

Time to Listen: Youth Voices on Substance Use **Year 2 Recommendations Tracking**

The Representative's report *Time to Listen: Youth Voices on Substance Use* was released in 2018 and included five recommendations. Tracking of recommendation implementation is undertaken on an annual basis. The table below shows the results for the Year 1 assessment, which was undertaken in February 2020 in order to provide context for the information presented in this year's 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 Mental Health and Addictions ensure that a commitment to youth engagement is embedded in its Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, that the engagement accounts for the diversity of youth who use substances, and that youth feedback informs the implementation and	Year 1 Report	
		February 2020	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MMHA is committed to embedding youth engagement in its Mental Health and Addictions Strategy (<i>A Pathway to Hope: A roadmap for making mental health and addictions care better for people in British Columbia</i> was released in June 2019). • MMHA is establishing youth advisory councils in five school districts over the next three years (in progress, target date Sep. 30, 2020) 	<p>Some progress</p> <p>It appears that MMHA is committed to embedding youth engagement in its Mental Health and Addictions Strategy.</p> <p>To be completed: Youth advisory councils to be operational by Sept. 2020.</p>
Year 2 Report		February 2021	
		Substantial Progress	

	<p>evaluation of all substance use services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MMHA has outlined the expectations in <i>A Pathway to Hope: A roadmap for making mental health and addictions care better for people in British Columbia</i> that people with lived experience inform and are leaders in mental health and addictions policy, planning and delivery of services and supports. • MMHA’s approach includes meaningful involvement of youth in the development, implementation and ongoing operations of Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) teams. MMHA will hire a District Program Developer (DPD) in each community and part of their role is to facilitate this work. To date, DPDs have been hired in Maple Ridge and Comox Valley. • Foundry has established several youth and family advisory groups. • MMHA has announced significant investments to expand youth substance use treatment beds, and accessing funding is conditional upon health authorities demonstrating how youth and family perspectives are informing the planning and ongoing quality improvement of these bed-based services. • Integrated Child and Youth Teams have been established in two school districts (Comox and Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows) and planning has begun in the three additional school districts that were announced in September 2020 (Richmond, Coast Mountains, and Okanagan-Similkameen). A service framework has been developed. 	<p>A commitment to youth engagement appears to be embedded within MMHA’s strategy.</p> <p>Ongoing: youth feedback informing implementation and evaluation.</p>
#2	<p>That the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, lead the creation of an</p>	<p>Year 1 Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MMHA in collaboration with Health and other stakeholders is currently in the pre-planning phase of developing a website that will help people search for information related to mental health and substance use online. • The first phase of the project will focus on youth content and services. This will include providing families and caregivers with credible advice on 	<p>February 2020</p> <p>Some progress</p> <p>Youth content and services is in the pre-planning phase of development.</p>

	<p>accessible and youth-friendly single source of information about all publicly funded substance use services available in the province. The information source to be available by March 31, 2020, and updated annually, at minimum.</p>	<p>the health system, evidence-based information on mental health and substance use and directing users to organizations such as Foundry where appropriate. The project is on track and will be working towards a launch in summer 2020.</p>	<p>To be completed: Youth-friendly content to be publicly available by summer 2020.</p>
		<p>Year 2 Report</p>	<p>February 2021</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MMHA in collaboration with Health and other stakeholders has worked to create The Digital Front Door, which it describes as an accessible and youth-friendly single source of information about mental health and substance use services in B.C. The Digital Front Door development included feedback from youth. The launch of this resource was delayed as COVID-19 resources were prioritized, however it was briefly ‘live’ under the brand of wellbeing.gov.bc.ca but has returned to the development phase and is now noted as “coming soon.” 	<p>Some progress</p> <p>A single source youth-friendly website is in development.</p> <p>To be completed: Youth-friendly website to be publicly available.</p>
<p>#3</p>	<p>That the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and the Ministry of Health – in association with other relevant partners – lead the development of, and ensure funding of, a comprehensive system of substance use services capable of consistently meeting the diverse</p>	<p>Year 1 Report</p>	<p>February 2020</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MMHA and Ministry of Health are committed to this recommendation and are partnering with Métis Nation BC, First Nations Health Authority and the BC Association of Friendship Centres to develop a comprehensive system of substance use services • Integrated child and youth teams will be established in five school districts over the next three years (in progress, target 2020) • Step-up and step-down mental health and substance use services that provide an alternative to hospitalization are in progress, with 20 short-term placements and two intensive day treatment programs being implemented over the next three years (in progress, Phase 1 services in 2020) 	<p>Some progress</p> <p>MMHA and Health are in the very early stages of creating a comprehensive system of substance use services for youth by launching some initiatives and expansion activities.</p> <p>To be completed:</p>

