

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW

Of a Critical Incident of a Youth Known to the Ministry

A. INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (the Ministry) conducted the File Review (FR) to examine case practice regarding the subject youth (the youth) of the FR. The purpose of the FR was to: examine and analyze the case practice in relation to legislation, policy, and standards; promote excellence in case practice, and identify barriers to providing adequate services. For the purposes of the FR, Ministry records were reviewed. The FR focused on the period of Ministry involvement prior to the critical injury of the youth.

B. TERM(S) OF REFERENCE

1. Was the Ministry's assessment of risk to the youth consistent with relevant legislation, policy, and service standards?
2. Was an appropriate service plan developed, implemented and monitored to address the safety needs of the youth?

C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The Ministry had longstanding involvement with the youth's family due to child protection concerns about parenting capacity. The youth was previously in care while the parents addressed the protection concerns through support services and community programs. After the child was returned to parental care, services were continued to assist the parents until the file was closed. The youth was not in care at the time of the critical injury. The youth was non-Aboriginal.

D. FINDINGS

1. The responses to the child protection reports were not consistent with the applicable legislation, policy, and standards in effect at the time. The youth's safety concerns were not addressed through protective responses and mandatory services. The youth's medical needs were not assessed and addressed by planning.
2. A service plan was not developed, implemented and monitored by Ministry staff to address the safety needs of the youth. The use of the available assessment tools would have provided valuable information for planning and the use of

planning templates would have supported Ministry staff to address the safety concerns impacting the youth.

E. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE

1. Ministry staff received training regarding the use of assessment and planning tools.

F. ACTION PLAN

1. The Community Services Manager and Team Leader use a tracking system to identify the key aspects of case management during clinical supervision with social workers. A copy of the tracking system is given to the Provincial Director of Child Welfare.
2. The Community Services Manager reviews with the Team Leader on a monthly basis, the assessments of all new complex/high risk child protection reports; including family's previous involvement, identifying themes, and developing appropriate family plans.

This case review was completed in December, 2105. The above Action Plan was due for full implementation by December 31, 2015.