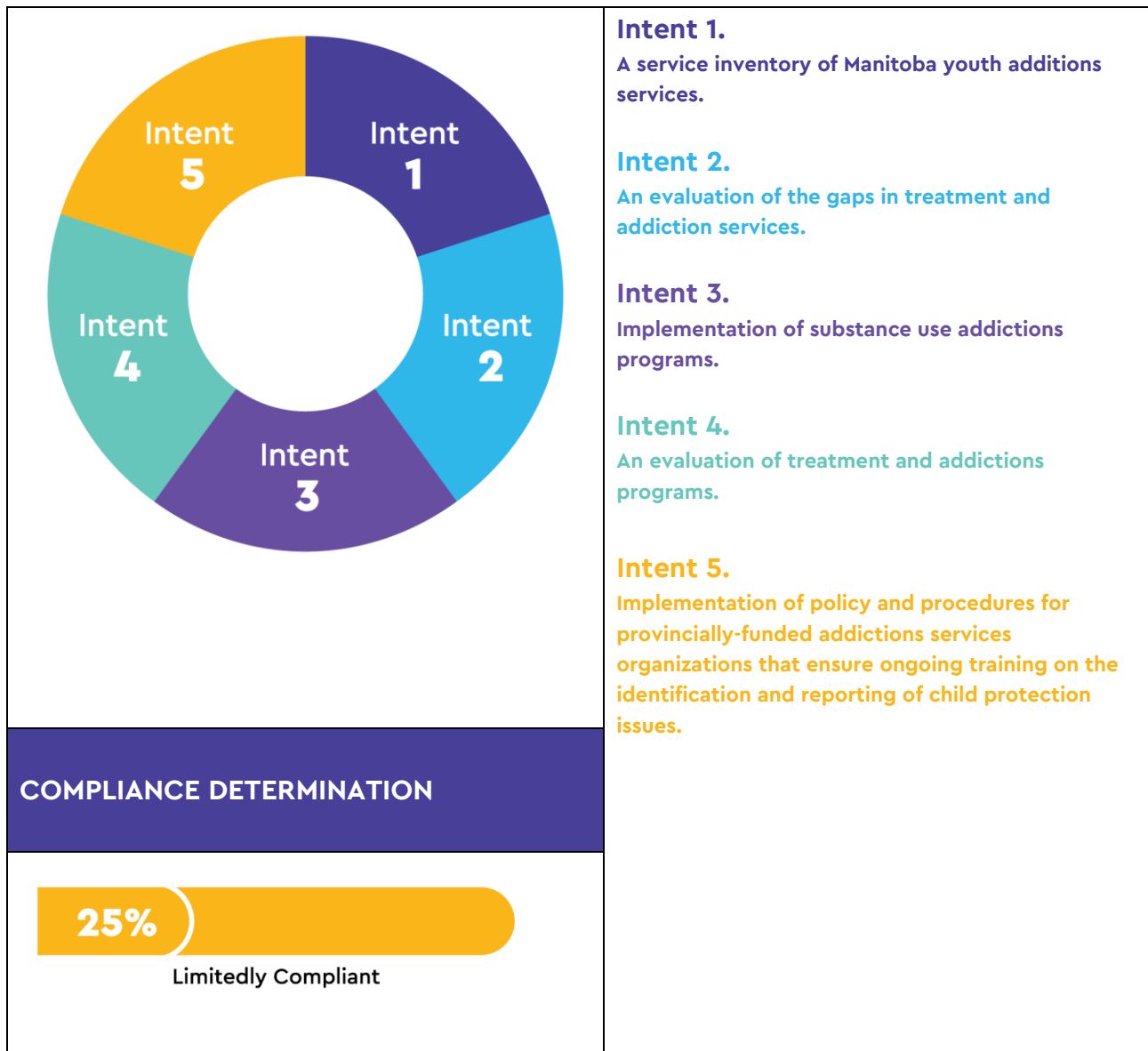


COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

Circling Star – Recommendation 4

Recommendation Summary: Develop a youth addictions action strategy.

