

COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

Safe Sleep- Recommendation 12

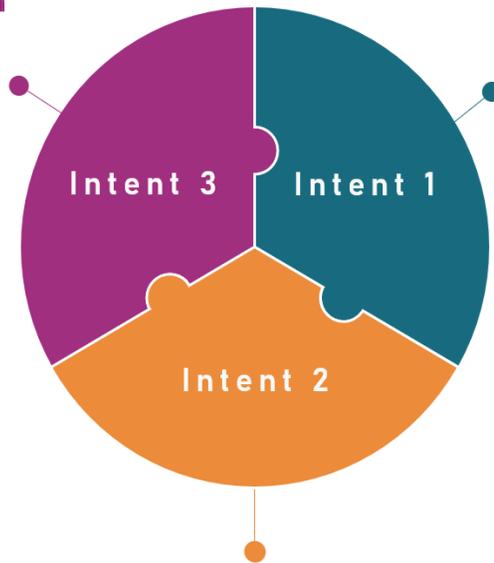
Recommendation Summary: Part of changes to provincial child welfare standards, end birth alerts, include assessment of infant sleep environment in safety planning, provide safe sleep surfaces.

Primary Public Body: Manitoba Families

3. Provide public education information to expectant mothers/parents on safe sleep practices for infants

The new foundational standard being developed will include the provision of safe sleep educational material to care providers and a reference value in the Child and Family Services Information System will be added to include completed assessments to be uploaded.

Outstanding Action: Implementation of the new foundational standard requiring assessment and public education information sharing.



1. Change provincial child welfare standards to include assessments of the infant sleep environment in every safety plan for expectant mothers/expectant parents

Standing Committee and CFS Authorities have developed a work plan to develop a foundational standard to assess for a safe sleep environment.

Outstanding Action: Changes to the provincial standards imbedding the foundational standard into practice.

2. Develop a policy to ensure all mothers and primary caregivers are provided with safe sleep surfaces

There were no new activities reported but reaffirmation that there is flexibility for agencies to use their funding for purchasing car seats and beds for children who are in care or remaining in family care.

Outstanding Action: A policy that ensures all mothers and primary caregivers are provided with safe sleep surfaces.

COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION



Promising steps are being taken to implement the recommendation, such as the new foundational standard being developed, a new reference value in the Child and Family Services Information System that allows for assessments to be uploaded. All actions reported, however, are in early stages and have not been implemented.

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:	Safe and Sound: A Special Report on the Unexpected Sleep-Related Deaths of 145 Manitoba Infants
Date Released:	3/13/2020
Full Recommendation: (including details)	<p>Recommendation Twelve:</p> <p>The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Families, as part of the changes to provincial child welfare standards announced to end the use of birth alerts, include an assessment of the infant sleep environment in every safety plan for expectant mothers, and provide mothers and primary caregivers with the safe sleep surfaces and public education information they need to ensure the safety of their child.</p> <p>DETAILS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child services professionals will assess the safety of infant sleep environments. • Families receiving child welfare services and requiring resources and/or information on safe sleep practices will be identified. • Families will be resourced with a crib or other safe sleep surface, if none is available.
Intent(s) of Recommendation:	<p>The intents of the recommendation are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Change provincial child welfare standards to include assessments of the infant sleep environment in every safety plan for expectant mothers/expectant parents. 2. Following assessments by child welfare professionals, provide expectant mothers/parents without a safe sleep surface with a crib or other safe sleep surface, and develop a policy to ensure all mothers and primary care givers are provided with safe sleep surfaces. 3. Provide public education information to expectant mothers/parents on safe sleep practices for infants.
Issue:	Safe Sleep
Primary Department:	Manitoba Families
Dates of Previous Official Updates from Public Body:	May 31, 2021
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-Assessment	Limitedly Compliant (for Intents 1, 2, and 3)

