

# COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

## Circling Star – Recommendation 4

**Recommendation Summary:** Develop a youth addictions action strategy.  
**Primary Public Body:** Manitoba Mental Health and Community Wellness

**1. Implement a youth addictions action strategy that includes a service inventory of Manitoba youth addictions services**

A *Pathway to Mental Health and Community Wellness: A Roadmap for Manitoba* (released in February 2022) was offered in fulfillment of this requirement. How the Roadmap will be adopted as a strategy specifically for children and youth remains unclear.

**5. Implementation of policy and procedures for provincially-funded addictions services organizations that ensure ongoing training on the identification and reporting of child protection issues.**

No evidence of developing and implementing a policy and procedures for training staff on identifying and reporting a child in need of protection was provided.

**4. An evaluation of substance use treatment programs**

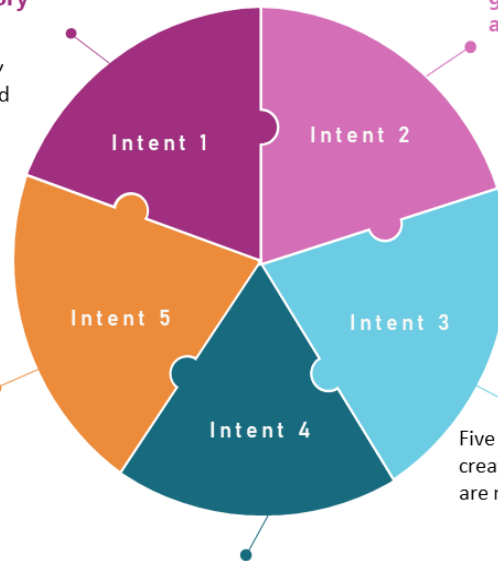
An inventory has been conducted through Stepped Care Solutions. The copy sent to MACY does not list any gaps or redundancies identified. More information is needed about the evaluation component.

**2. An evaluation of the gaps in treatment and addiction services**

An inventory has been conducted through Stepped Care Solutions. The copy sent to MACY does not list any gaps or redundancies identified.

**3. Implementation of substance use programs cited by MHCW**

Five new youth hubs have been created. This is promising, but they are not yet operational at full capacity.



### COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

0.25

Limitedly Compliant

## Recommendation Compliance Summary

In accordance with subsection 11(1) clause (d) of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act (ACYA)*, the Advocate retains the responsibility "to monitor the implementation of recommendations included in reports made under section 27 (investigation) or special reports made under section 31."

This form details the assessment of implementation of compliance made under the referenced subsection of the ACYA. MACY assesses implementation of compliance with recommendations once a year but receives updates from public bodies every six months.

<b>1. Recommendation Information</b>	
<b>Special Report Name:</b>	<b>Documenting the Decline: The Dangerous Space Between Good Intentions and Meaningful Interventions</b>
<b>Date Released:</b>	10/19/2018
<b>Full Recommendation:</b> (including details)	<p><b>Recommendation Four:</b></p> <p>The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living, together with front-line addiction service providers in Manitoba, Healthy Child Manitoba (now Social Innovation Office), Indigenous communities, and subject matter experts on addictions, immediately respond to the lack of effective substance use treatment services for youth by prioritizing the development and implementation of a youth addiction action strategy. This strategy should be based on best practice evidence with the objective of ensuring that children and youth across Manitoba can exercise their right to the highest attainable standards of health.</p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living (now Manitoba Health), go beyond the VIRGO analysis and conduct a service inventory of all child and youth addiction services in Manitoba, their locations, target populations, philosophies, eligibility criteria, utilization rates, and occupancy rates.</li> <li>• That the Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living (now Manitoba Health) expand upon the VIRGO analysis to evaluate existing gaps in substance use treatment and addiction services available to children and youth, including recommendations as to how existing services could be repurposed.</li> <li>• That the Manitoba’s Mental Health and Addictions Strategy developed by the Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living (now Manitoba Health) include a plan that ensures implementation of evidence-informed family-centred substance use and addiction programs.</li> <li>• That the Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living (now Manitoba Health) oversee regular performance monitoring and program evaluations to ensure that all publicly-funded and provincially-mandated agencies are accountable to provide evidence-informed addiction services and programs for children</li> </ul>

	<p>and youth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That all provincially-funded addiction service providers working with children and youth implement policies and procedures for ongoing training on the identification and reporting of cases where a child is in need of protection as outlined in <i>The Child and Family Services Act</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Intent(s) of Recommendation:</b>	<p>The intent of the recommendation is to:</p> <p><b>Implement a youth addictions action strategy that includes:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A service inventory of Manitoba youth addictions services.</b></li> <li><b>An evaluation of the gaps in treatment and addiction services.</b></li> <li><b>Implementation of substance use addictions programs.</b></li> <li><b>An evaluation of treatment and addictions programs.</b></li> <li><b>Implementation of policy and procedures for provincially-funded addictions services organizations that ensure ongoing training on the identification and reporting of child protection issues.</b></li> </ol>
<b>Issue:</b>	Mental Health and Addictions
<b>Public Body</b>	Manitoba Mental Health
<b>Dates of Previous Official Updates from Public Body:</b>	June 30, 2022
	July 13, 2021
	June 30, 2020
	December 31, 2019
	June 26, 2019
<b>2. Compliance Determination</b>	
<b>Limitedly Compliant 0.25</b>	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.
<b>Self-Assessed</b>	Largely Compliant
<b>Prior Assessment</b>	Limitedly Compliant
<b>3. Rationale for Determination</b> <i>(How did you reach this compliance determination)</i>	
<p><b>Intent 1: Implement a youth addictions action strategy that includes: A service inventory of Manitoba youth addictions services.</b></p> <p><b>2022</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Although Mental Health reported the released of A Path to Mental Health and Community Wellness: A Roadmap for Manitoba (Roadmap), this cannot replace a youth-specific strategy plan. While there are references to children and youth in the document, it contains only one heading dedicated to children and youth.</li> </ul> <p><b>2021</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manitoba Health and Seniors Care (MHSC) reported that planning is underway with national leaders regarding the development of a child and youth Needs Based Planning (NBP) framework. External stakeholders have cautioned against an individual provincial approach to developing provincial frameworks as there are risks to doing this work in isolation. Stakeholders have advised that developing benchmarks that are consistent on a national level is recommended.</li> </ul> <p><b>2020</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action, evidence, or justification for inaction reported in this requirement.</li> </ul>	

