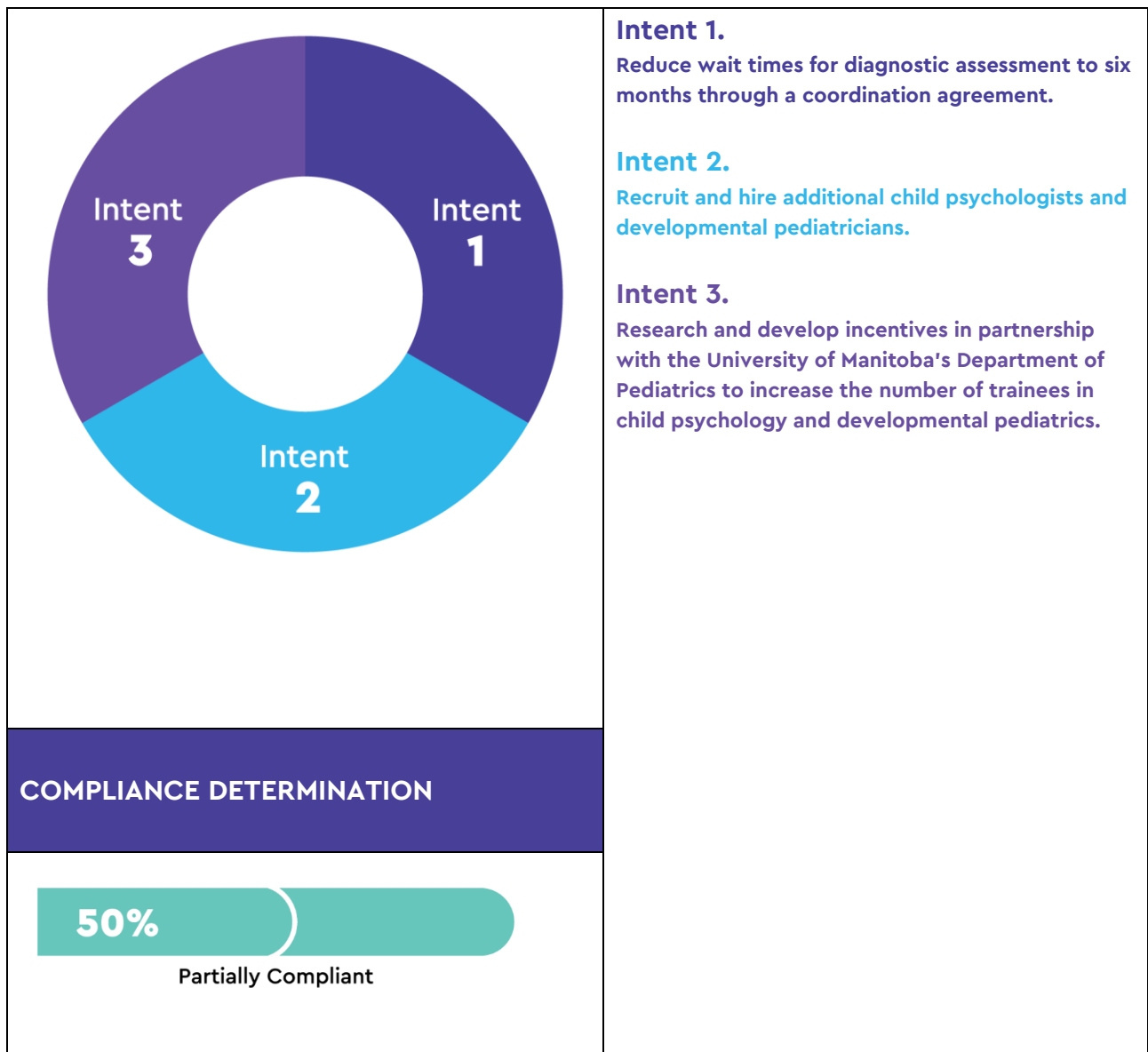


COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

Disability – Recommendation 3

Recommendation Summary: Reduce wait times for diagnostic assessments with a strategy to recruit and hire.

