

# COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

## Angel's Story – Recommendation 1

**Recommendation Summary:** Develop trauma prevention and response on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), educate service providers and public, and create interventions.

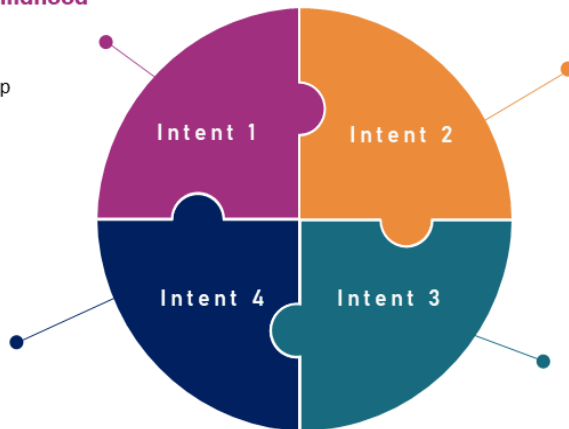
**Primary Public Body:** Government of Manitoba

### 1. Develop a trauma prevention and response plan on Adverse Childhood Experiences

Mental Health and Community Wellness's February 2022 Roadmap speaks to the need to include and address trauma, and cites being trauma-informed as a principle to prioritize and guide decisions and actions.

### 4. Create appropriate, accessible, immediate, and long-term interventions that are evidence-based to address the ongoing trauma crisis in Manitoba

The Mental Health and Community Wellness Roadmap is laying the groundwork for the development of holistic responses to the ongoing trauma crisis in Manitoba. As this intent relies on the Roadmap to lay the groundwork for the development of new responses, MACY will continue to monitor Roadmap initiatives.



### 2. Educate service providers

Departments continue to offer and develop new training opportunities for service providers in this area. MACY will continue to monitor the training and learning opportunities that arise from the implementation of the Mental Health and Community Wellness roadmap.

### 3. Educate the public on Adverse Childhood Experiences

GOM has provided funding for all Manitobans to access the Science of Early Childhood Development textbook in coordination with Red River College Polytech.

## COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

0.75

Largely Compliant

## Recommendation Compliance Summary

In accordance with subsection 11(1) clause (d) of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act (ACYA)*, the Advocate retains the responsibility "to monitor the implementation of recommendations included in reports made under section 27 (investigation) or special reports made under section 31."

This form details the assessment of implementation of compliance made under the referenced subsection of the ACYA. MACY assesses implementation of compliance with recommendations once a year but receives updates from public bodies every six months.

1. Recommendation Information	
<b>Special Report Name:</b>	<b>In Need of Protection: Angel's Story</b>
<b>Date Released:</b>	12/13/2018
<b>Full Recommendation:</b> (including details)	<b>Recommendation One:</b> The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Education and Training, Manitoba Families, Manitoba Justice, and Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living engage with experts in childhood trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in order to develop a trauma prevention and response plan of action to (a) educate service providers and the public on ACEs, and (b) create appropriate, accessible immediate and long-term evidence informed interventions to address the trauma crisis that is ongoing in Manitoba.
<b>Intent(s) of Recommendation:</b>	The intents of the recommendation are to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Develop a trauma prevention and response plan on Adverse Childhood Experiences.</b></li> <li>2. <b>Educate service providers on ACEs.</b></li> <li>3. <b>Educate the public on ACEs.</b></li> <li>4. <b>Create appropriate, accessible immediate, and long-term interventions that are evidence-based to address the ongoing trauma crisis in Manitoba.</b></li> </ol>
<b>Issue:</b>	Mental Health and Addictions
<b>Primary Department:</b>	Government of Manitoba
<b>Dates of Previous Official Updates from Public Body:</b>	June 30, 2022
	May 31, 2021
	June 30, 2020
	December 31, 2019
	June 27, 2019
2. Compliance Determination	
<b>Largely Compliant 0.75</b>	Requirements have been met almost entirely and only negligible requirements remain to be implemented.
<b>Self-Assessment</b>	Largely Compliant
<b>Previous Compliance Determination</b>	Partially Compliant
3. Rationale for Determination (How did you reach this compliance determination)	
<b>Intent 1: Develop a trauma prevention and response plan on Adverse Childhood Experiences. 2022</b>	

