

Wednesday February 1, 2017 – 9:00am to 4:00pm

Introduction

The initial meeting of the Ministerial Panel on Child Intervention was held at Government House on traditional Treaty 6 territory.

Elder Francis Whiskeyjack provided the opening prayer and focused on the panel's work to support the improvement of the system and honor the stories and histories of those who have experience with child intervention.

The initial agenda for the panel was largely focused on process and how the panel will work together to develop concrete actions focused on improving the health, safety and well-being of children, youth and their families and communities. Presentations were also provided regarding privacy legislation, an overview of the child intervention system and an introduction to the child death review process used by Children's Services following death of a child who is receiving services.

Panel Members Present:

Chair Deborah Jabbour, NDP MLA for Peace River

Annie McKittrick, MLA for Sherwood Park (alternate for Maria Fitzpatrick)

Nicole Goehring, MLA for Edmonton–Castle Downs

Graham Sucha, MLA for Calgary–Shaw

Heather Sweet, MLA for Edmonton–Manning

Cameron Westhead, MLA for Banff–Cochrane

Jason Nixon, Wildrose caucus, MLA for Rimbey–Rocky Mountain House–Sundre

Ric McIver, Interim Leader, Progressive Conservative caucus, MLA for Calgary–Hays

Dr. David Swann, Leader, Alberta Liberal caucus, MLA for Calgary–Mountain View

Greg Clark, Leader, Alberta Party caucus, MLA for Calgary–Elbow

Dr. Peter Choate, MSW, PhD, Mount Royal University

Dr. Patti LaBoucane–Benson, PhD, Native Counselling Services of Alberta

Bruce MacLaurin, MSW, University of Calgary

Honourable Danielle Larivee, Minister of Children's Services and MLA for Lesser Slave Lake

Key Panel Decisions

The panel engaged in discussions regarding the terms of reference. There was discussion to clarify that this is a review of internal and external processes and includes the engagement of other ministries, as appropriate.

The consensus model for decision making was reviewed and agreed upon by all members; the final report will clearly note when consensus was not reached.

Decisions to have in camera discussions will not be made lightly, as all panel members agree that the open and transparent nature of the panel is necessary. Privacy requirements are governed by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*; and the panel as a public body has a duty to protect the information received according to the legislation.

Summary minutes will be reviewed by panel members and posted publicly within 48 hours of the meeting. Much of the discussion was on the nature of the summary and the intent for the information to be a fair and open representation of the discussion. There was considerable discussion about the methods and level of detail required to meet the commitment to “be public and on the record”.

Engagement of the public, Indigenous leadership and communities and stakeholders was discussed with the agreement that authentic engagement of children, youth and families with lived experience was necessary to support the panel’s understanding of how the system works. The process for online submissions and written submissions was reviewed with the understanding that the members of the panel would have access to the public input.

Presentations

Privacy and the legislation:

Everett Speidel, Information Privacy Office

Panel members confirmed that plain language consents for public engagement will need to be created to support clear and informed consent to release information and that consents may need to be tailored for youth, who may be currently engaged with the system.

Child Intervention Overview:

Mark Hattori and Joni Brodziak, Child Intervention

The panel members were provided the legislative mandate to provide intervention under the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act* as well as the “matters to be considered” that drive

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MEETING SUMMARY

principled decision making. The distinction that receiving services includes everything from an intake to an open file on a child who may or may not be in care, as well as a young adult up to the age of 24, was reviewed as well as average yearly activities and caseload analysis. A brief overview of the delegation matrix and workforce currently providing services was provided along with current quality assurance processes. The datasets that are available to the public were also discussed <http://www.humanservices.alberta.ca/abuse-bullying/17395.html>.

A number of areas were identified requiring a more in-depth presentation on child intervention to support Phase 2 of the panel's work (improvements to the child intervention system). Including an understanding of the definition of neglect and emotional abuse, orders and agreements under the legislation, staffing allocations and caseload analysis, training requirements and cultural competency training specifically related to historical trauma, child intervention Standards measures (including face to face as reported by the Office of the Auditor General), screening requirements and comparison of kinship and foster care, court delays and the impact on children, the role of community agencies and support to focus on leading practice.

Internal Child Death and Serious Incident Review process:

Robert Hopkins, Office of the Statutory Director

The current internal quality assurance process for reviewing the death of a child who was receiving services was provided as well as an overview of the 73 reported deaths between April 1, 2014 to December 31, 2016. All 73 deaths have been/or are under review and 11 of these deaths have been identified for a statutory review. Four of these statutory reviews have been initiated. Additional questions related to the child death review processes in Alberta will be deferred to the next meeting.

Next Steps

The next meeting date will be Thursday, February 9 in the Windsor Room of the Federal Building. The dates and times of all Panel meetings will be posted on the public website.

The next meeting will focus on the current child death review processes in Alberta, including material from Justice and Solicitor General, Health and the Office and the Chief Medical Officer.

The website childinterventionpanel.alberta.ca and e-mail CIPanel.submissions@gov.ab.ca are available for the public to get information and/or make submissions to the Panel.