

Learning from Nelson Mandela	Recommendation Six	Reported Status: (not reported)
Report Sent: February 21, 2019	Public Body: Manitoba Justice; Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living	
<p>Recommendation Six: The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Justice and Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living immediately embark on the development of a specialized health facility led and run by mental health professionals to provide evidence-informed programming for youth with mental illnesses or cognitive vulnerabilities in custody, including youth who are found not criminally responsible.</p> <p>DETAILS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Manitoba Justice conduct comprehensive mental health assessments, followed by ongoing treatment and assessments by mental health professionals within 72 hours of youth entering custody. • That Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living, with the full cooperation of Manitoba Justice, evaluate the ability and capacity for the Manitoba Youth Centre to serve as a mental health facility as provided by <i>Facilities Designation Regulation</i> for the purposes of <i>The Mental Health Act</i>. • That Manitoba Justice collaborate with Manitoba Families, Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living, youth with lived and living experience in correctional facilities, subject-matter experts, correctional officers, and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers as well as representatives with critical perspectives from the juvenile justice, health care, advocacy, and legislative arenas in the development of a detailed action plan with timelines and measurable outcomes to address the mental health and wellness of youth in custody. • That Manitoba Justice identify, measure, and publicly report on the therapeutic alternative outcomes of the action plan annually, including rates of recidivism and the proportion of Indigenous youth in custody as outlined by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Calls to Action. 		

Response from the Manitoba Government on June 27, 2019:

Summary of activities completed since report was released

MHSAL is working across departments to explore evidence-based models of care for this population, which includes looking at residential treatment programs. Progress updates on this work will be made going forward.

As noted in the response to Recommendation #6 of In Need of Protection: Angel’s Story, the government is undertaking 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. Significant progress has been made in this work and the review team has completed an analysis on leading practices throughout the country. More information about this work is available in the section noted above.

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

Activities Completed:

- Manitoba Health is currently working across departments to explore evidence-based models of care, which includes looking at residential treatment programs.

- As with Recommendation Five, the Manitoba government is undertaking a review of the youth justice system and its connections to the child welfare system, on which “significant progress has been made” including an analysis of leading practices.

Level of Compliance

This response indicates that the implementation of this recommendation and its details is in early stages.

Analysis of Response

- Given the implementation of this recommendation is contingent on the outcomes of Manitoba Health’s exploratory work on evidence-based models of care, what is Manitoba Health’s timeline to look at residential treatment programs and other evidence-based models of care for youth?

- What is Manitoba Justice’s and Manitoba Families’ timeline for the review of the youth justice system and its connections to the child welfare system?

- To be addressed in the short term*:
 - Status of implementation
 - Information indicating a timeline for implementation



*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*.