

Caught in the Middle

Year 1 Recommendations Tracking

The Representative's report *Caught in the Middle* was released in November 2019 and included six recommendations. Tracking of recommendation implementation is normally undertaken on an annual basis, however on occasion, circumstances can delay the assessment and/or posting. The public bodies provided the information for assessment in December of 2020. Assessment and posting were delayed as a result of workload circumstances affecting operational timelines. The table below shows the results for the one-year assessment.

RCY Assessment Definitions:

- **Complete** = All activities that directly support the implementation of the recommendation are complete
- **Substantial Progress** = Most of the activities that directly support the implementation of the recommendation are complete
- **Some Progress** = Some of the activities that directly support the implementation of the recommendation are complete
- **No Progress** = None of the activities that directly support the implementation of the recommendation are complete (pre-planning may be underway but there has been no progress in formal planning or implementation).

Recommendation		Ministry's Response	RCY Assessment
#1	That the Ministry of Children and Family Development bring forward to the next review of the Protocol by the Directors of Child Welfare recommendations to address shortcomings. These include the addition of cultural planning to the Protocol; clarification that when a child arrives from another province or territory without notice, the dispute resolution process may be triggered; clarification about delegation of guardianship responsibilities; and an amendment to Interprovincial Agreement forms to allow for detail	Year 1 Report	December 2021
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCFD to initiate a request to the Provincial and Territorial Directors of Child Welfare to review and amend the Protocol. • MCFD to formally recommend that the Protocol be reviewed and amended to address the concerns from the report. 	<p>Completed</p> <p>In January 2020, the Deputy Director of Child Welfare wrote a letter to the Director of Child and Youth Services in New Brunswick requesting that the Provincial and Territorial Directors of Child Welfare Committee review the report, consider the recommendation, and revise the Protocol as necessary to address the concerns in the report.</p>

	regarding financial expenditures and payment mechanisms.		
#2	<p>That the Ministry of Children and Family Development fully dedicate an Interprovincial Coordinator who will work together with an adequately resourced network of regional analysts to support, track and monitor interprovincial cases.</p> <p>MCFD to put this network in place by December 2020.</p>	Year 1 Report	December 2021
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCFD anticipated this recommendation and hired an Interprovincial Corrdinator in September 2019. • MCFD is dedicated to developing a tracking system for all Interprovincial Agreements. • MCFD plans to establish monthly Interprovincial Community of Practice meetings in order to foster collaboration with the Interprovincial Coordinator and Provincial Practice Consultants and Practice Analysts to support, track and monitor interprovincial cases. 	<p>Some Progress</p> <p>MCFD has created and filled the Interprovincial Coordinator position.</p> <p>MCFD has established monthly Interprovincial Community of Practice meetings.</p> <p>To be completed:</p> <p>MCFD continues to work on creating a tracking system for all Interprovincial Agreements.</p>
#3	<p>That the Ministry of Children and Family Development create provincial practice guidelines or policies for interprovincial cases and develop an online training course that is required for staff who work on interprovincial cases.</p> <p>MCFD to complete this work by December 2020.</p>	Year 1 Report	December 2021
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rather than create new practice guidelines or policies, MCFD plans to enhance and adapt their current guidelines for interprovincial and interterritorial case practice. • MCFD is in the process of creating a series of training materials and resources that focus on Interprovincial Placement Agreements (IPPA). They are also in the 	<p>Some Progress</p> <p>MCFD has created two information sheets on the Interprovincial Coordinator role – one for Service Delivery Area team leaders and staff, and one for Delegated Aboriginal Agency team leaders and staff. The information states that completed and signed IPPAs will be forwarded to the IPC for tracking purposes.</p>