<p>needs of all youth in the context of the broader multi-sectoral continuum of care, with specific attention given to the development of culturally relevant and culturally safe services and supports for First Nations, Indigenous, Métis and Inuit youth and their families. The health authorities have a comprehensive system of substance use services for youth in place by April 2022.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundry (centres offering health and wellness resources for ages 12 to 24) will be expanded (https://foundrybc.ca/expansion2020/). These centres deliver culturally safe and humble services that embody Indigenous perspectives of health and wellness (target, March 31, 2020) • Primary care networks will be established across BC to provide quality team-based primary care services to the population of local communities and coordinating access to health authority specialized services through integration and service redesign. The goal is to have primary care networks in 70 per cent of BC communities in the next three years (in progress, target 2021/2022) 	<p>Funding and a comprehensive system of services to be in place by 2022.</p>
	<p>Year 2 Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MMHA and Ministry of Health are committed to working with other government ministries, Indigenous partners and other key groups to develop a comprehensive system of substance use services. • In Aug. 2020, an investment of \$36 million was announced to double youth substance use treatment and withdrawal management beds by adding 123 beds. Locations for the new services are being determined in consultation with health authorities. • Since the last progress update, eight additional communities and lead agencies have been selected for Foundry centre expansion. Over the past six months, establishment activities for the new centres have been initiated, including orientation, onboarding, project structures, and governance. • Foundry is continuing to develop a Reciprocal Learning and Responsibility Framework (Indigenous Cultural Safety). Foundry Central Office is creating two new positions a Lead, Indigenous Wellness and Partnerships and a Coordinator, Indigenous Engagement to implement the Framework. 	<p>February 2021</p> <p>Some progress</p> <p>MMHA and Health have made significant investments in creating a comprehensive system of substance use services for youth by advancing key initiatives and expansion activities.</p> <p>To be completed: Funding and a comprehensive system of services to be in place by 2022.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the BC Women’s Hospital-led Provincial Perinatal Substance Use Project continues. • In Sept. 2020, the Ministry of Education released the Mental Health in Schools Strategy outlining a vision and pathway for mental health promotion in the B.C. K-12 education system, with substance use education identified as a key action. 	
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<p>#4</p>	<p>That the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and the Ministry of Health lead the development of and implementation of a full spectrum of youth-specific harm reduction services, including the creation of youth-specific spaces for supervised consumption that is embedded within a system of wraparound services and supports. The full spectrum of youth harm reduction services be in place by March 31, 2020.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm reduction and youth-specific interventions are key aspects of the Pathway to Hope roadmap. Youth specific initiatives include: (a) expansion of Foundry (b) overdose prevention and response services including supervised consumption spaces and (c) Naloxone training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Expansion of Foundry (eight new centres in implementation, target date March 31, 2022). The inclusion of harm reduction and substance use services will expand as Foundry sites come online and expand to include a full suite of services. b) Youth-specific overdose prevention and response services. Examples include drug checking for youth at festivals (in progress, target March 2021) and witnessed consumption within a youth group home. Work is underway with regional health authorities to ensure accommodation for youth access to overdose prevention sites and supervised consumption with staff support (in progress, target March 2021). Currently, youth-specific overdose prevention services are being provided ad hoc or youth can access adult overdose prevention sites. In addition, harm reduction policies and guidelines are being updated to better support youth populations. c) The ministries are working with BC Centre for Disease Control to provide youth with access to take home Naloxone (In progress, target March 2020). Ongoing community trainings for overdose response and youth-specific Naloxone training materials are in development. 	<p>Some Progress</p> <p>Youth-specific harm reduction services are in development.</p> <p>To be completed: Expansion of Foundry, youth specific overdose prevention and youth to have access to Naloxone.</p>
	<p>Year 2 Report</p>	<p>February 2021</p>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoH in partnership with MMHA and health authorities is continuing to work on enhancing harm reduction service delivery principles, resources and interventions that focus on the unique needs of youth. • Foundry sites continue to provide harm reduction services to youth including the provision of harm reduction supplies, overdose prevention training, and Take-Home Naloxone (THN) in the communities they serve. • Youth over the age of 16 with a history of substance use and who meet eligibility criteria are also able to access Overdose Prevention Services (OPS) and Supervised Consumption Services. The BCCDC's youth and harm reduction guidance states that harm reduction supplies and Naloxone should be made available to all youth, following mature minor guidelines. The BCCDC policy is currently being updated to strengthen the language around providing these services to youth. • The Ministry of Education also provides information to schools on assessing risk through using the Naloxone Risk Assessment Tool as well as information on obtaining Naloxone kits, if needed. • The Ministry of Education amended the ERASE website to include substance use content that was written from a harm reduction lens, providing information to students, families and educators in a non-judgmental manner. External links were also vetted to ensure they also follow harm reduction principles. 	<p>Some Progress</p> <p>Some youth-specific harm reduction services have been developed and implemented.</p> <p>To be completed: youth-specific spaces for supervised consumption.</p>
#5	That the Ministry of Children and Family Development, in partnership with the	<p>Year 1 Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCFD and Health are developing an online training course for foster caregivers. The training incorporates how to support caregivers in having conversations about safe use with youth in care and helping 	<p>February 2020</p> <p>Some progress</p> <p>An online training program for foster parents is in</p>

