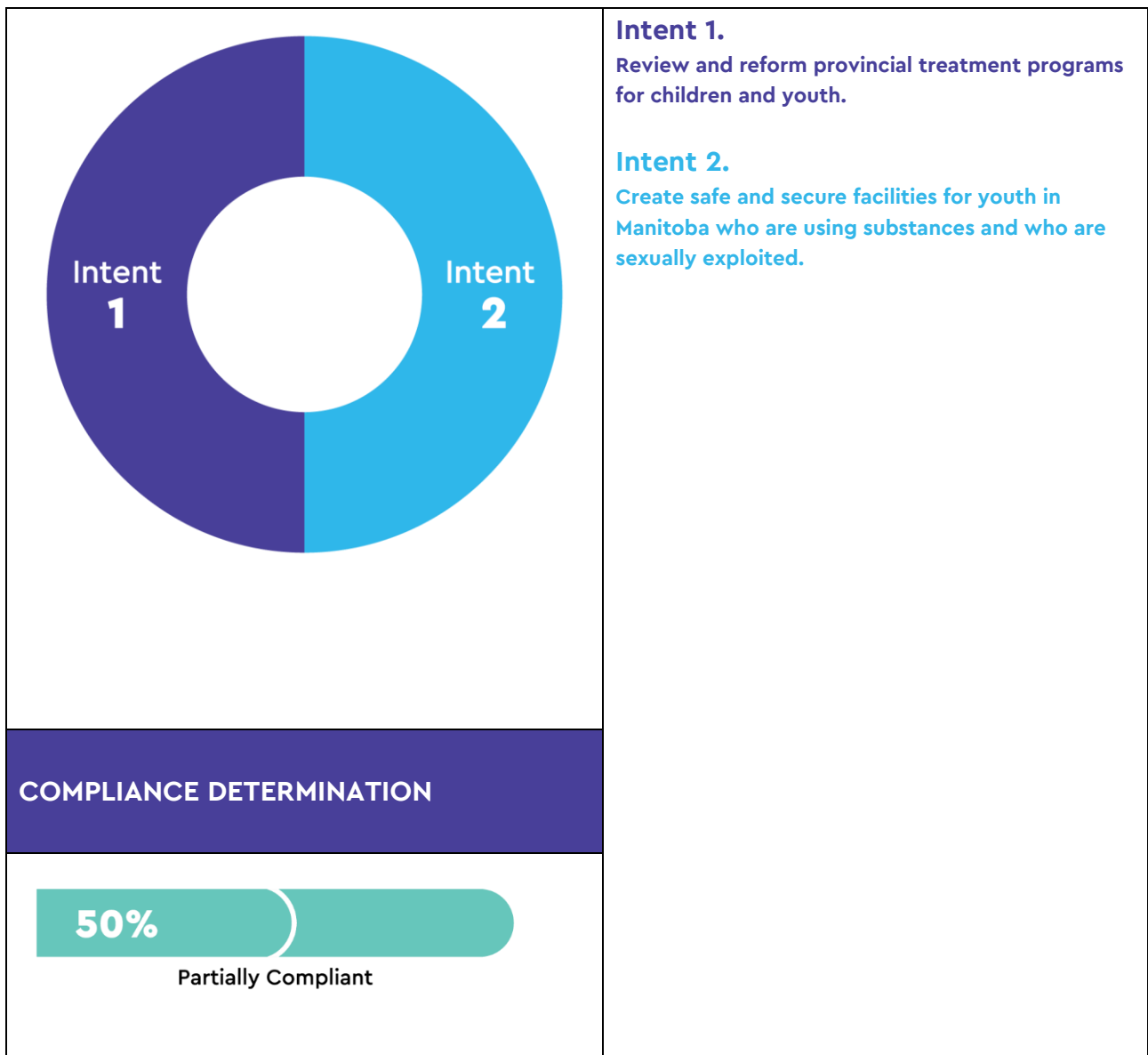


COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

Angel – Recommendation 5

Recommendation Summary: Review and reform addiction treatment programs, and create a safe and secure facility for sexually exploited youth (SEY).

Primary Public Body: Manitoba Mental Health and Community Wellness



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:	In Need of Protection: Angel's Story
Date Released:	12/13/2018
Full Recommendation: (including details)	<p>Recommendation Five:</p> <p>The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living and Department of Families, in collaboration with the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, (1) review and reform the province's treatment programs for children and youth and (2) create safe and secure facilities for youth in Manitoba who are sexually exploited and harmfully involved in substance misuse.</p> <p>DETAILS: This should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve community organizations. • Address the limitations, barriers, and occupancy rate concerns of existing resources (e.g., Compass, YASU). • Include a harm reduction policy specific to children and youth. • Recognize that "secure facilities" do not need to be institutions, but can be secured via adequate staffing, geographic locations, and can further be holistic and culturally-based home-like settings. • Involve youth, experiential, and Indigenous stakeholders. • Address accessibility challenges related to addiction and mental health treatment services. • Be informed by a scan of jurisdictions who successfully incorporate short- and long-term safe and secure settings in their continuum of care models for youth who are sexually exploited. • Be included in the Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Strategy.
Intent(s) of Recommendation:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and reform provincial treatment programs for children and youth. 2. Create safe and secure facilities for youth in Manitoba who are using substances and who are sexually exploited.
Issue:	Mental Health and Addictions
Public Body	Manitoba Mental Health and Community Wellness
Dates of Previous Official Updates from	<p>May 31, 2023</p> <p>June 30, 2022</p>