Previous Compliance Determination	N/A
3. Rationale for Determination <i>(How did you reach this compliance determination)</i>	
<p>Intent 1: Change provincial child welfare standards to include assessments of the infant sleep environment in every safety plan for expectant mothers/expectant parents.</p> <p>2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manitoba Families reported that the new standard for practice with high risk expectant parents (1.2.2) currently includes requirements for assessments, planning, and connecting expectant parents with resources. To this end, work is underway with CFS Authorities to monitor implementation of the new standard and model. • Manitoba Families is working to consider the best way to address this particular intent of the recommendation within the context of the new model. They foresee further progress during the next reporting period. Despite the new standard (1.2.2) for high risk expectant parents, there remains uncertainty as the standard does not explicitly state that child welfare workers are supposed to assess an infant’s sleep environment. Pending the submission of further information in 2022, the activities reported thus far indicate that initial steps are being taken to meet the intent of this recommendation. • Additional information and actions provided indicate that the Standing Committee with the Authorities has discussed this recommendation and developed a work plan on March 24, 2021. Work plan items include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A new Foundational Standard will be introduced which focuses on the requirement to assess for a safe sleep environment at Intake and Assessment. This will include consideration of differing cultural practices and other factors as per the various Authorities. The safe sleep assessment will include the provision of education to the care provider. Assessment tools, templates, and resources are to be shared at the discretion of the Authorities and agencies. • While there is no evidence to suggest that the above-mentioned work plan item has been implemented, the development of a work plan is a promising step towards implementation of this intent. <p>Intent 2: Following assessments by child welfare professionals, provide expectant mothers/parents without a safe sleep surface with a crib or other safe sleep surface, and develop a policy to ensure all mothers and primary care givers are provided with safe sleep surfaces.</p> <p>2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manitoba Families noted that in 2014 it encouraged all four Authorities to ensure their agencies were providing safe sleep materials to parents. Authorities were provided details on Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) funding available at that time for families as well as funding available for car seats and beds for children in care; the latter funding was available before child maintenance was replaced by Single Envelope Funding (SEF). • The Department of Families provided current safe sleep policies of the General Child and Family Services Authority, Southern First Nations Network of Care, as well as the Metis Child and Family Authority, which outline discussions with expectant and new parents about safe sleep are required. • Additional information provided by Manitoba Families indicates that EIA and other community funding accessible to case workers remains available. Manitoba Families contends that child maintenance funding remains in place even if it is provided in a different format (SEF) and the 	

total funding provided through SEF is at an equivalent level to prior funding. The Department of Families noted that there are fewer children in care and that resources such as B & L are being replaced with less expensive placements. This means there is more flexibility for agencies to use the funding for similar purchases (e.g., car seats and beds) for children remaining in family care. This recommendation, however, is not applicable solely to children in care who are not in the home; it encompasses families receiving Child and Family Services such as those with Family Enhancement files. A comparison between the 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21 Department of Families Annual Reports shows that there was a reduction in the number of children in care reported by Manitoba Families for 2018-19 (10,258) in comparison to 2019-2020 (9,849). The total number of children in care reported by Manitoba Families in 2020-21 (9,850) increased by one in comparison to 2019-20 (9,849).

Intent 3: Provide public education information to expectant mothers/parents on safe sleep practices for infants.

2021

- Implementation of this intent remains under discussion by Manitoba Families.
- The Provincial Advisory Committee on Child Abuse (PACCA) was a multidisciplinary committee that completed tasks such as developing guides for professionals in other fields on reporting abuse. In 2012, PACCA developed material on safe infant sleep, including a pamphlet on the ABCs of Safe Sleep for Baby ([abc_of_safe_sleep.pdf \(gov.mb.ca\)](#)). The Department of Families has not demonstrated that these materials are being actively shared with expectant mothers/parents despite their availability. Upon follow up, the Department of Families reported the development of updated materials by the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WHRA), and ideas on distribution of a pamphlet on safe sleep for infants. This is a promising development in its early stages, which may be further elaborated on as the Standing Committee's work plan is being implemented.
- Standing Committee has discussed this recommendation and developed a work plan on March 24, 2021. Work plan items include:
 - A new Foundational Standard will be introduced which focuses on the requirement to assess for a safe sleep environment at Intake and Assessment. This will include consideration of differing cultural practices and other factors as per the various Authorities. The safe sleep assessment will include the provision of education to the care provider. Assessment tools, templates, and resources are to be shared at the discretion of the Authorities and agencies.
 - A reference value in the Service Planning Window will be added to the Child and Family Services Information System (CFSIS). This means that an "assessment type drop down box will be [sic] now include 'Safe Sleep Education/Assessment' and will allow agencies to document completion and uploading their agency/Authority specific assessment information."

Analysis Summary: This recommendation is considered limitedly compliant. Promising initial steps related to requirements include a new standard for practice with high risk expectant parents (1.2.2) for assessment, planning, connecting expectant parents with resources, a work plan from the Standing Committee, and a revised pamphlet under development by WRHA. Despite the steps taken, deficiencies remain in the implementation of the recommendation.