- The department of Mental Health and Community Wellness released their roadmap in early 2022.
- The roadmap speaks to the need to include and address trauma, and has trauma-informed as a principle to prioritize and guide decisions and actions.
- Priority actions under the Strategic Focus Area of Mental Well-Being and Chronic Disease Prevention include promoting mental well-being (build a provincially coordinated strategy for the prevention of suicide) and supporting and investing in child and youth development (e.g., more mental health programming in the school system and expanding the availability of school-based services).
- In our previous analysis, we noted that a trauma prevention and response plan should be central to the department of Mental Health and Community Wellness. It is evident that the roadmap addresses the importance of trauma-informed services and practice, and that prevention is central to making improvements in mental health and wellness. This intent can be considered met through the roadmap, but more specific initiatives regarding improvements to training, services, and interventions will be monitored through the remaining intents of this recommendation.

## 2021

- Manitoba Families reported the Mental Health and Addictions cross-departmental working group provides whole-of-government oversight and attention to the mental health and addictions needs of Manitobans, including ‘upstream supports’ like Thrival Kits, Granny’s House (aimed at preventing further trauma for children and families), an \$810,000 investment to expand Granny’s House for a second location and for a second year, and supports specifically designed to address urgent needs like additional mental health and addictions clinicians working with StreetReach Winnipeg.
- The province is providing \$1,279,000 for mental health and addictions supports, which include:
  - \$810,000 to Blue Thunderbird Family Care Inc. to extend the Granny’s House community respite pilot project for a second year and expand it to a second location.
  - \$200,000 to the Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre for clinician assessment and referral services in Thompson.
  - \$60,000 for Community Living disABILITY Services clients for Naloxone kits.
  - \$123,000 to the Mount Carmel Clinic for its Super Dads Program and other services.
  - \$35,000 to the Clan Mothers Healing Village for its public education campaign against sexual exploitation.
  - \$30,000 to the Manitoba Association of Women’s Shelters for a virtual staff training curriculum.
  - \$21,000 to the Canadian Mental Health Association for Thrival Kits (virtual component).
- The creation of a new Department of Mental Health, Wellness and Recovery was evidenced as the prioritization of mental health in Manitoba. The new department provides leadership, coordination, and collaboration to a whole-of-government approach to mental health policy and programs. Its mission is “to provide access to mental health and addictions supports and treatment that improve life outcomes for Manitobans in their journey through recovery and healing.”
- Although Manitoba Families highlighted activities and investments towards mental health undertaken by the Mental Health and Addictions cross-departmental working group, there was no evidence provided to indicate that a trauma prevention and response plan on ACEs is being developed. Given the creation of a new Department of Mental Health, Wellness and Recovery,

a prevention and response plan to address ACEs should be central to the work of such a department.

**2020**

- There has been no evidence provided to indicate that a trauma prevention and response plan on ACEs has been developed.

**Intent 2: Educate service providers on ACEs.**

**2022**

- The government continues to provide information on the various trauma (and therefore ACEs, in their opinion) training available in various departments.
- While it is promising that departments continue to offer and develop new training opportunities for service providers in this area, MACY will continue to monitor the training and learning opportunities that arise from the implementation of the Mental Health and Community Wellness roadmap that are relevant to this recommendation.

**2021**

- Manitoba Justice's Road to Mental Readiness is a training program for staff that promotes mental health resilience and a greater understanding of mental health challenges. This would support staff in youth correctional facilities, by providing greater understanding of the causes of mental health challenges, including trauma. It is noted that staff in positions such as probationers would have received this training in their qualifications prior to being hired.
- Manitoba Education shares information with school divisions about professional development opportunities including trauma-informed support. For example, the link to a trauma-sensitive education webinar was shared with school divisions. Manitoba Education does not directly offer any trainings to education professionals, as trainings are offered through the school divisions. Therefore, Manitoba Education can currently share training resources but cannot determine the number of teachers trained in ACEs.
- Manitoba Families' Trauma and Resilience Training has trained 568 employees (to date) from program areas such as Early Learning and Child Care, Employment and Income Assistance, Child and Family Services, Rural and Northern Services, and MB Housing. Working with Refugees is a free two-day training for staff provided by Manitoba Families. To date, 274 participants have completed this training.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person training was paused and both the Trauma and Resilience and Working with Refugees trainings are being converted to a virtual platform, with the expectation that Manitoba Families will be able to train a greater number of staff.
- As noted above, Manitoba Families announced funding for \$30,000 to the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters. They advised this funding is to develop specialized online training for front-line staff on mental health and addictions, with the outcome of better supporting women and children who have experienced trauma.
- Manitoba Families and Manitoba Justice did not provide evidence that the trainings contain content on Adverse Childhood Experiences, as the training descriptions provided generally highlight the training as trauma-related. Although Manitoba Education does not develop or deliver training to professionals, as the discretion to do so lies with school divisions, it is important to understand what trainings are available to education professionals on ACEs. Manitoba Health has not provided any information regarding trainings it offers for service providers on ACEs. Therefore, this intent remains unmet.