**Intent 2: Implement a youth addictions action strategy that includes: An evaluation of the gaps in treatment and addiction services.**

**2022**

- Mental Health reported that an inventory has been done based on a contract with Stepped Care Solutions. This meets this part of the intent to the extent that an inventory of services has been done, and existing gaps have been reported.
- MACY was provided with a copy of a presentation about the report produced by Stepped Care Solutions.
- There is, however, no evidence of commitment to regular program evaluation.

**2021**

- Adhering to external stakeholder advice and recognizing that work on a national level will take one to two years, the MHSC reported it will work to fill critical gaps identified in the VIRGO report for the purpose of making services more accessible for children and youth, until a national framework is created for child and youth services.

**2020**

- No action, evidence, or justification for inaction reported associated with this requirement.

**Intent 3: Implement a youth addictions action strategy that includes: Implementation of substance use programs cited by MHSC:**

**2022**

- Five new youth hubs were opened in 2022. While five core areas of service have been recognized, not all of these hubs are currently operating at full capacity due to lack of necessary staff and resources.
- Huddle sites are working to partner with AFM and/or the Harm Reduction Network for the provision of substance use and addictions services.
- The Huddle Clinical Innovation Working Group is currently working with Shared Health to co-design and establish formal service agreements for youth substance use and addiction-focused services at Huddle sites.

**2021**

- Five new Youth Hubs that will provide mental health and addiction services, primary health care, and other social services have been selected. More information is needed in regards to the services being delivered and the programming criteria intended to address youth mental health and addictions.

**2020**

- Community Emergency Department Violence Intervention Program.
- Expansion of NorWest Youth Hub and trauma services expansion (The Laurel Centre and Clinic).

**2019**

- Expanding Neechewam's Winnipeg Facility (News Release, December 2019).
- Provincial investment of \$4.4 million to enhance access to mental health and addictions supports in school (News Release, December 2019).

**Intent 4: Implement a youth addictions action strategy that includes: An evaluation of substance use treatment programs**

**2022**

- Mental Health reported that an inventory has been done based on a contract with Stepped Care Solutions, but more information is needed about the evaluation component. It would be helpful for MACY to have a copy of this report.

**2021**

- Work on this part of the intent will also be on hold until a National Framework is developed.

**2020**

- One service provider, the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba (AFM), has undertaken an internal review of its youth programs that has resulted in increased occupancy at Compass as well as moving youth addiction counsellors into community organizations to improve accessibility of youth services. No actions were reported on evaluations of programs not implemented through AFM.

**Intent 5: Implement a youth addictions action strategy that includes: Implementation of policy and procedures for provincially-funded addictions services organizations that ensure ongoing training on the identification and reporting of child protection issues****2022**

- No evidence of developing and implementing policies and procedures for training staff on identifying and reporting a child in need of protection.

**2021**

- The actions taken in the last year to implement this recommendation include:
- Meeting with external stakeholders to initiate discussions of a National Needs Based Planning Framework. While this work is endorsed and recommended by experts on the subject matter, it seems that in relation to this recommendation, work for intents 1, 2, and 4 will be put on hold until this National Framework is developed.
- On March 18, 2021, the Government of Manitoba announced the creation of five new Youth Hubs that will provide mental health and addiction services, primary health care, and other social services. (<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=51010>)
- Update provided October 13: activities currently underway include:
- Developing a needs-based provincial model.
- Quarterly Needs Based Planning Advisory Committee meetings.
- Prairie Mountain Health Authority participated as a pilot site, in the development and refinement of the needs-based planning model.
- MHWR has begun to track service coverage of core services, according to the NBP model, as outlined in the VIRGO Report gap analysis. As investments are made, gaps outlined in the NBP model and the VIRGO Report are being monitored for progress towards meeting the appropriate level of service coverage. MHWR also uses the model to preliminarily measure the impact investments are having on service coverage.
- Developing an action plan/roadmap.
- MHWR is leading an engagement process, including a series of consultations, to inform an integrated, whole-of-government five-year roadmap. This will guide the work of the department, and is aligned with the department's mission to provide access to mental health and addictions support and treatment to improve the life outcomes for Manitobans in their journey through recovery and healing. This will include services and systems for children and youth.
- MHWR is in the process of hiring a consultant to conduct a system-mapping of mental health and addictions services and systems in Manitoba, which will inform the development of a Stepped-Care model.

**Analysis Summary:** While it is clear that efforts have been made to undertake an inventory of children and youth services, and also identify existing gaps, there is insufficient evidence to show that a youth addiction action strategy has been put into place. The Roadmap released by Mental Health does not focus primarily on youth. It is, therefore, insufficient as a youth addiction action strategy for children and youth. As such, this recommendation remains limitedly compliant.