

## 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	
<b>Report Name:</b>	A Place Where it Feels like Home (Tina Fontaine)
<b>Date Released:</b>	3/12/2019
<b>Full Recommendation:</b> (including details)	<p><b>Recommendation Four:</b> The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Manitoba government, through its Deputy Ministers of Health and Social Policy and Priorities (DMHSPP) committee, work with the government’s Legislation and Strategic Policy Branch to analyse the province of Alberta’s <i>Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act</i> and Alberta’s <i>Drug-Endangered Children Act</i> to determine how safe and secure treatment facilities can be introduced in Manitoba. It is further recommended that the DMHSPP committee develop a plan to ensure the continuum of services for children and youth includes safe, secure, home-like settings for treatment and programming when children and youth are at imminent risk of harm or death.</p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The continuum of services plan developed by the DMHSPP committee must define imminent risk, ensuring the definition contemplates issues of homelessness, addiction, and sexual exploitation.</li> <li>• The development of a plan for safe and secure treatment facilities must include consultation with subject matter experts, persons with lived experience, and community stakeholders to ensure the treatment settings are safe, secure, therapeutic, effective, and culturally informed.</li> </ul>
<b>Intent(s) of Recommendation:</b>	<p>The intent of the recommendation is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Review Alberta’s <i>Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act</i> and Alberta’s <i>Drug Endangered Children Act</i> to determine how safe and secure treatment facilities can be introduced in Manitoba</b></li> <li><b>2. that the DMHSPP committee to develop a plan ensuring the continuum of services for children and youth who are at imminent risk due to life-threatening addictions</b></li> <li><b>3. Plan must include safe, secure, home-like settings for detox and treatment programming</b></li> </ol>
<b>Issue:</b>	Mental Health and Addictions
<b>Primary Department:</b>	Government of Manitoba
<b>Dates of Previous Official Updates from Public Body:</b>	June 30, 2020
	December 31, 2019
	June 30, 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.

## 3. Rationale for Determination

*(How did you reach this compliance determination)*

### 1. Review Alberta's *Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act* and Alberta's *Drug Endangered Children Act* to determine how safe and secure treatment facilities can be introduced in Manitoba

- There are discrepancies reported by the public body as to the review of Alberta's legislation. The Department of Families reported in June 2019 that a review was completed. However, in June 2020 the Department of Families indicated that "work continues" of the review of the Alberta legislation. Results and analysis of this review were not provided. It is not clear how the review is considering the use of safe and secure treatment facilities for youth in Manitoba.

### 2. That the DMHSPP committee develop a plan ensuring a continuum of services for children and youth who are at imminent risk due to life-threatening addictions

- MACY-RAP reported that the Manitoba's Clinical and Preventive Services Plan (MCPSP) is a project within Manitoba's Health System Transformation and the Virgo Recommendations that has been incorporated within the broader health care system (December 31, 2019 update). Rationale was not provided on how the plan addresses the needs of children and youth that are at imminent risk due to life-threatening addictions.
- A review of [Manitoba's Clinical and Preventive Services Plan](#) by Shared Health from November 18, 2019 does not mention addiction treatment for youth. A [PowerPoint](#) available online on MCPSP does not address the specific service needs for children and youth with life-threatening addictions, nor the development of a continuum of services for this population.
- In the December 2019 synopsis, it was reported that Manitoba will adopt a Stepped Care Model which mental health and addictions treatment and recover support services are aligned to five tiers of complexity. There is no evidence provided that the model is targeted to youth services as opposed to the larger public.
- According to the December 2019 report, the current focus is on making short term changes and implementing initiatives that will have an immediate impact. However, there is no clear continuum of services plan developed by the DMHSPP committee that defines imminent risk, ensures the definition contemplates issues of homelessness, addiction, and sexual exploitation.

### 3. The Plan must include safe, secure, home-like settings for detox and treatment programming. The development of safe and secure treatment settings must include consultation with experts, persons with lived experience and community stakeholders

- Information was not provided on how Manitoba's Clinical and Preventive Services Plan includes safe, secure, and home-like settings to address the detox and treatment programming needs of children and youth with life-threatening addictions.
- Manitoba Families announced in November 2019, that the Neecheewam Inc. organization will receive 3.8 million to create a facility for youth in Manitoba who are using substances and who are sexually exploited to provide Indigenous-led healing. According to the June 2020 report,

the facility is expected to begin operations in summer of 2020. This facility will not be secure, it will be voluntary.

- In support of this alternative to the recommendation the addressee stated: “The placement will not be locked, in keeping with feedback received from community and youths, and in keeping with the temporary use of a non-locked facility for Strong Hearts. The open nature of the placement is considered essential in developing the needed trust relationships to increase successful treatment, required flexibility of admission, and in reflection of the long history of colonization, residential schools and ongoing racism faced by most of the youths involved with StreetReach and their families. Youth will be able to self-refer to the locked Crisis Stabilization Unit located in the same building. Family, community supports and positive connections to support an individual’s healing journey will have access to the youth in the facility.” While the facility is not secure, it meets the intent of the recommendation, in particular the requirement stated in the details for consultation with experts, persons with lived experience, and community stakeholders who advised against a secure facility. The addressee has sufficiently justified deviation from the original letter of the recommendation while providing evidence of meeting the intent of the recommendation.
- Activities reported fulfill the requirements of this recommendation to a limited degree including the implementation of a new facility that addresses detox and treatment programming. Yet, significant deficiencies in the implementation of this recommendation remain since insufficient information was provided on the results of the legislative review and no rationale was provided on how existing plans of healthcare transformation address the needs of children and youth with life-threatening addictions.