		<p>process of creating training and information about the Interprovincial Coordinator (IPC) role. There is no indication that any of this training would be required for staff.</p>	<p>To be completed:</p> <p>MCFD is working on a proactive tracking system for Interprovincial Placement Agreements.</p> <p>It is not clear how MCFD plans to enhance and adapt the current guidelines.</p> <p>It is not clear how the creation of their training material is proceeding.</p>
<p>#4</p>	<p>That the Ministry of Children and Family Development direct staff to speak with children in care about their ethnicity and desired cultural supports/connections and record the child’s self-identified ethnicity in the ministry’s case management system.</p> <p>MCFD to complete this step by June 2020.</p>	<p>Year 1 Report</p>	<p>December 2021</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCFD is exploring having a cross-divisional working group to explore options for aggregating data on the ethnicities of the children and youth in care. • The Human Rights Commission released a report in 2020 entitled <i>Disaggregated demographic data collection in British Columbia: The Grandmother Perspective</i>. In this report, the Commission recommended the immediate collection of disaggregated demographic data in areas such as MCFD. This recommendation mirrors Recommendation #4 in RCY’s <i>Caught in the Middle</i> report. 	<p>Some Progress</p> <p>MCFD’s <i>Children and Youth in Care Policy</i> 5.7 “Identity – Respecting and Cultivating a Child/Youth’s Culture,” pp. 40-42 directs MCFD staff to support children and youth in care in identifying, understanding and cultivating their cultural heritage and identity.</p> <p>It is the opinion of the Representative that MCFD’s current policy is not sufficient to meet this recommendation. Although MCFD currently directs staff to record a child/youth’s identity and heritage in their care plan, this method</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCFD's target date was March 31, 2021. 	<p>does not make it possible to easily extract ethnicity-based data.</p> <p>Information on self-identified ethnicity remains to be recorded in the ministry's case management system.</p>
#5	<p>That the Ministry of Children and Family Development ensure a trauma-informed method is implemented in resourcing decisions for children in its care who have experienced multiple adversities in their lives.</p> <p>MCFD to have this trauma-informed method to resourcing in place by June 2021.</p>	Year 1 Report	December 2021
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCFD is committed to this recommendation through its plan to develop and implement the Trauma-Informed Guide (ongoing). MCFD had plans to have this trauma-informed method to resourcing in place by March 2020. 	<p>Significant Progress</p> <p>In August 2020, MCFD released its Trauma-Informed Practice orientation webinars, materials and resources for its staff. These materials are to go along with MCFD's Trauma-Informed Practice Guide. MCFD notes that the Trauma-Informed Practice support will be ongoing with the goal of integrating key concepts of trauma-informed approaches in its work.</p> <p>This work is ongoing, and implementation is well underway.</p>
#6	<p>As part of the Ministry of Children and Family Development's overhaul of residential services, MCFD to assess the need for residential care and treatment resources across the</p>	Year 1 Report	December 2021
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In June 2019 MCFD created a draft plan on building a responsive network of services and supports for children and youth. One of its objectives is to ensure all children 	<p>Some Progress</p>

	<p>province to accommodate children with complex needs and to create sufficient resources to meet the assessed need in a timely way.</p> <p>MCFD to complete this work by September 2021.</p>	<p>are placed in homes that are resourced to suit their individual needs, rather than in homes that are simply available. The other objective is to create specialized, treatment-focused residential care where a traditional foster home is unable to meet a child’s complex needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The in-care network of services will include trauma-informed care planning and a re-examination of the role of Contracted Residential Agencies. • In developing its care options, MCFD will develop a number of care options including out-of-care placements with extended family or community members, foster caregivers, short term residential stabilization, respite, emergency placements and long-term specialized care. • Overall, MCFD’s goal is to ensure the child’s needs, safety and well-being drive placement and supports, should they come into care. • MCFD plans to develop this framework by fall 2020 and implement it by October 2021. 	<p>MCFD appears committed to improving its ability to provide residential services to children and youth with complex needs.</p> <p>As of November 2020, MCFD started a phased implementation of the in-care service framework. This included a transformation of the role of Contracted Residential Agencies. It also started implementing other aspects of the network that support its goals of improving out-of-care arrangement options.</p>
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