

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW

Of the Death of a Youth Known to a Delegated Aboriginal Agency

A. INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (the Ministry) conducted a file review (FR) to examine the case practice and services provided to the subject youth (the youth).

For the purpose of the FR, Ministry and Delegated Aboriginal Agency (DAA) records were reviewed. Service documents and the BC Coroner reports were reviewed. The FR focused on a specific period of Ministry and DAA involvement preceding the death of the youth.

B. TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Were the services provided under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA)* consistent with applicable legislation, policy and standards?
2. Was the planning and monitoring associated with the Youth Agreement consistent with applicable policies, guidelines and standards?
3. Was the safety planning associated with the youth's potential for self-harming behaviour consistent with applicable policies, guidelines and standards?

C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The DAA was involved with this Aboriginal youth and the family since 2010 due to child protection concerns. The youth had not been in care and was receiving support services through the provision of a Youth Agreement (YA) at the time of death.

D. FINDINGS

1. The DAA provided sufficient and appropriate supports and services. However, the Youth Agreement covering a portion of the period under review was not signed in a timely manner.

2. A consolidated document, such as a Plan for Independence (PFI), was not completed to address all the youth's needs associated with the transition to independent living. There was also no indication of integrated collaborative planning meetings.
3. There was no safety planning for potential self-harming behaviours because the youth's potential for self-harm was not known by the DAA until after the death.

E. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE

Not applicable.

F. ACTION PLAN

1. The DAA releases a practice directive in relation to the Standards for Youth Support Services and Youth Agreements. This practice directive includes the requirement to conduct collaborative planning meetings for all youth receiving support services under a Youth Agreement with the goal to develop a Plan for Independence (PFI) for each youth. This practice directive is provided to the Office of the Provincial Director of Child Welfare.
2. The DAA provides training to all social work staff on case management for Youth Agreements, including timeline requirements for signing Youth Agreements, and how to develop a comprehensive PFI document. Confirmation that this training occurred is sent, via email, to the Office of the Provincial Director of Child Welfare.
3. The DAA provides training to all supervisors on a structured supervision model. The training includes how to monitor case management activities including timely Integrated Case Management documentation. Confirmation that this occurred is sent, via email, to the Office of the Provincial Director of Child Welfare.

This review was completed in August 2016. The above Action Plan is due for full implementation in December 2016.