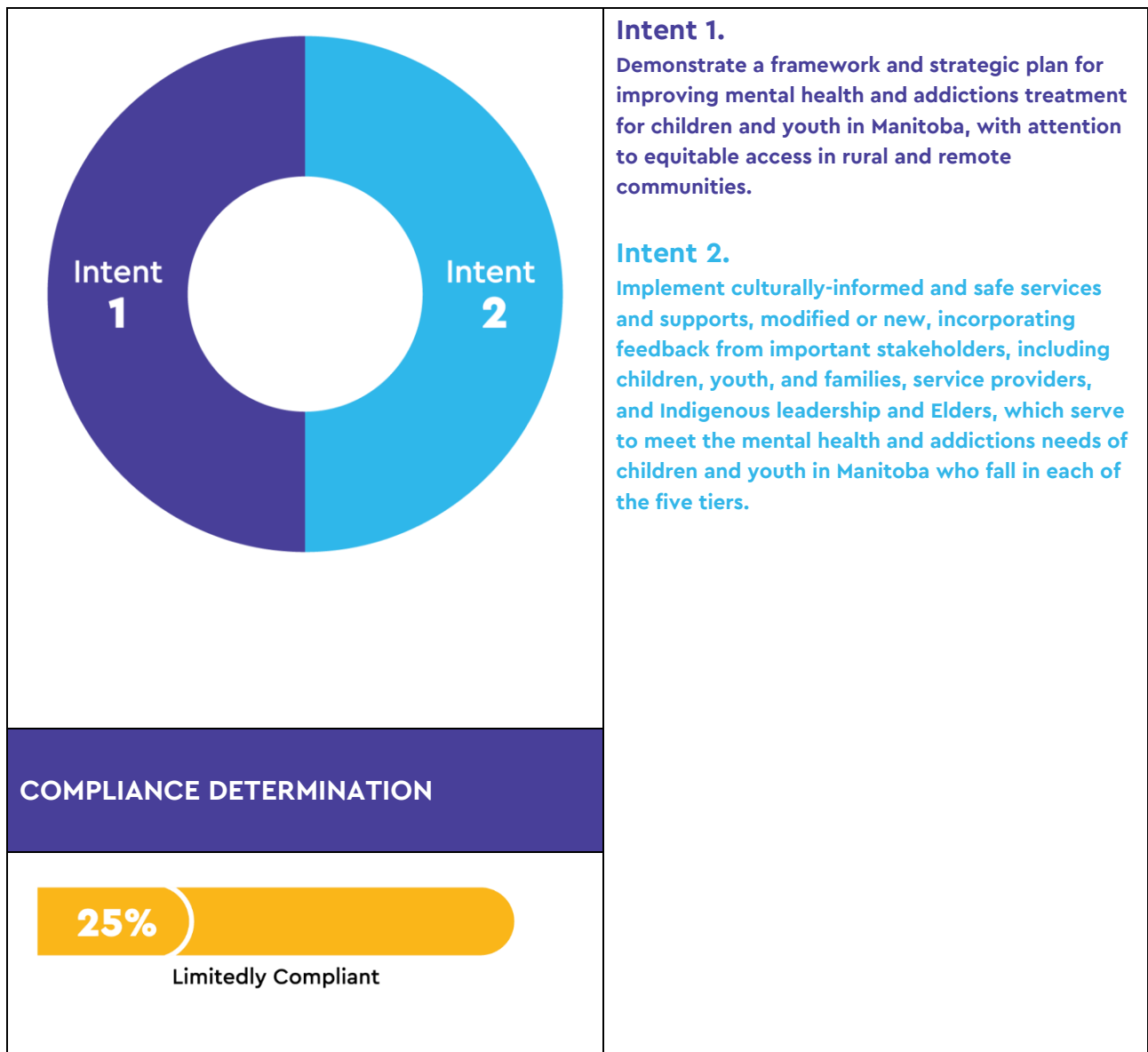


COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

Suicide Aggregate – Recommendation 2

Recommendation Summary: Demonstrate equitable access to mental health and addiction systems.