<p>Ministry of Health and other relevant youth-serving organizations, develop a comprehensive training program for foster parents that addresses the context in which youth use substances and supports the development of skills to cultivate open and safe dialogue about substance use with youth.</p>	<p>support safe homes for youth to come home if they have been using (in progress, target date March 30, 2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCFD consulted with Youth Advisory Council, Ministry of Health and internal MCFD subject matter experts and the Caregiver training team on development of training program • As of Dec. 6, 2019, Health has reviewed and provided feedback on the full course outline and detailed feedback on four of the seven draft lessons that make up the training • Partner with BC Federation of Foster Parents Association to create video(s) to accompany content in Problematic Substance Use training (in progress, target March 30, 2020) • Begin implementation of training program for caregivers (not yet started, target April 1, 2020) 	<p>development. Content has been developed and consultations have occurred.</p> <p>To be completed: Finalize the training program and begin implementation by April 2020.</p>
<p>The training program be finalized by October 1, 2019, with training for all foster parents to begin immediately thereafter.</p>	<p>Year 2 Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCFD has collaborated with Health to develop an online training course for foster caregivers called <u>Supporting Open and Safe Dialogue about Substance Use</u>. The project team included two members of the Youth Advisory Council and Health subject matter experts as their schedules allowed. <p>This course has been added as a module in the new mandatory In-Service training (effective Dec. 2019) for foster caregivers and is also available as a stand-alone course for caregivers who completed In-Service training prior to Dec. 31/19. Since the pilot in April 2020, 324 learners have been registered in the new In-Service training and 102 learners have registered for the stand-alone course as of Nov. 4, 2020.</p>	<p>February 2021</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>An online training program has been developed and implemented for foster parents that addresses the context in which youth use substances and supports the development of skills to cultivate open and safe dialogue about substance use with youth.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The course was piloted in April 2020. As part of the pilot, participants and subject matter experts were given the opportunity to provide feedback, which was incorporated into the final product.• MCFD partnered with BC Federation of Foster Parents Association (BCFFPA) to create a video to accompany content in the substance use training module.• MCFD will review and update the substance use training module approximately every two years.	
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