**2020**

- Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living (now Health and Seniors Care) reported initiatives

including the Newcomer Trauma-Focused services and funding to Prairie Mountain Health to provide Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for Children and Adolescents training to 15 staff. While the training is consistent with the intent of the recommendation, the training is limited in geography and reach to a small proportion of service providers.

- Manitoba Families indicated that Trauma and Resilience Training, designed in 2017, provides staff with appropriate and effective ways to support clients struggling with the effects of trauma and the tools to implement trauma- and resilience-informed approaches. This training became mandatory for some branches in the Employment and Income Assistance program. As of March 2020, 506 employees received the training from the following program areas: Early Learning and Child Care, Employment and Income Assistance, Child and Family Services, Centralized Services and Resources, Family Conciliation, and Manitoba Housing. Manitoba Families also indicated that the issue of trauma is addressed in its two-day working with refugees training.
- Manitoba Justice has identified implementing Road to Mental Readiness training. It is not clear, however, how this training relates to ACEs.
- Some activities have been undertaken which meet the requirement to educate service providers, but this is limited to Manitoba Families and Health, Seniors and Active Living (now Health and Seniors Care). More information is required to assess implementation in the Departments of Justice and Education.

### **Intent 3: Educate the public on ACEs.**

#### **2022**

- The Government of Manitoba has provided funding for all Manitobans to access the Science of Early Childhood Development textbook in coordination with Red River College (RRC) Polytech. Included in the textbook material is information on the effect of traumatic events and stress events on child and brain development. At the site where the textbook is accessed, there are also topic guides and directed learning resources. Third parties can also access additional training and workshops for a fee. Access to the site has been promoted by RRC Polytech, including in a mail-out to the Early Learning and Child Care sector.
- Additional public education in this area is considered as being achieved through the promotion of the Mental Health and Community Wellness Roadmap, news releases regarding Youth Hubs, and other related government announcements.
- The Government of Manitoba reported that evidence of the need for a general public campaign in this area was consulted and informed their determination that this is not best practice. This evidence has not been shared with MACY.

#### **2021**

- No specific activities were reported under this intent of the recommendation. Manitoba Families, however, did highlight that a number of mental health and addictions initiatives were launched. This intent remains unmet.

#### **2020**

- One public education initiative was reported. In 2018-2019, Manitoba Education and Justice granted \$63,900 to the Winnipeg Police Service to create a video series regarding complex trauma for presentation to children in Grades 7-12. The goal was to educate youth about trauma and how it can lead to substance use, gang involvement, and exploitation. The project was intended to be evaluated.

### **Intent 4: Create appropriate, accessible immediate, and long-term interventions that are evidence-**

**based to address the ongoing trauma crisis in Manitoba.**

**2022**

- The Mental Health and Community Wellness Roadmap is laying the groundwork for the development of holistic responses to prevention and responding to trauma.
- The current response provided by the government builds on the announcement of Youth Hubs from 2021, adding one additional HUB, and discussing the re-brand and launch of the website <https://huddlemanitoba.ca>.
- Additional investment announcements were made in the past year as related to trauma and healing, including: Clan Mothers Healing Village, an Indigenous youth healing centre in Thompson, and expansion of services with Toba Centre for Children and Youth.
- It is clear from the current and previous responses that investments are being made in interventions to address the ongoing trauma crisis
- As the response to this recommendation relies on the Mental Health and Community Wellness Roadmap as laying the groundwork for the development of new responses, MACY will continue to monitor initiatives presented under the roadmap in order to fulfil this intent of the recommendation.