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:	"Stop Giving Me a Number and Start Giving Me a Person": How 22 Girls Illuminate the Cracks in the Manitoba Youth Mental Health and Addiction System
Date Released:	5/7/2020
Full Recommendation: (including details)	Recommendation Two: The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living (now Manitoba Health) demonstrates its framework and strategic plan for transformation of the youth mental health and addictions systems in Manitoba ensures equitable access to services across all areas of Manitoba, which are tailored to the unique needs of children and youth in our province.
Intent(s) of Recommendation:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate a framework and strategic plan for improving mental health and addictions treatment for children and youth in Manitoba, with attention to equitable access in rural and remote communities. 2. Implement culturally-informed and safe services and supports, modified or new, incorporating feedback from important stakeholders, including children, youth, and families, service providers, and Indigenous leadership and Elders, which serve to meet the mental health and addictions needs of children and youth in Manitoba who fall in each of the five tiers.
Issue:	Mental Health and Addictions
Public Body	Manitoba Mental Health and Community Wellness
Dates of Previous Official Updates from Public Body:	September 6, 2023
	July 21, 2023
	June 30, 2022
	July 13, 2021
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	Fully Compliant
Previous Compliance	Limitedly Compliant

Determination	
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3. Rationale for Determination

(How did you reach this compliance determination)

Intent 1: Demonstrate a framework and strategic plan for improving the mental health and addictions treatment for children and youth in Manitoba, with attention to equitable access in rural and remote communities.

2023

- Mental Health again cited the recent release of the Roadmap and the comprehensive consultations that underpinned it.
- The Department emphasized that the Roadmap represents a framework for all Manitobans, including children and youth, and people living in rural and northern communities.
- Mental Health explained that, for these reasons, a youth-specific framework or action plan will not be developed or released in isolation from other populations or services at this time, despite what was reported under intent 2 about the "Enhancing Access" program, which aims to release a framework and plan for a youth specific addiction action strategy.

2022

- Manitoba Mental Health cited the release of A Path to Mental Health and Community Wellness: A Roadmap for Manitoba in support of its compliance with Intent 1 of this recommendation.
- While one of the focus areas of this roadmap is Equitable Access and Coordination, more information is needed on specific steps taken/to be taken to improve mental health and addictions treatment and equitable access to such treatments for children and youth.

2021

- Manitoba Health and Seniors Care (MHSC) reported that discussions and planning are underway with national leaders regarding the development of a child and youth Needs Based Planning (NBP) framework. They further reported that many of the recommendations assigned to MHSAL can be addressed through this process.
- The overall goal of Needs-Based Planning has been to develop a quantitative model that key decision-makers in health planning jurisdictions across Canada can use to estimate the resources required to address the needs for services and supports relating to substance use/mental health problems in their populations.
- MHSC has participated on the NBP Advisory Committee since 2010, and was a pilot site in 2018, with results of the pilot feeding into the gap analysis that informed the VIRGO Report.
- Child and Youth NBP Process/Objectives include understanding the full distribution of need; identifying core services/tiered framework; estimating required level of service; and determining planning requirements.

- In summary, knowing this work will take one to two years, MHSC and other provincial government departments will continue working together to fill critical gaps identified in the VIRGO Report in order to make services more accessible for children and youth until a national framework is created for child and youth services.
- Update provided October 13: activities currently underway include:
 - Developing a needs-based provincial model.
 - Quarterly Needs Based Planning Advisory Committee meetings.
 - Prairie Mountain Health Authority participated as a pilot site, in the development and refinement of the needs-based planning model.
 - The newly created Mental Health, Wellness, and Recovery (MHWR) Department has begun to track service coverage of core services, according to the NBP model, as outlined in the VIRGO Report gap analysis. As investments are made, gaps outlined in the NBP model and the VIRGO Report are being monitored for progress towards meeting the appropriate level of service coverage. MHWR also uses the model to preliminarily measure the impact investments are having on service coverage.
 - MHWR is developing an action plan/roadmap.
 - MHWR is leading an engagement process, including a series of consultations, to inform an integrated, whole-of-government five-year roadmap. This will guide the work of the department, and is aligned with the department's mission to provide access to mental health and addictions support and treatment to improve the life outcomes for Manitobans in their journey through recovery and healing. This will include services and systems for children and youth.
 - MHWR is in the process of hiring a consultant to conduct a system-mapping of mental health and addictions services and systems in Manitoba, which will inform the development of a Stepped-Care model.