Public Body:	July 13, 2021
	June 30, 2020
	December 31, 2019
	June 30, 2019

2. Compliance Determination

Partially Compliant 0.50	Actions taken only implement part of the recommendation. Important requirements have been met, deficiencies remain yet the recommendation has been acted upon.
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Self-Assessment:	Fully Compliant
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Prior Assessment:	Partially Compliant
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3. Rationale for Determination
(How did you reach this compliance determination)

Intent 1: Review and reform provincial treatment programs for children and youth.

2023

- Manitoba Mental Health and Community Wellness (MHCW) reported that the first phase of the Stepped Care project was completed in May 2022, and included developing a comprehensive service inventory of all mental health and addictions services available in the province. It additionally outlines the most commonly used services by Regional Health Authority, as well as provincially. Special consideration was reportedly given to services for children and youth as well as Indigenous services.
 - The Stepped Care project resulted in a report with service and system level recommendations.
 - The information from the project is intended to be used to improve access to services, and navigation of the mental health and addiction system for Manitobans.
 - Delays to the final stages of the project occurred in late 2022 and a validation process is still underway to occur prior to its release.

2022

- Internal evaluation of the Compass program has been conducted.
- Planning is underway by the NBP national research team for a model which will include mental health, substance use, and addictions core services for youth and young adults aged 15 and older.
- MHCW has initiated a project to develop and define core services for children and youth, as well as a qualitative gap analysis to determine where gaps in core services may exist for children and youth. It is expected to be complete in September 2022.

2021

- Planning is underway to develop a National Needs Based Planning framework.

2020

- AFM has done their own internal review of their youth programs and, although it did not share any documentation of this, it reported occupancy levels have improved since this review took place. In addition, AFM made the decision to embed its youth counsellors into community-based organizations to better serve youth where they are at.

2019

- The Addictions Foundation of Manitoba (AFM) has conducted an internal review to address occupancy challenges.

Intent 2: Create safe and secure facilities for youth in Manitoba who are using substances and who are sexually exploited.**2023**

- MHCW continues to report on the full operationalization of Eagle Embracing You.
- MHCW continues to request reconsideration of this recommendation, and consultation with MACY regarding the definition of 'safe and secure'.

2022

- Manitoba Mental Health reported that Eagle Embracing You, by Neecheewam Inc., has become fully operational since August 31, 2021.
- There is no evidence of the creation of other safe and secure facilities for youth in Manitoba who are using substances and who are sexually exploited.
- On the use of 'safe and secure facilities', Manitoba Mental Health indicates that this may be contrary to Indigenous practice, but offers no alternative on how Indigenous practices will be used to inform the provision of care facilities.

2021

- The Manitoba government has invested \$800,000 in 2019/20, and \$1.5 million in 2020/21 to enable Project Neecheewam Inc. to expand its Winnipeg facility, and improve access to Indigenous-led healing, care, and treatment services to sexually exploited youth. This provincial funding will allow Neecheewam to undergo renovations to pilot a new, longer-term four-bed addition to its treatment facility. Staff have been hired, and are currently being trained. Neecheewam Inc. is expected to open in June 2021.

2020

- The Community Emergency Department Violence Program provides support and services to sexually exploited youth who have experienced violence-related injuries by a multi-disciplinary team that uses a harm reduction, trauma-informed approach to care.

- Newcomer Trauma-Focused Services are provided to newcomer youth who struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental illnesses that often make them more vulnerable to sexual exploitation. They can access long-term mental health services in the community with linkages to the formal health care system.

2019

- Neecheewam Inc. is developing a new residential treatment facility. Upon development, a four-bed unit will be offered to youth who are using substances and who are being sexually exploited, to provide specialized mental health and addictions treatment.

Analysis Summary: As with numerous other recommendations regarding the Mental Health and Addictions system, MHCW continues to reference the Stepped Care project as fulfilling the intent of reviewing, identifying gaps, and creating an inventory of the mental health and addictions services available in Manitoba. MACY's request to review a summary of this project, however, was denied. With the release of the final products of the Stepped Care project and the mentioned recommendations, intent 1 of this recommendation will be closer to reaching fulfillment. Presently, this recommendation is partially compliant.