

## **SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW**

### **Of the Death of a Child 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 child (the child).

For the purpose of the FR case records were reviewed. The FR focused on a specific period prior to the death of the child.

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

1. Were the child's needs, particularly a specific need, assessed according to applicable legislation, policy, and standards?
2. Was the planning for the child fully developed, implemented, and monitored to address the child's safety and well-being?

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

The director had a longstanding history with the child's parent due to high-risk issues. The child and their siblings were born with a specific issue that required specialized supports. The children were placed in the care of relatives after a concern was received that the parent was unable to meet their needs. Extended family members were not able to continue to care for the children, so the children were brought into care. The child was placed separately from the siblings due to the child's required specialized needs.

#### **D. FINDINGS**

1. The assessment of the child's needs, including a specific issue, was exemplary. The child was placed in a specialized home with a foster parent who was skilled in caring for children with specific issues. During the short time the child was in care, the social worker contacted medical professionals to assess the child's current needs, completed referrals to the appropriate community specialists, collaborated with the child's foster parents to address the child's specific medical needs, and documented the child's needs in an Interim Care Plan.

2. The initial planning for the child was fully developed and was implemented prior to the child's death. The child's care was closely monitored by the social workers who attended the foster home on three occasions during the three weeks the child was in care. A Care Plan was developed and implemented for the child with a focus on the child's specific needs, and preserving connections with the child's family. Regular communication and collaboration occurred between the child's social worker, family members, and caregivers. The director demonstrated exemplary case practice that exceeded policy requirements.

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

Not applicable.

#### **F. ACTION PLAN**

Actions were not required to address the findings of the report.

**The review was completed in November 2017. No actions were required.**