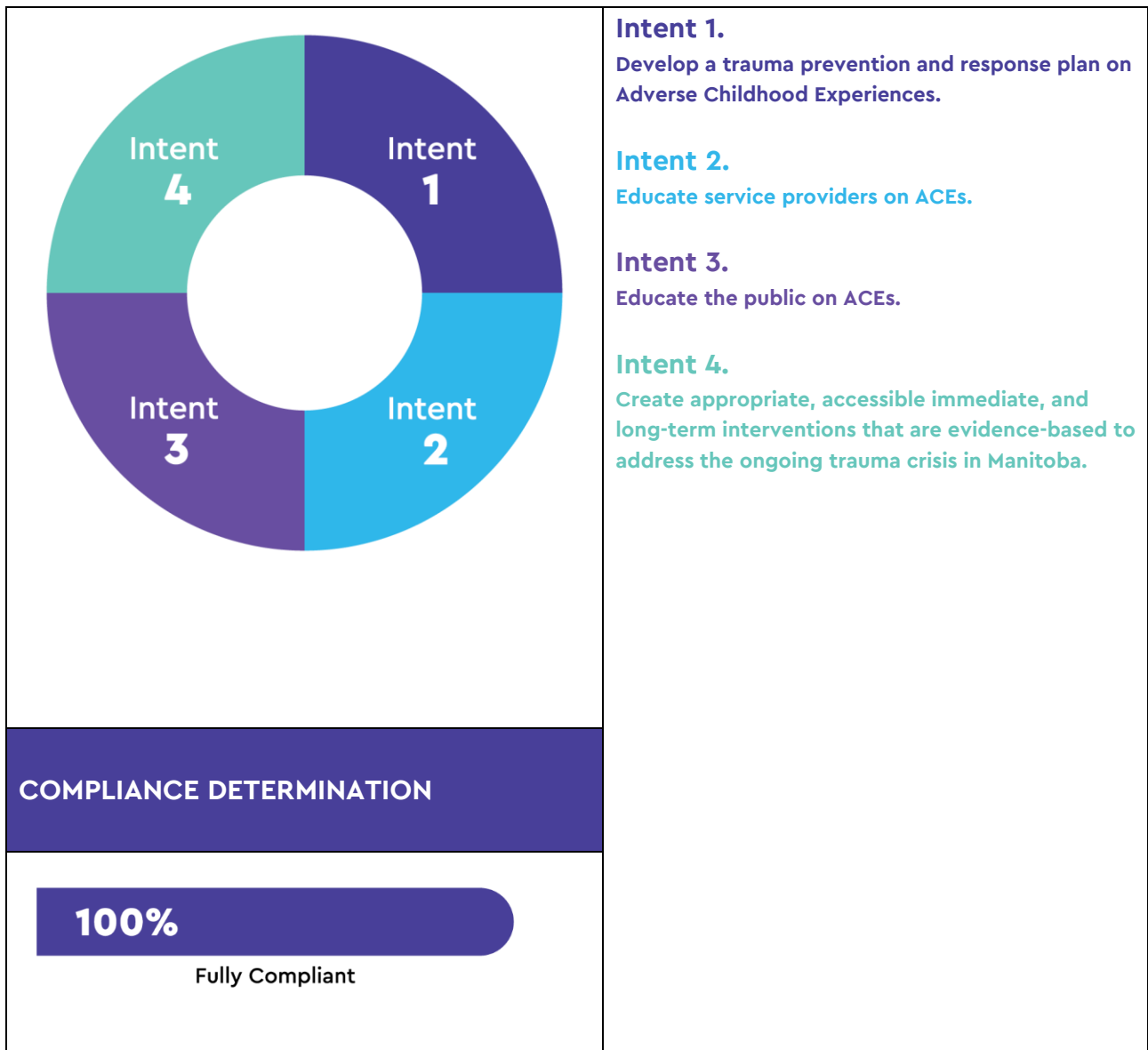


COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

Angel – 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



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) | Recommendation One: 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. |
| Intent(s) of Recommendation: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a trauma prevention and response plan on Adverse Childhood Experiences. 2. Educate service providers on ACEs. 3. Educate the public on ACEs. 4. Create appropriate, accessible, immediate, and long-term interventions that are evidence-based to address the ongoing trauma crisis in Manitoba. |
| Issue: | Mental Health and Addictions |
| Public Body | Government of Manitoba |
| Dates of Previous Official Updates from Public Body: | May 31, 2023 |
| | June 30, 2022 |
| | May 31, 2021 |
| | June 30, 2020 |
| | December 31, 2019 |
| | June 27, 2019 |
| 2. Compliance Determination | |
| Fully Compliant 1.0 | Actions taken fully implement the recommendation. |
| Self-Assessment | Fully Compliant |
| Previous Compliance Determination | Largely Compliant |
| 3. Rationale for Determination | |
| <i>(How did you reach this compliance determination)</i> | |
| | |

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

2023

- This intent was met in 2022.

2022

- 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 support and invest in child and youth development (more mental health programming in school system, expand 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.

2023

- Training opportunities and resources were reported across the Departments of Families, Justice, and Education and Early Childhood Learning.
 - Manitoba Families reported over 3,000 attendees across four different trauma-related training opportunities.
 - Manitoba Justice reported the funding of a Trauma Informed Workshop & Training for Community Corrections staff, with 30 attendees across the province. Four staff additionally participated in 'train the trainer' opportunities for certification in providing ongoing and refresher training to additional staff.
 - Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning reported the launch of the Elders and Knowledge Keepers in Schools initiative; providing additional resources for students and staff.

2022

- The government continues to provide information on the various trauma (and

therefore ACE's, 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 probations 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.

2023

- Education of the public continues to be reported through various initiatives found across government departments.
 - The Elders and Knowledge Keepers in Schools program, along with the work starting under the Poverty and Education Task Force report release, supports education of school communities on trauma and trauma prevention.
 - The launch of the MHCW roadmap provided public education on the issue.
 - The continued funding of access to the Science of Early Childhood Development textbook through RRC Polytech was again identified.
 - The Government of Manitoba supported the MyBaby pilot, which provides free regular emails/text message to new parents, providing guidance on meeting the needs of infants and their development.