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:	Documenting the Decline: The Dangerous Space Between Good Intentions and Meaningful Interventions
Date Released:	10/19/2018
Full Recommendation: (including details)	<p>Recommendation Four:</p> <p>The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living, together with front-line addiction service providers in Manitoba, Healthy Child Manitoba (now Social Innovation Office), Indigenous communities, and subject matter experts on addictions, immediately respond to the lack of effective substance use treatment services for youth by prioritizing the development and implementation of a youth addiction action strategy. This strategy should be based on best practice evidence with the objective of ensuring that children and youth across Manitoba can exercise their right to the highest attainable standards of health.</p> <p>DETAILS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living (now Manitoba Health), go beyond the VIRGO analysis and conduct a service inventory of all child and youth addiction services in Manitoba, their locations, target populations, philosophies, eligibility criteria, utilization rates, and occupancy rates. • That the Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living (now Manitoba Health) expand upon the VIRGO analysis to evaluate existing gaps in substance use treatment and addiction services available to children and youth, including recommendations as to how existing services could be repurposed. • That the Manitoba's Mental Health and Addictions Strategy developed by the Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living (now Manitoba Health) include a plan that ensures implementation of evidence-informed family-centred substance use and addiction programs. • That the Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living (now Manitoba Health) oversee regular performance monitoring and program evaluations to ensure that all publicly-funded and provincially-mandated agencies are accountable to provide evidence-informed addiction

	<p>services and programs for children and youth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That all provincially-funded addiction service providers working with children and youth implement policies and procedures for ongoing training on the identification and reporting of cases where a child is in need of protection as outlined in <i>The Child and Family Services Act</i>.
Intent(s) of Recommendation:	<p>Implement a youth addictions action strategy that includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A service inventory of Manitoba youth addictions services. An evaluation of the gaps in treatment and addiction services. Implementation of substance use addictions programs. An evaluation of treatment and addictions programs. Implementation of policy and procedures for provincially-funded addictions services organizations that ensure ongoing training on the identification and reporting of child protection issues.
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
	June 30, 2020
	December 31, 2019
	June 26, 2019
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-Assessed	Limitedly Compliant
Prior Assessment	Limitedly Compliant
3. Rationale for Determination <i>(How did you reach this compliance determination)</i>	
<p>Intent 1: Implement a youth addictions action strategy that includes: a service inventory of Manitoba youth addictions services.</p> <p>2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health 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 addiction services available in the province. The Stepped Care project also included outlining the most common services used 	

by adults and youth provincially, and in each regional health authority, with special consideration given to children-, youth-, and First Nations-focused services.

- Mental Health reported a plan is being developed to use this information to ensure Manitobans have improved access to services and can more easily navigate the system. The final report and results will be externally released once a comprehensive validation process is complete.
- MACY requested any additional information on the Stepped Care project in order to effectively assess intents 1 and 2, but Mental Health reported it was unable to release any results or summaries from this report at this time.

2022

- Although Mental Health reported the released of A Path to Mental Health and Community Wellness: A Roadmap for Manitoba (Roadmap), this cannot replace a youth-specific strategy plan. While there are references to children and youth in the document, it contains only one heading dedicated to children and youth.

2021

- Manitoba Health and Seniors Care (MHSC) reported that planning is underway with national leaders regarding the development of a child and youth Needs Based Planning (NBP) framework. External stakeholders have cautioned against an individual provincial approach to developing provincial frameworks as there are risks to doing this work in isolation. Stakeholders have advised that developing benchmarks that are consistent on a national level is recommended.

2020

- No action, evidence, or justification for inaction reported in this requirement.

Intent 2: Implement a youth addictions action strategy that includes: an evaluation of the gaps in treatment and addiction services.

2023

- Mental Health reported that the completion of the first phase of the "Stepped Care" project resulted in a report that included a number of service and system level recommendations.
- Mental Health reported that a school-based mental health services scan is currently underway.
- Mental Health also reported that "Enhancing Access" received one-time funding of \$1.5 million in the 2022-23 fiscal year. This project aims to: (1) release a framework and plan for transforming the youth mental health and addictions system through the development and implementation of a youth addiction action strategy ensuring equitable access; (2) direct core service investment for services that have the most complex mental health support needs; and (3) enhance access to mental health, substance use, and addiction services for children and youth in Manitoba

(Tiers 3-5).

2022

- Mental Health reported that an inventory has been done based on a contract with Stepped Care Solutions. This meets this part of the intent to the extent that an inventory of services has been done, and existing gaps have been reported.
- MACY was provided with a copy of a presentation done about the report produced by Stepped Care Solutions.
- There is, however, no evidence of commitment to regular program evaluation.

