

## **SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW**

### **Of the Death of a Child Known to the Director in 2017**

#### Circumstances of the Fatality

The review examined the case files of an Indigenous child who died from health issues while placed by the director in the temporary custody of extended family members. The Delegated Aboriginal Agency (DAA) was providing services to the child and their family at the time of death in relation to abuse and neglect by the parents, as well as neglect by the extended family members the child was placed with.

#### Findings

The child experienced multiple health issues from birth. Soon after, the DAA developed a safety plan in collaboration with the family which had the child reside with extended family members due to the child's risk of neglect and abuse in their family home; the plan was later formalized through a temporary court order. During this placement, the DAA received three reports in relation to neglect of the child by their extended family. The DAA monitored the child's safety through direct and indirect contact with the child and extended family; however, the DAA did not take all the steps required to assess and mitigate the concerns related to the care providers' ability to care for the child.

Prior to the review being finalized the DAA had already taken several actions: the need to share a child's medical history and care requirements with care providers was discussed during a practice committee meeting specific to out of care placements; community partners were educated about their duty to report child protection concerns; formal communication processes were implemented within the DAA to review cases of concern; training was provided to family care workers; and strategies were implemented to address gaps in clinical supervision and consultation, case documentation, and staffing levels.

#### Actions

The involved DAA leadership and the Quality Assurance team developed an action plan for the DAA to self-audit their adherence to policy, create tools to support case documentation and clinical supervision, ensure care plans are current, and review with their staff specific policies and procedures related to children in care, out of care options, and conducting a child protection response.

**The review was completed in March 2020. The above action plan is due for full implementation in December 2020.**