**2021**

- Manitoba Families reported on expansion of existing services such as:
  - Additional supports include 200k in funding to work with MATC to provide in-person mental health and addictions assessments and service coordination for high risk youth in Thompson.
  - On March 18, 2021, the province announced the creation of five new youth hubs to support Manitoba youth. Two of the hubs will be Indigenous-led. One will be in Westman and one in Interlake:  
[Province of Manitoba | News Releases | Province Creates Five New Youth Hub Sites to Expand Co-ordinated Access to Mental Health, Addiction Services to Protect Young Manitobans \(gov.mb.ca\)](#)
  - On March 24, 2021, the Province announced 500k for the Boldness Project, which works with community to develop innovative programs and initiatives to promote wellness for children and families:  
[Province of Manitoba | News Releases | Province Provides \\$500,000 to Winnipeg Boldness Project to Help Protect Vulnerable Families \(gov.mb.ca\)](#)
  - On April 23, 2021, the Department of Education announced new funding to expand mental health supports in school:  
[Province of Manitoba | News Releases | Province Announces Additional Funding for Mental Health Programs for Teachers, Staff, Students Dealing with the Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic \(gov.mb.ca\)](#)
  - On May 7, 2021, the province announced new funding for case management and mental health supports for youth with RAY:  
[Province of Manitoba | News Releases | Manitoba Government Protects Youth, Supports Continued Safe Housing](#)
- The activities reported are a promising commitment to create appropriate, accessible, immediate and long-term interventions. This recommendation was met during the 2020 reporting period.

**2020**

- On November 4, 2019, Manitoba Families announced the expansion of existing services and

creation of new initiatives to address trauma for youth in Manitoba including:

- Expanding Klinik Community Health Centre's drop-in counselling program by eight hours each week, expanding access to more than 600 additional Manitobans per year. This drop-in counselling is for anyone aged 13 or older. This expansion increases accessibility to immediate trauma intervention.
- Creating a seven-day-a-week centralized trauma intake and referral service at Klinik, available to all ages, genders, and background. This new program meets the accessibility and immediacy requirements of this recommendation.
- Expanding Klinik's longer-term trauma counselling program, allowing for about 80 additional clients to be helped annually. MACY contacted Klinik about the eligibility criteria for Klinik's longer-term trauma counselling program which is cited as 18 years of age and over. The program remains promising for youth 18-21, however a youth such as Angel who was under the age of 18, would have been unable to access long-term trauma interventions through this program.
- Two additional initiatives were cited as indirectly related to the recommendation, including the Newcomer Trauma-Focused Services and the Community Emergency Department Violence Intervention Program (CEDVIP).
- The Newcomer Trauma-Focused Services was described by Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living (now Health and Seniors Care), in response to this recommendation. Given that this initiative is directed to newcomers, the eligibility criteria for this program would likely exclude an Indigenous youth like Angel. Nevertheless, the program creates supports for children and families who have experienced trauma.
- Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living (now Health and Seniors Care) provided an update regarding CEDVIP. The program serves youth and young adults who present to emergency rooms following an injury due to a violent incident. The information provided, however, does not contextualize what violence-related injuries are or whether youth such as Angel who were sexually exploited would be able to access the program. The CEDVIP is a promising program as youth and young adults are provided with wraparound care involving housing, employment, and Indigenous ceremony.
- Information provided demonstrates the development of new and expansion of existing programs that are accessible, are both immediate and long-term, and address the trauma crisis in Manitoba, meeting the requirements of this section of the recommendation.

**Analysis Summary:** The actions reported under this recommendation continue to meet the intents of the recommendation. With the release of the Mental Health and Community Wellness Roadmap, it is now considered an essential guiding document for initiatives responding to and preventing trauma in Manitoba. Information provided in the most recent response continues to show dedication to ensuring service providers and the public are educated on trauma, and the importance of addressing trauma as early as possible. While the requirements for meeting the intents of this recommendation have been met to a large degree, further information on the Mental Health and Community Wellness Roadmap and its roll-out will be needed to consider this recommendation complete. As such, this recommendation is considered largely compliant.