

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW Of the Death of a Youth in the Care of 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).

For the purpose of the FR, ministry records were reviewed. The FR focused on a specific period of ministry involvement prior to the critical injury of the youth.

B. TERM OF REFERENCE

1. Did the ministry meet their responsibilities as outlined in a specific protocol, with regard to planning with the youth's guardian (another province) to ensure the youth's safety and well-being?

C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The ministry in another province had longstanding involvement with the youth's parent due to high risk issues. The youth moved from another province to seek permanency with the other parent while the other province maintained guardianship. A criminal issue affected the youth and the youth could not reside in the home. The youth was involved in high risk issues and the other province could not provide service; the youth refused service from the other province. The youth came into ministry care to stabilize and access specialized services and supports. The youth's guardian remained in the other province. The ministry did not provide the specialized services the youth required. The youth continued to engage in high risk issues. The youth was not Indigenous.

D. FINDINGS

1. The ministry did not meet their responsibilities as outlined in a specific protocol. The youth required specialized services and was not provided the support. Another province requested the youth access support and a protocol was implemented. The ministry did not follow the protocol as agreed to in collaboration with another province. The youth did not have a care plan in place to address their high risk behavior. The ministry did not meet with the youth as

required by the protocol. Due to the ministry's inconsistent response to actions agreed to in the protocol, the other province did not have the information needed to address the youth's safety and well-being while living in British Columbia.

E. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE

1. A support team was created and implemented on May 1, 2017 to support high-risk youth by developing service plans to meet specific needs and monitor progress toward goals.
2. An interdisciplinary committee was created on January 11, 2018 to meet on a monthly basis and provide guidance on how to meet the specific needs of children and youth in their placements.
3. A permanent team leader was assigned to the involved team.
4. A forum focusing on resources for high risk youth occurred, and addressed concerns related to placement resource.

F. ACTION PLAN

1. The Director of Operations reviews a specific protocol with the new team leader and staff in the involved Local Service Delivery Area.

The review was completed in May 2018. The above action plan is due for full implementation in September 2018.