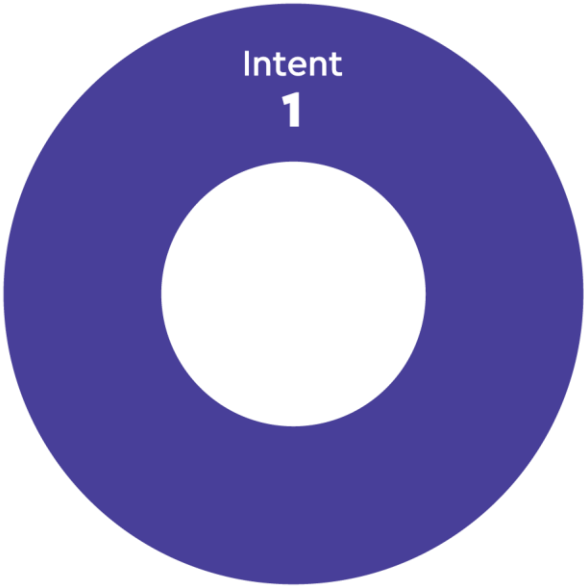



# COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

## Matthew – Recommendation 6

**Recommendation Summary:** Create a long-term residential mental health treatment centre for youth.

**Primary Public Body:** Government of Manitoba

	<p><b>Intent 1.</b> Create a long-term residential treatment centre for youth who are in the top tier of mental health care needs.</p>
<p>COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION</p>	
	

# 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.

<b>1. Recommendation Information</b>	
<b>Report Name:</b>	<b>The Slow Disappearance of Matthew: A Family's Fight for Youth Mental Health Care in the Wake of Bullying and Mental Illness</b>
<b>Date Released:</b>	2/27/2020
<b>Full Recommendation:</b> (including details)	<b>Recommendation Six:</b> Long-term residential mental health treatment for youth. The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Government of Manitoba, through the Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living create a long-term, residential treatment centre for youth who are in the top tier of mental health care needs and for whom less intensive options have been ineffective.
<b>Intent(s) of Recommendation:</b>	<b>1. Create a long-term residential treatment centre for youth who are in the top tier of mental health care needs.</b>
<b>Issue:</b>	Mental Health and Addictions
<b>Public Body</b>	Government of Manitoba
<b>Dates of Previous Official Updates from Public Body:</b>	September 6, 2023
	July 21, 2023
	June 30, 2022
	July 13, 2021
<b>2. Compliance Determination</b>	
<b>Limitedly Compliant 0.25</b>	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.
<b>Self-Assessment</b>	Limitedly Compliant
<b>Previous Compliance Determination</b>	Limitedly Compliant
<b>3. Rationale for Determination</b> <i>(How did you reach this compliance determination)</i>	
<b>Intent 1: Create a long-term residential treatment centre for youth who are in the top tier of mental health care needs.</b>	
<b>2023</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Department of Mental Health repeated its request for a literature review in support of this recommendation to demonstrate that it is evidence-based, and claimed that the establishment of a long-term residential program for youth is not clearly supported by research.</li> </ul>	

- Mental Health reported that it continues to gather evidence-informed data on treatment options and approaches to supporting youth who are at the top tier of mental health care needs.
- Mental Health reported that work to implement the youth healing lodge in Thompson is still in the early stages, but progressing.
- Mental Health explained that the healing lodge will:
  - Provide an opportunity to appropriately source youth IPDA beds, add transitional housing options for at-risk youth, and in the later phases, provide a "one-stop-shop" for youth to get support if they are struggling with addictions, mental health, and/or housing issues.
  - Serve as a place of support for youth at risk of involvement with the criminal justice system.
- Mental Health clarified that phase 1 of the healing lodge project focuses on youth involved with Justice, while phases 2 and 3 will see an expansion to community access.
- It remains unclear whether or not this will be a long-term residential treatment centre.
- When asked if there were any additional facilities being considered at this time, Mental Health reported that to best serve youth, evidence-informed, community integrated services are required in rural communities. It was explained that the Department continues to actively gather evidence-informed data, evaluate, and explore options for expanding areas of service and decreasing barriers for youth.

