

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW

Of the Critical Injury of Children Known to the Director in 2018

Circumstances of the Critical Injuries

The review examined the case files of two Indigenous children who were critically injured. The director was providing services to the children and their family at the time of their critical injury.

Findings

The director did not consistently complete records reviews when new child protection reports were received. As a result, some protection reports were screened as not requiring further action, when instead a child protection response was warranted. While the director correctly identified the family required ongoing supports to address the children's safety, the tools to guide decision making about what interventions were needed to address the children's needs were not used. Information was sought from a community partner regarding their involvement with one of the children's parents to assess risk to the children's safety. Additionally, the director did not implement the relevant guidelines on best practice approaches when assessing the children's safety.

Prior to the case review being finalized, the involved staff received further training on responding to high risk situations and the use of assessment and planning tools to guide decision making. Additionally, the process and purpose of completing Initial Record Reviews was highlighted in the involved office and was included as a specific component of training for newly hired practitioners.

Actions

The involved Service Delivery Area leadership and the Quality Assurance team developed an action plan to review the following with the involved staff: the remaining Structured Decision Making tools (Strength and Needs Assessment, Family Plan, Vulnerability Reassessment and Reunification Assessment); the importance of completing both an Initial Record Review and Detailed Record Review; and, the need to interview all the children in the home, as well as the parents, when completing a child protection response.

The review was completed in July 2020. The above action plan was fully implemented in September 2020.