Intent 2: Implement culturally-informed and safe services and supports, modified or new, incorporating feedback from important stakeholders, including children, youth, and families, service providers, and Indigenous leadership and Elders, which serve to meet the mental health and addictions needs of children and youth in Manitoba who fall in each of the five tiers.

2023

- Manitoba Health reported that the "Enhancing Access" program received one-time funding of \$1.5 million in the 2022-23 fiscal year and aims to:
 - Release a framework and plan for transforming the youth mental health and addictions system through the development and implementation of a youth addiction strategy ensuring equitable access.
 - Direct core service investments for services that have the most complex

mental health support needs.

- Enhance access to mental health, substance use, and addictions services for children and youth in Manitoba.
- The Department also reported that seven of the 31 initiatives funded through this bilateral agreement are Indigenous-led and/or incorporate culturally-informed and safe values and/or practices, representing 23% of initiatives funded through this agreement.
- Initiatives to ensure culturally safe services for Indigenous populations in which the government has invested include:
 - PAX Dream makers, Land-Based Healing, Community Helpers, Ata Chiminis Mikisiw (Neecheewam Inc), and Granny's House.
- More information is needed to clarify whether these are old, new, or modified initiatives, what makes them culturally safe, and what their impact on equitable access in rural and remote communities has been.
- Mental Health once again shared details about the reportedly comprehensive engagement that underpinned the Roadmap, including consultation with 106 Indigenous people and 36 youth, as well as two engagement sessions with Indigenous leadership (MMF, AMC, SCO, MKO, MIA, and Urban Indigenous Leadership), and a feedback and engagement session with Indigenous leaders as part of the Roadmap launch activities.
- Mental health reported that recent core service investments have been made, including Cognitive Behavioural Therapy with Mindfulness (CBTm), additional provincial psychology position (location TBD), and the increase of RAAM counselors for Portage La Prairie and Thompson.

2022

- Manitoba Mental Health reported a number of Indigenous stakeholders involved in providing services to meet the mental health and addictions needs of children and youth in Manitoba.

They include Ata Chiminis Mikisiw (Project Neecheewam Inc.), Granny 's House, Anish Corporation, the Aboriginal Health & Wellness Centre of Winnipeg, and Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre. The response, however, did not provide any evidence or information about how programs or services have been modified or are new, or of meeting with them to get and incorporate their feedback.
- Manitoba Mental Health also reported on a range of Indigenous stakeholders consulted in preparation of the roadmap: 12% of survey participants for the roadmap were Indigenous.

2021

- MHSAL reported an Integrated Youth Services (Youth Hubs) expansion, as each Hub is informed by engagement with youth, families, service providers and community members.
- Youth Hubs provide an accessible one-stop service where youth (aged 12 to 29)

and their families can access required supports including primary health care, mental health, and addiction supports, employment training supports, and other social services. Culturally safe services will be an integral part of each Youth Hub. As well, Youth Hubs are designed to meet the needs of youth using a stepped care approach.

- The NorWest Youth Hub in Winnipeg has been expanded, and five additional sites have been identified.

Analysis Summary: This recommendation requires a framework and strategic plan for improving mental health and addictions services that are specific to children and youth, and evidence that these ensure equitable access to services across Manitoba. The recently released Roadmap, and the reportedly comprehensive consultations with Indigenous communities that informed it, do not on their own meet the requirements for this recommendation as they are not youth specific and do not demonstrate impact. The funding provided to the "Enhancing Access" program, however, is an important step towards developing a distinct framework and plan for a child and youth specific addiction strategy. To improve compliance with this recommendation, concrete steps need to be taken to progressively move the development and implementation of this strategy along. Information will also need to be shared about how feedback from Indigenous stakeholders and the reportedly comprehensive consultations is being integrated into this and other relevant strategies. Finally, the impact of initiatives on equitable access to services across the province should be assessed using disaggregated data to identify disparities and gaps. Until these steps are taken, this recommendation will remain Limitedly Compliant.