## **2022**

- Manitoba Mental Health reported a recent investment in a youth healing lodge in Thompson. The lodge will be run by Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, in collaboration with Manitoba Justice. Although it is not clear whether this will be a long-term residential treatment centre, it is nevertheless a contribution to ensuring the availability of mental health services to youth.
- The proposed lodge will be a one stop resource centre, and will provide substance use and mental health supports for all youth involved in the justice system.
- The first phase of the healing lodge will include open-custody and *Intoxicated Persons Detentions Act* (IPDA) beds. Phase Two and Three will include the healing lodge, housing supports, employment and skills training, increased mental health and addictions resources, and community justice resources.
- Implementation of the first phase is 2022/23.

## **2021**

- Discussions and planning are underway with national leaders regarding the development of a child and youth Needs Based Planning (NBP) framework. NBP is reportedly informed by best practices. According to Manitoba Health and Seniors Care (MHSC), many of the recommendations assigned to MHSC can be addressed through this process. This includes engaging with Shared Health to expand mental

health assessment and treatment services for children and youth at Health Sciences Centre (HSC) in Winnipeg. As physical space is at a premium in HSC, this initiative is being implemented in a phased manner. Phase One of this initiative was implemented in 2020, it included:

- Improving quality of care in the Children's Hospital Emergency Department (CHED) by providing relief coverage for child and adolescent Psychiatric Emergency Nurses (PENs) who are away due to illness or vacation. The PENs assess children and youth who present in the CHED and facilitate referral to appropriate outpatient resources.
- Increasing individual and group psychotherapy capacity in Intensive Child and Adolescent Treatment Services (ICATS), a 12-week multi-disciplinary crisis treatment resource.
- Increasing capacity in the Outpatient Mental Health Service (OMHS).
- Improving access to group therapy and reduced wait times for Anxiety Disorders Services for Children and Youth (ADSCY).
- Phase Two (Stage One) of this initiative will include:
  - Increased capacity in the Child and Adolescent Rapid Assessment Clinic (CARAC) for additional children and youth to be able to receive a rapid psychiatric assessment. This will improve flow from, and wait times in, the CHED. This will also improve capacity to provide urgent consultation to staff in rural and remote areas regarding direct care of patients, thus reducing transfers to CHED.
  - Further increased group therapy capacity and reduced wait times in the ICATS.
  - Further increased capacity and reduced wait times in the OMHS.
  - Further increased capacity and reduced wait times in the ADSCY.
  - Shared Health has advised that they are currently interviewing for positions to enable capacity enhancement in these areas. These services were implemented early in 2021.
- Phase Two (Stage Two) of this initiative requires additional office and treatment space in HSC. Shared Health has submitted a plan for renovations in the 2021/22 Regional Health Plan. MHSC reported that additional service enhancements will be planned once a timeline is solidified for any renovations that may occur.
- Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre (MATC) continues to have an Intensive Treatment Service Inpatient Service, which is a hospital-based service that provides inpatient assessment, treatment, and/or stabilization for youth with persistent and serious mental health disorders.
- The Manitoba government has invested \$800,000 in 2019/20, and \$1.5 million in 2020/21 to enable Neecheewam Inc. to expand its Winnipeg facility, and improve access to Indigenous-led healing, care and treatment services to sexually exploited youth. Neecheewam operates the Strong Hearted Buffalo Women Crisis Stabilization Unit, a four-bed crisis intervention program for female and transgender youth who are at high risk of sexual exploitation. With this provincial

funding, Neecheewam will undergo renovations to pilot a new, longer-term four-bed addition to its treatment facility. It is expecting to open its doors in June, 2021. In the meantime, staff have been hired and training is underway. Staff are doing outreach/relationship building with the SEY youth and community resources. The funding for Neecheewam addresses recommendations in the VIRGO report on mental health and addictions.

**Analysis Summary:** Work to implement this recommendation is still in the early stages. The completion of the healing lodge in Thompson, along with an evaluation of its effectiveness and the cultural appropriateness of the services it provides, will be an important step in meeting the requirements for this recommendation. There is a need to ensure that any long-term residential treatment centre is an accessible option for all children and youth in Manitoba who may want or need this kind of service, and to expand areas of service to ensure coverage, if required. Until this can be evidenced and more progress is made, the status determination for this recommendation will remain Limitedly Compliant.