

SUMMARY: FILE REVIEW

Of a Critical Injury of Children Known to the Ministry

A. INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (the Ministry) conducted a file review (FR) to examine the case practice involving the subject children (the children) of the FR.

For the purpose of the FR, Ministry electronic and physical records were reviewed. The FR focused on the period of Ministry involvement with the family prior to and following the critical injury of the children.

B. TERM OF REFERENCE

1. During the period under review, was a thorough assessment of risk to the children conducted, which was inclusive of community professionals and consistent with the relevant legislation, policies, practice standards and guidelines.

C. BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The Ministry had more than one involvement with the family due to reports of criminal and high risk behavioral issues putting the children at risk of harm. The parents participated in safety plans and some Ministry intervention services to address the high risk and criminal behaviors.

As a result of the parents' inability to refrain from the criminal and high risk behaviors, the children were placed in a Ministry approved foster home until alternate out of care options could be arranged.

D. FINDINGS

1. Ministry staff assessed the children's safety without taking into consideration the family's previous involvement with the Ministry.
2. Ministry staff missed an opportunity to consult with clinical leaders who had expertise regarding the high risk behaviors and how the behaviors impacted the children's safety.
3. The safety plan was not adequate to ensure the safety of the children and the Ministry did not re-assess the plan as the family's circumstances changed.
4. The Ministry did not provide an integrated response to the reported child protection concerns.

E. ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE

1. Interagency Case Assessment Team (ICAT) training occurred for the involved staff. The training resulted in the formation of an ICAT.
2. The Ministry also participated in the development of a community committee to identify and support families in the community with high-risk behaviors.

F. ACTION PLAN

1. The Director of Practice will provide newly hired Ministry staff with high risk behavior training.
2. The Director of Practice will review with the involved staff the new high risk behavior guidelines and expectations for practice with families.
3. During clinical supervision, the Community Services Manager will review with the involved Team Leaders the importance of using the structured decision making tools and practice guidelines in conducting a thorough assessment of risk to children.