upon Ministry service providers was assessed.

B. TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Did the Ministry's response to Child Protection reports, and provision of Child Welfare Services meet the applicable legislation, policy and practice standards?
2. Were Child Welfare services provided in collaboration with Youth Justice and Child and Youth Mental Health services?

C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The Ministry had involvement with the parents when they and community professionals reported concerns regarding the youth's escalating behaviours. One parent had high risk issues that impacted their ability to function in their parental role. When the youth's other parent was unable to care for the youth, the Ministry placed the child in an approved Ministry resource. Following placement, the youth physically assaulted Ministry agency staff and attempted serious self-harm. Following the youth's assault and recovery, the youth was arrested. The youth is not Aboriginal.

D. FINDINGS

1. The Ministry's response to Child Protection reports, and provision of Child Welfare Services were not consistent with applicable standards, legislation, policy and accompanying tools. Throughout the FR there were significant gaps in file documentation; this meant it was not possible to conclude that policy and practice standards were met.
2. There was limited collaboration between the Ministry and staff from Ministry Community Programs. There was an absence of collaborative practice between

the Ministry and staff from Ministry Programs with respect to planning and assisting in key decisions for the youth.

E. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE

1. Care Team Training Curriculum is in place. Training was provided to: MCFD staff, agencies, education staff, Delegated Aboriginal Agency staff, and other community partners.
2. A recent audit result indicated that the Service Delivery Area (SDA) needs improvement in file documentation; a group of staff have been engaged to develop an Action Plan to address documentation needs.

F. ACTION PLAN

1. Action Plan for improvement in file documentation (as discussed in actions taken to date) is reviewed and approved by the Executive Director of Service.
2. Staff are provided guidance regarding the importance of collaboration with community professionals when managing high risk/complex cases. Associated policies are referenced, including the policy on clinical consultation and support in complex high risk child protection cases.
3. The Director of Practice (DOP) reviews with staff the importance of file documentation particularly around file transfers, openings and closings.

This case review was completed in July 2016. The above Action Plan was due for full implementation by September 2016.