

Circling Star	Recommendation Four	Reported Status: (not reported)
Report Sent: October 19, 2018	Public Body: The Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living	
<p>Recommendation Four: 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, 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, 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 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 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 oversee regular performance monitoring and program evaluations to ensure that all publicly-funded and provincially-mandated agencies are accountable to provide evidence-informed addiction services and programs for children and youth. ○ 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>. 		



Response from the Manitoba Government on April 23, 2019:

Summary of activities completed in the last six months

Several concurrent initiatives related to mental health and addictions are underway. Relevant departments are actively engaging child and youth addiction service providers such as the Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Addictions Foundation of Manitoba and Marymount to identify immediate, actionable solutions to address policy and process barriers to youth readily accessing addiction service.

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living's strengthened mandate for health system policy, commissioning, performance and accountability management came into effect on January 7, 2019, with the introduction of a new departmental structure. The intent of this change is to allow the department to focus its work on policy, planning, funding and oversight, which will include strengthening performance monitoring of health service delivery organizations.

The Manitoba mental health and addictions system strategy and design project is a whole-of-government approach to ensuring services are accessible to Manitobans who need them. This includes work related to the implementation of recommendations made in the Virgo report as well as broader system design work to improve the integration and coordination of services. Children and youth are identified as a priority population in the Virgo report. As such, implementation planning is focused on improving services, including substance use and addictions, across multiple sectors for this population. A number of recommendations identified as having immediate or short-term impact have already been implemented, including the opening of Rapid Access to Addictions Medicine clinics and the addition of accessible child and youth mental health services via a partnership with Strongest Families Institute.

Response from the Manitoba Government on June 27, 2019:

Summary of activities completed since April 23, 2019 report

The establishment of Shared Health, provincial clinical services planning and provincial clinical oversight is intended to result in greater accountabilities for health authorities and health services providers as envisioned through the recently-introduced Bill 10, The Regional Health Authorities Amendment Act (Health System Governance and Accountability). These amendments will support government's plan for a more patient-focused, sustainable and better-organized health system that achieves improved outcomes for patients. This new bill will enable assurance of appropriate planning and delivery of mental health and addictions services province-wide.



Additionally, on June 10, 2019, the Minister of Health announced plans to decentralize youth addiction services through the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba (AFM). Youth counsellors from AFM are now embedded in nine community agency locations across Winnipeg. In keeping with the priorities highlighted within the Virgo report, this change will facilitate easier access and referrals for service for youth with addictions, and make it easier for youths to access other co-located services they may require. Being based in community service delivery organizations will ensure counsellors are aware of emergent trends, and able to adapt their responses to new or evolving issues. The locations are:

- Access Fort Garry,
- Aikins Street Community Health Centre,
- Centre de Santé Saint-Boniface,
- Eagle Urban Transition,
- Macdonald Youth Services,
- Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre,
- New Directions,
- Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad, and
- the StreetReach program.

(continued below)

Analysis of Manitoba Government's Response by the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth:

Activities Completed:

- “Several concurrent initiatives” are underway.
- On January 7, 2019, Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living received a strengthened mandate for health system policy, commissioning, performance, and accountability management. The departmental structure is also new and intended to allow the department to focus on policy, planning, funding, and oversight.
- Reference to “the Manitoba mental health and addictions system strategy and design project,” the fact that children and youth are identified as a priority population in the Virgo report, Rapid Access to Addictions Medicine (RAAM) clinics, and the ‘Strongest Families Institute.’
- Establishment of Shared Health, provincial clinical services planning and provincial clinical oversight, and Introduction of Bill 10, The Regional Health Authorities Amendment Act. These initiatives are intended to increase accountability for health authorities and health

Level of Compliance

This response does not indicate whether the activities identified will meet the intent of this recommendation or its details.

Analysis of April 23, 2019 Response

- What are the “several concurrent initiatives” that are referenced in the response (program name and descriptions)? How are these projects specifically working to address the lack of treatment services for children and youth right now?
- How is Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living’s new “strengthened” mandate different from before and what will it allow for now that it did not in the past, particularly in regards to youth substance misuse treatment programs?
- Where in the planning stage is the department in regards to a ‘youth addiction action strategy,’ as listed in the recommendation?
- RAAM clinics are for adults (only youth age 18-20 are able to access them) and were already in existence prior to this recommendation being made. How will the implementation strategy address the insufficient number of treatment beds and programs for youth?
- Regarding the ‘Strongest Families Institute’, how many children, youth, and families have utilized this service? What have the outcomes been/is the service effective? Is this available to all families, foster families, and families on First Nations communities?

Analysis of June 27, 2019 Response

- In addition to the questions outlined in the ‘Analysis of the Response Received April 25th, 2019’ section (see below), it would be helpful to clarify:

<p>services providers, to support a patient-focused, sustainable, and organized health system that achieves improved outcomes for patients.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill 10 will enable better planning and delivery of mental health and addictions services province-wide. • On June 10, 2019, the Minister of Health announced that youth addiction services through AFM were to be decentralized. • Youth counsellors from AFM are now working out of 9 community agency locations across Winnipeg for the purpose of facilitating easier access and referrals for service. This will make it easier for youth to access co-located services, to promote counselors’ awareness of emergent trends, and adapt responses to new or evolving issues. • New locations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access Fort Garry - Aikins Street Community Health Centre - Centre de Santé Saint-Boniface - Eagle Urban Transition - Macdonald Youth Services - Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre - New Directions - Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad - StreetReach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What strategies for delivering services are in place for youth located in remote communities or communities outside of Winnipeg? ○ Is there an evaluative component to measuring how this approach will impact service delivery? ○ What services are being developed for youth who require treatment beyond community interventions? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be addressed in the short term*: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Status of implementation ○ Information indicating a timeline for implementation ○ A description of the projects (as mentioned in the April 25th response) specifically working to address the lack of treatment services for youth right now.
<p>*On September 30, 2019, the Manitoba Advocate sent a letter to the members of the government’s MACY-RAP committee and working group requesting additional information regarding the government’s progress on recommendations made by the Advocate. The Advocate communicated to the government representatives short-term questions for information that could be provided quickly. Additionally, the Advocate sent long-term questions for the government to address in future progress reports. The questions are designed to seek clarification on activities, seek evidence or documentation to support the activities, or to determine how the government’s responses are meeting the intent of the recommendations made by the Advocate. All of this information will be used by the Advocate to determine the levels of compliance with implementation, in accordance with s.11(1)(d), s.30(2)(d), and s.30(4), of <i>The Advocate for Children and Youth Act</i>.</p>	