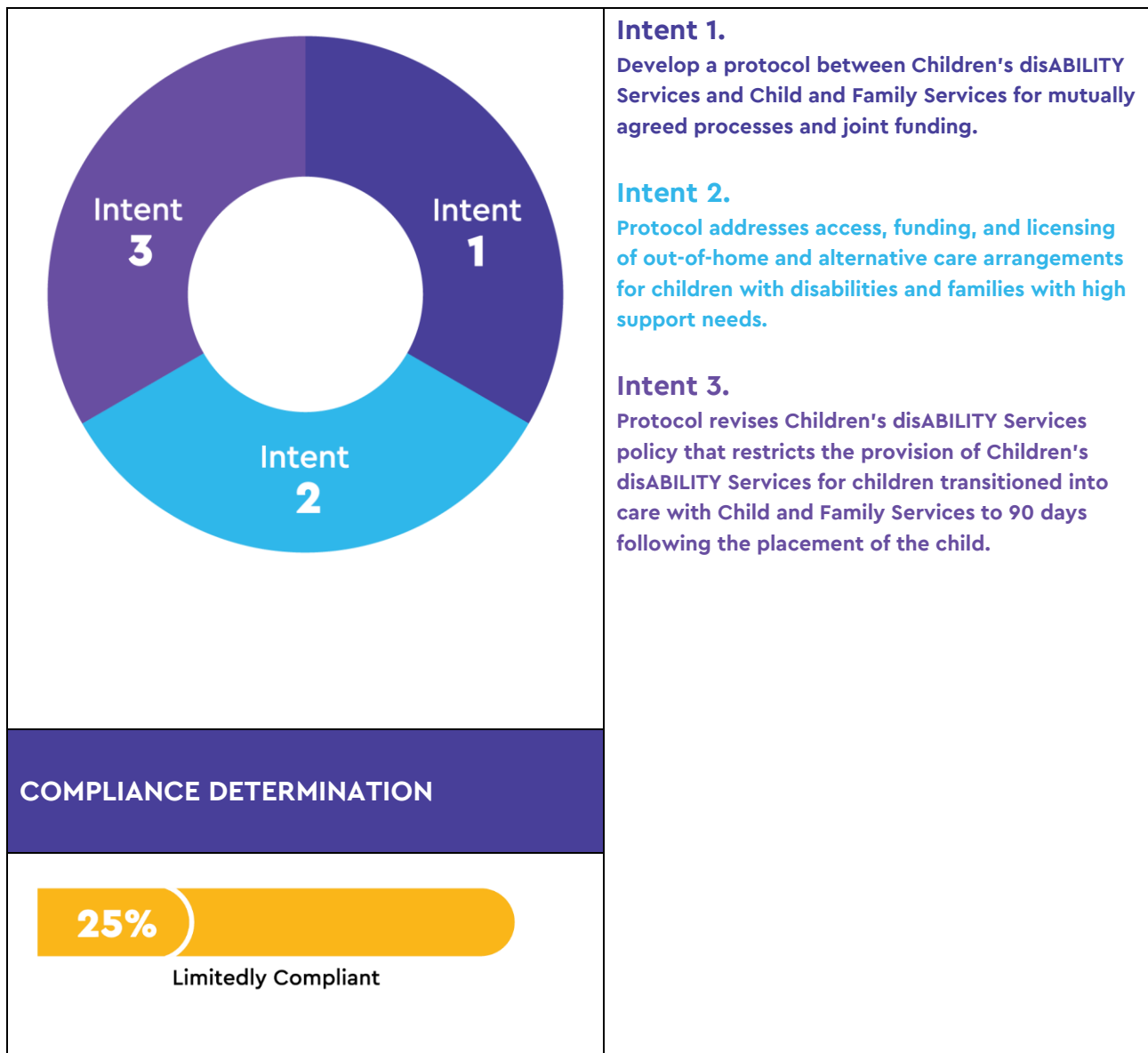


COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

Disability – Recommendation 2

Recommendation Summary: Develop a protocol that coordinates services between child welfare and Children's disABILITY Services.

Primary Public Body: Manitoba Families



Recommendation Compliance Summary



This form details the assessment of compliance with recommendations made under Section 27 and Section 31 of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*. MACY assesses recommendations for compliance once a year but receives updates from the public bodies every six months.