2021

- Adhering to external stakeholder advice and recognizing that work on a national level will take one to two years, the MHSC reported it will work to fill critical gaps identified in the VIRGO report for the purpose of making services more accessible for children and youth, until a national framework is created for child and youth services.

2020

- No action, evidence, or justification for inaction reported associated with this requirement.

Intent 3: Implement a youth addictions action strategy that includes: implementation of substance use programs cited by MHSC:

2023

- Mental Health reported that since 2019, the Government of Manitoba has announced more than 54 initiatives valued at more than \$66 million to improve mental health and addictions services, many of which have been focused on children and youth and are responsive to recommendations made in public reports (e.g. Virgo, MACY reports, and the Illicit Drug Task Force report).
- While this is not an update on specific programs for children and youth, information provided for other intents/recommendations demonstrates that some progress continues to be made in this regard, including plans to expand the youth Huddles to the Northern and Southern RHAs.

2022

- Five new youth hubs were opened in 2022. While five core areas of service have been recognized, not all of these hubs are currently operating at full capacity due to lack of necessary staff and resources.

2021

- Five new Youth Hubs that will provide mental health and addiction services, primary health care, and other social services have been selected. These are

located in Winnipeg, Brandon, and Selkirk (also serving Peguis First Nations). More information is needed in regards to the services being delivered and the programming criteria intended to address youth mental health and addictions.

2020

- Community Emergency Department Violence Intervention Program.
- Expansion of NorWest Youth Hub and trauma services expansion (The Laurel Centre and Klinik).

2019

- Expanding Neechewam's Winnipeg Facility (News Release, December 2019).
- Provincial investment of \$4.4 million to enhance access to mental health and addictions supports in school (News Release, December 2019).

Intent 4: Implement a youth addictions action strategy that includes: an evaluation of substance use treatment programs.

2023

- Mental Health reported that this is being done in collaboration with Manitoba Families and Justice, and that discussions have begun as to how government might operationalize this intent.
- Mental Health reported it discussed the definition of tiers and services with Families and Justice before formally issuing a request for departments to submit an inventory of supports, including: short descriptions of the programs, funding sources, licensing applications, eligibility criteria, and tier of service provided.

2022

- Mental Health reported that an inventory has been done based on a contract with Stepped Care Solutions, but more information is needed about the evaluation component. It would be helpful for MACY to have a copy of this report.

2021

- Work on this part of the intent will also be on hold until a National Framework is developed.

2020

- One service provider, the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba (AFM), has undertaken an internal review of its youth programs that has resulted in increased occupancy at Compass as well as moving youth addiction counsellors into community organizations to improve accessibility of youth services. No actions were reported on evaluations of programs not implemented through AFM.

Intent 5: Implement a youth addictions action strategy that includes: implementation of policy and procedures for provincially-funded addictions services organizations that ensure ongoing training on the identification and reporting of child protection issues.

2023

- For intent 5, Mental Health provided the same information as for intent 4. Specifically, as with intent 4, Mental Health reported that this is being done in collaboration with Manitoba Families and Justice, and that discussions have begun as to how government might operationalize this intent. Further, Mental Health reported that it discussed the definition of tiers and services with both departments before formally issuing a request for departments to submit an inventory of supports, including: short descriptions of the programs, funding sources, licensing applications, eligibility criteria, and tier of service provided.

2022

- No evidence of developing and implementing a policy and procedures for training staff on identifying and reporting a child in need of protection.

2021

- The actions taken in the last year to implement this recommendation include:
- Meeting with external stakeholders to initiate discussions of a National Needs Based Planning Framework. While this work is endorsed and recommended by experts on the subject matter, it seems that in relation to this recommendation, work for intents 1, 2, and 4 will be put on hold until this National Framework is developed.
- On March 18, 2021, the Government of Manitoba announced the creation of five new Youth Hubs that will provide mental health and addiction services, primary health care, and other social services.
<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=51010>
- 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.
- MHWR 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.
- 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.

Analysis Summary: It is clear that efforts have been made to undertake an inventory of children and youth services, and identify existing gaps, particularly through the Stepped Care project. A request for a brief summary of findings was denied, however, making it difficult to effectively assess intents 1 and 2. Funding for the "Enhancing Access" project is an important step towards developing a youth addiction action strategy and improve quality and access to services for children and youth. As reported by Mental Health, while action is underway, the size of these projects translates to slow progress and the operationalization of some intents are only beginning to be discussed. As such, this recommendation remains Limitedly Compliant.