

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:	In Need of Protection: Angel's Story
Date Released:	12/13/2018
Full Recommendation: (including details)	<p>Recommendation Five: The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living and Department of Families, in collaboration with the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, (1) review and reform the province's treatment programs for children and youth and (2) create safe and secure facilities for youth in Manitoba who are sexually exploited and harmfully involved in substance misuse.</p> <p>DETAILS:</p> <p>This should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve community organizations; • Address the limitations, barriers and occupancy rate concerns of existing resources (e.g. Compass, YASU); • Include a harm reduction policy specific to children and youth; • Recognize that "secure facilities" do not need to be institutions, but can be secured via adequate staffing, geographic locations, and can further be holistic and culturally-based home-like settings; • Involve youth, experiential, and Indigenous stakeholders; • Address accessibility challenges related to addiction and mental health treatment services; • Be informed by a scan of jurisdictions who successfully incorporate short and long-term safe and secure settings in their continuum of care models for youth who are sexually exploited; and • Be included in the Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Strategy.
Intent(s) of Recommendation:	<p>The intent of the recommendation is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To review and reform provincial treatment programs for children and youth. 2. To create safe and secure facilities for youth in Manitoba who are using substances and who are sexually exploited.
Theme:	Mental Health and Addictions
Issue:	Safe and Secure Treatment Facilities
Primary Department:	Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living
Dates of Previous Official Updates from Public Body:	June 30, 2020
	December 31, 2019
	June 30, 2019

2. Compliance Determination	
Partially Compliant 0.50	Actions taken only implement part of the recommendation. Important requirements have been met, deficiencies remain yet the recommendation has been acted upon.
3. Rationale for Determination <i>(How did you reach this compliance determination)</i>	
<p>1. To review and reform provincial treatment programs for children and youth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Addictions Foundation of Manitoba (AFM) has conducted an internal review to address occupancy challenges (December 2019) • AFM has done their own internal review of their youth programs and report that the occupancy levels have improved since this review took place. In addition, AFM made the decision to embed their youth counsellors into community based organizations to better serve youth where they are at (August 26, 2020). No written record of the review was made available to the Manitoba Advocate. <p>2. To create safe and secure facilities for youth in Manitoba who are using substances and who are sexually exploited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neecheewam Inc. is new residential treatment facility that is being developed for youth who are using substances and are sexually exploited. Upon development, a 4-bed unit will be offered to youth who are using substances and who are being sexually exploited, to provide specialized mental health and addictions treatment (December, 2019). Opening of this facility was reported for Summer 2020. This facility will not be locked. However, a policy manual is under development to ensure the safety of youth. • In addition, Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living reported two additional programs relevant to this recommendation. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Community Emergency Department Violence Program Youth:</i> This program provides support and services to sexually exploited youth who have experienced violence-related injuries by a multi-disciplinary team that is uses a harm reduction, trauma-informed approach to care (June 2020/August 26, 2020) 2. <i>Newcomer Trauma-Focused Services:</i> Newcomer youth who struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental illnesses that often make them more vulnerable to sexual exploitation, can access long-term mental health services in the community with linkages to the formal health care system (June 2020/August 26, 2020) <p>The internal review undertaken by AFM functions, in part, to fulfill a portion of Intent 1 of the recommendation specifically regarding the ‘Detail’ outlined in the recommendation that states “Address limitations, barriers and occupancy rates.” While no evidence-based documentation has been provided, it was reported that the review resulted in improved occupancy levels, and the decision to embed youth counsellors into community based organizations to better serve youth. More information is required on what work has been completed to conduct a review of existing Manitoba provincial treatment programs for children and youth not operated through AFM. Additionally, an update on the status of the launch of the Neechewam Inc. residential treatment facility and the policies established to ensure it is “safe and secure” is required. Actions taken implement part of the recommendation, as</p>	

such, this recommendation is deemed partially compliant.