1. Recommendation Information	
Report Name:	Bridging the Gaps: Achieving Substantive Equality for Children with Disabilities in Manitoba
Date Released:	3/25/2021
Full Recommendation: (including details)	Recommendation Two: The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that a protocol be developed between Children's disABILITY Services and Child and Family Services that clearly outlines mutually agreed upon processes for serving and jointly funding services for high needs children with disabilities and caregivers that receive services from both programs.
Intent(s) of Recommendation:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a protocol between Children's disABILITY Services and Child and Family Services for mutually agreed processes and joint funding. 2. Protocol addresses access, funding, and licensing of out-of-home and alternative care arrangements for children with disabilities and families with high support needs. 3. Protocol revises Children's disABILITY Services policy that restricts the provision of Children's disABILITY Services for children transitioned into care with Child and Family Services to 90 days following the placement of the child.
Issue:	Disabilities
Public Body	Manitoba Families
Dates of Previous Official Updates from Public Body:	May 31, 2023
	June 30, 2022
2. Compliance Determination	
Limitedly Compliant 0.25	Actions taken only implement a small part of the recommendation, requirements are only fulfilled to a limited degree by actions taken, resulting in significant deficiency in implementation.
Self-Assessment	Partially Compliant
Previous Compliance Determination	Limitedly Compliant
3. Rationale for Determination	
<i>(How did you reach this compliance determination)</i>	

Intent 1: Develop a protocol between Children's disABILITY Services and Child and Family Services for mutually agreed processes and joint funding.

2023

- Manitoba Families reports that working relationships between Children's disABILITY Services (CdS) and Child and Youth Services (CYS) at the divisional level have been strengthened through recent collaboration on joint projects. Work continues on the joint presentation identified in the 2022 response that will inform each system of the scope and parameters of responsibility.
- The development of a protocol detailing how the systems can better work together to support families is to follow the development of the presentation. Through this work there is opportunity to identify gaps or barriers to be addressed.
- CdS additionally reports that it is exploring the development of a database profile for children who have been placed into care.
- Work is also being explored regarding the transitional planning for children and youth, with the goal of reducing the number of late referrals to adult services in CLdS. CdS, CYS, and CLdS have begun to meet regularly to identify children in care nearing age of majority to improve their transition to adult resources.

2022

- Manitoba Families reported that a joint presentation is being developed for field staff in both programs which will clarify eligibility criteria, supports to children and families, and how the programs will work together.
- Elements of this presentation and perspectives of the field will be used to develop a protocol to stipulate the roles and responsibilities of each program and a pathway for working together.

Intent 2: Protocol addresses access, funding, and licensing of out-of-home and alternative care arrangements for children with disabilities and families with high support needs.

2023

- Manitoba Families has identified that expanded out-of-home respite services continue to be provided through pilot projects. An additional home was launched under the Bridge Pilot in March 2023 with a capacity for four individuals. This is part of the short-stay model, with the goal of preventing family breakdowns.
- With the remainder of Bridge Pilot funding, transitional homes for youth whose families can no longer meet their needs are being developed. There are three homes planned, one to open summer 2023, a second projected for fall 2023, and a third in early planning stages.

2022

- Manitoba Families reported that in August 2021, the Out-of-Home Overnight Respite pilot was announced. Under this program, one three-bed facility has been opened in Winnipeg and another three-bed facility will be opened in Brandon.
- Manitoba Families also reported in March 2022 Manitoba announced the Bridge Program Pilot Project. This program will support families who are no longer able to provide full time care due to the complexity of their child's exceptional care requirements. This is a two-year pilot program.

Intent 3: Protocol revises Children's disABILITY Services policy that restricts the provision of Children's disABILITY Services for children transitioned into care with Child and Family Services to 90 days following the placement of the child.

2023

- Similar to the 2022 response, the Department reports it is reviewing current policies and exploring options, using a family-centred, client-focused lens. It is identified that CdS continues to strengthen relationships with CFS agencies to increase awareness of disability-related programs and services.
- While a new protocol has not yet been developed, CdS reported that the 90-day restriction of services is no longer in place.

2022

- Manitoba Families reported that the department is reviewing current policies and exploring options, using a family centred and client-focused lens.

Analysis Summary: The response to this recommendation highlights that work is ongoing to strengthen the relationship between the CdS and CFS systems. The information provided identifies that there are a variety of avenues where collaboration between the departments is occurring, and has had a positive impact on the services provided to children, youth, and families. When looking at progress on the development of a protocol, and the inclusion of important details in that protocol, work has not progressed since the first response to this recommendation was provided in 2022. The development of the presentation, to be followed by the protocol is still in progress. Without the development of the protocol, both intents 2 and 3 can only be assessed to a limited degree. As the intents of this recommendation focus on the development of the protocol, and the included details of that protocol, this recommendation remains Limitedly Compliant.