- Various public announcements regarding free mental health supports, as well as announcements related to Canada's history of colonialism, racism, and residential schools, are also considered public education on trauma.

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.
- Evidence of the need for a general public campaign in this area was consulted, and determined to not be best practice.

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.

2023

- Work to expand prevention and intervention related to trauma for both children/youth and adults is exemplified in a number of funding announcements over the last year;
 - Huddle Selkirk, led by Peguis First Nation, opened in January 2023.
 - In March 2023, MHCW released a Request for Expressions of Interest for the Community Addictions Treatment Capacity Expansion (CATE) initiative. This initiative will enable up to 1,000 treatment spaces (people served) to receive substance use/addictions services. The categories of treatment spaces in this Expression of Interest include intensive day programs, short and longer stay bed-based programs, supportive recovery housing, and withdrawal management services. It was reported that the intensive day program includes supporting the service provider to include child care in

the program model.

- \$4.5 million in matching funds to support 24 family resource centres through the For Every Family Initiative – coordinated and prioritized through community representation at the United Way of Winnipeg
- Expansion of Huddle Norwest, the Child and Youth Mental Health Services Initiative at Health Sciences Centre, and the Strongest Families Institute.
- A new site for the Abecedarian child care model in Winnipeg, with four additional northern/rural sites.
- Additional funding was announced in the areas of Indigenous-led crisis response, sexual assault crisis response and healing programs, child care spaces and access, family violence prevention, integrated child abuse response, and increased funding to TOBA Centre.
- The mix of adult and children/youth services are included because of the importance of supports for adults in the prevention of trauma and ACEs for children and youth.

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, 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: Over four reporting periods, the actions reported under this recommendation have increasingly worked towards meeting its intents. As discussed in 2022, the Department considers the Mental Health and Community Wellness Roadmap to be an essential guiding document for initiatives responding to and preventing trauma in Manitoba. Information provided in the most recent response builds upon previously identified supports, and continues to highlight a dedication to ensuring service providers and the public are educated on trauma, and the importance of addressing trauma as early as possible. The combination of the existence of the Mental Health and Community Wellness Roadmap, and the initiatives announced under its umbrella, along with the continued commitment to educating service providers and the public indicates that this work will continue to expand in the future. As such, this recommendation is now considered Fully Compliant.