Primary Public Body: Manitoba Health



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 Three: The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Health and Seniors Care, Shared Health Manitoba, and Regional Health Authorities work together to create and resource a financially sustainable coordination agreement to reduce wait-times for diagnostic assessment for children suspected of having a disability, with the goal of wait-times less than six months between referral and diagnosis.
Intent(s) of Recommendation:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce wait times for diagnostic assessment to six months through a coordination agreement. 2. Recruit and hire additional child psychologists and developmental pediatricians. 3. Research and develop incentives in partnership with the University of Manitoba's Department of Pediatrics to increase the number of trainees in child psychology and developmental pediatrics.
Issue:	Disabilities
Public Body	Manitoba Health
Dates of Previous Official Updates from Public Body:	May 31, 2023 June 30, 2022
2. Compliance Determination	
Partially Compliant 0.50	Actions taken only implement part of the recommendation. Important requirements have been met and the recommendation is acted upon, however, deficiencies remain.
Self-Assessment	Partially Compliant
Previous Compliance Determination	Limitedly Compliant
3. Rationale for Determination	
<i>(How did you reach this compliance determination)</i>	
Intent 1: Reduce wait times for diagnostic assessment to six months through a coordination agreement.	
2023	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manitoba Health reported that addressing the reduction of wait times for 	

diagnostic assessments began with the establishment of the Diagnostic and Surgical Recovery Task Force in 2021 – created in response to addressing the diagnostic and surgical backlogs affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Budget 2022 provided a commitment of \$110 million to address surgical and diagnostic waitlists. The commitment was further expanded by \$50 million in June 2022.

- This was then followed by the approval for funding for the Neurodevelopmental Services at the Rehabilitation Centre for Children in November 2022. The funding is for 18 months to be shared between the Child Development Clinic (CDC) and the Manitoba FASD Centre.
 - According to Manitoba Health: "This funding is intended to specifically address the current backlogs that create diagnostic assessment wait lists and as such, will serve to address the current wait times for children's diagnostic assessments. Since this funding was allotted, CDC has hired: 1.0 EFT Social Worker, 1.0 EFT secretary, 0.6 EFT Occupational Therapist, and plans to hire 2 Child Psychologists by Sept are in place. In addition, 0.4 EFT Occupational Therapist, 0.6 EFT Social Worker, casual SLP, and a 0.5 Follow-up Occupational Therapist, have been hired to support the reduction of the FASD wait times, and recently recruited a General Practitioner with specialized training in FASD. CDC also plans to recruit 0.6 EFT Clinic Assistant to support the team's work and increase in the number of appointments."
- The CDC has identified that, as of February 2023, wait times are approximately 14-17 months, with children identified as priority, or able to accept short notice appointments having wait times around 11 months. The number of children referred for assessments has increased year over year, which continues to impact the ability to address waitlists.
- They report it is their expectation that the investment identified in November 2022 will have a demonstrable impact on wait-times over the long term, but understandably that it has been difficult to see impact in the short-term.

2022

- Manitoba Health reported that there has been an upward trend in the number of children and youth being attended to.
- Manitoba Health reported that this increase means that measures taken may not reduce wait times but only imply that more children can be taken care of due to the increase in demand.
- Proposal for additional funding has been submitted.

Intent 2: Recruit and hire additional child psychologists and developmental pediatricians.

2023

- Manitoba Health reported the recent announcement of the [Health Human Resource](#)

[Action Plan](#), which is intended to build upon ongoing strategies aimed at retaining, training, and recruiting health care providers across Manitoba. The action plan includes an investment of \$200 million to support the human resource needs of the healthcare sector through retaining staff, and adding 2,000 health-care providers to the public health system. This is to include child psychologists and developmental pediatricians.

2022

- No information was provided about efforts or actions put in place to comply with this intent.

Intent 3: Research and develop incentives in partnership with the University of Manitoba's Department of Pediatrics to increase the number of trainees in child psychology and developmental pediatricians.

2023

- Information found under response to intent 2.

2022

- No information was provided about efforts or actions put in place to comply with this intent.

Analysis Summary: Manitoba Health reported progress towards the implementation of the intents of this recommendation since 2022. Most significant is the provision of funding through the Diagnostic and Surgical Recovery Task Force to the Children's Development Clinic and Manitoba FASD Centre specifically for addressing diagnostic wait-times through those services. Funding has already been used towards the hiring of staff to address the current reported wait-times at CDC. In addition, a human resource funding strategy has been announced, which will include funding for the recruitment and retention of child psychologists and developmental pediatricians. There is acknowledgement of the significant work to come to reduce diagnostic wait-lists to the recommended level of this report. Further information on the impact of these announcements on wait-lists and the increase in availability of child psychologists and developmental pediatricians will be imperative moving forward. As important steps have been taken towards implementation, this recommendation is considered Partially Compliant.