

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW

Of the Death of a Youth in the Care of the Director

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).

For the purpose of the FR, case records and BC Coroners Service documents were reviewed. The FR focused on a specific period of the director's involvement prior to the death of the youth.

B. TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Did the director provide an integrated and collaborative response to address the youth's high-risk issue?
2. Did the director reassess the youth's high-risk issue and adjust safety planning appropriately?

C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The director became involved with this youth and family due to concerns the youth was at risk in the home environment due to a high-risk issue. During the assessment of this concern, the director learned the youth had a specific high-risk issue. The youth was brought into care, and was receiving services for the specific issue. The youth and parent engaged in services, and a plan was developed to return the youth to the parent's full time care and custody. The youth died while on a visit with the parent, two days before the youth was to return to the parent's custody.

D. FINDINGS

1. Significant collaboration occurred to inform an integrated response to address the youth's high-risk issue throughout service delivery. One exception to this occurred in the weeks prior to the youth's death, when a practitioner did not communicate a disruption to the service the youth was receiving specific to the high-risk issue.

2. The director reassessed the youth's high-risk issue repeatedly during service provision. Adjustments to planning were appropriate, as they occurred concurrently with assessments, were based upon the information learned, and were made in collaboration with involved service partners. One exception to this resulted when a practitioner did not communicate the youth had missed appointments specific to the high-risk issue; therefore, adjustments to planning in light of this information were not considered.

E. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE

Not applicable.

F. ACTION PLAN

1. Practice support, through a discussion with the involved staff, implements a method to ensure that involved service partners share significant information about a high-risk youth within a specified time, and consistent with existing policies.

The review was completed in August 2017. The above action plan was due for full implementation in November 2017.