

<b>In Need of Protection (Angel)</b>	<b>Recommendation Six</b>	<b>Reported Status: (not reported)</b>
<b>Report Sent: December 13, 2018</b>	<b>Public Body: Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living</b>	
<p><b>Recommendation Six:</b>            The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living, in collaboration with the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba and other stakeholders, amend <i>The Youth Drug Stabilization (Support for Parents) Act</i> so that longer warrants or successive warrants are possible to ensure children and youth get the medically supported withdrawal management services they need based on evidence-informed treatment best practices for addictions (e.g. methamphetamine, alcohol, opioids).</p> <p><b>DETAILS – Work to this effect should:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be overseen by an existing inter-departmental working group such as the Deputy Ministers of Health and Social Policy and Priorities (DMHSPP) committee/Healthy Child Deputy Ministers’ Committee (HCDMC); and</li> <li>• Be guided by evidence-informed best practices and knowledge in the areas of supported withdrawal management, addiction and mental health assessments, and accessibility of treatment services for children and youth.</li> </ul>		

**Response from the Manitoba Government on June 27, 2019:**

Summary of activities completed since report was released

In February 2019, the government announced a review of the current youth justice system in Manitoba and its connections to the child welfare system, with the aim of ending cycles of crime for at-risk youth. A team of senior staff from Manitoba Justice and Manitoba Families will report back to government, with recommendations and an implementation plan to be made public later in 2019/20.

Significant progress has been made in this work and the review team has completed an analysis on leading practices throughout the country. In addition, the review team has assessed several pieces of legislation, including The Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act (Alberta) and The Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act (Alberta) as recommended by MACY in previous reports, as well as The Child, Youth and Family Services Act (Ontario).

Upon completion of the review, the departments will collaborate with MHSAL to implement recommendations, align with recommendations in the Virgo report and pursue opportunities for legislative changes as appropriate.

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

**Activities Completed:**

- Response identifies that the review of the justice system and its connection with child welfare will include recommendations as related to this issue.
  - Part of this review has included assessing legislation as recommended by MACY such as Alberta's *Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act* and the *Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act*, as well as Ontario's *Child, Youth and Family Services Act*.
  
- Response indicates that "Upon completion of the review, the departments will collaborate with MHSAL to implement recommendations, align with recommendations in the Virgo report and pursue opportunities for legislative changes as appropriate."

**Level of Compliance**

This response does not provide enough information to determine when or how the intent of this recommendation or its details will be met.

**Analysis of Response**

- It is evident from the committee's responses that there are a number of reviews underway that need to be completed in order for strategic plans to be developed, and specific issues to be addressed, especially as they relate to addictions and mental health for children and youth.
  
- It is promising that legislation from other jurisdictions has been reviewed.
  
- To be addressed in the short term\*:
  - Status of implementation
  - Information indicating a timeline for implementation
  - Further information on whether this recommendation will be addressed directly or if other opportunities for addressing the intent of this recommendation with alternate activities will be pursued.

\*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 *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*.