

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW

Of the Death of a Youth in the Care of the Director in 2018

Circumstances of the Fatality

The review examined the case files of a youth who died while in the care of the director. Services were being provided to the youth and their family in relation to their transition from care to the community, and connecting the youth to adult services.

Findings

The youth resided voluntarily in the care of the director for two years, due to neglect and health concerns. During this time, the youth participated with support services and improved their health and well-being. The youth had a current Care Plan, and a supportive Care Team who met regularly to collaboratively plan for their needs. When the youth obtained their own housing in the community, the ministry provided support through a specific agreement; however, the youth did not meet the requirements for this agreement. Transferring them to a Youth Agreement would have better suited their needs, and provided eligibility for ministry-supported adult services in the community.

A professional assessment highlighted several health concerns for the youth, and provided recommendations on how to best address these issues. The youth declined services to address these concerns after they transitioned to the community. The ministry needed to further engage with the youth to provide them with additional supports.

Permanency planning focused on relational permanency with the youth, their family, and former care provider. Further planning to strengthen relationships between the youth and their family, while supporting a positive transition to the community, would have provided a more comprehensive plan.

Actions

The involved Service Delivery Area leadership and the Quality Assurance team developed an action plan for the Director of Practice to review, with the involved staff, information related to post-majority services for youth, as well as provide training on how to organize and facilitate collaborative planning meetings with families.

The review was completed in August 2019. The above action plan was fully implemented in October 2019.