

**Deputy Ministers' Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth Recommendations  
Action Planning (MACY-RAP) Committee June Report**

**June 16, 2020**

---

In April 2019, the Government of Manitoba provided a report to the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY) on government actions undertaken to date in response to the MACY recommendations from the October 2019 MACY report titled "*Documenting the Decline: The Dangerous Space between Good Intentions and Meaningful Interventions*" ("Circling Star").

At that time, it was advised that whole of government reports would be released twice annually, once in June and once in December, on a go forward basis. As a result, the following report contains updates and actions undertaken associated with all MACY reports and recommendations currently underway.

**The report on the recommendations from *Documenting the Decline: The Dangerous Space between Good Intentions and Meaningful Interventions* was provided to the MACY on December 13, 2019. Please see updates from that report below:**

**RECOMMENDATION ONE:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Province of Manitoba respond to the persistent lack of coordination between services for children and youth by developing and implementing a provincial strategy to train service providers on the requirement to share information across systems and ensure children and youth are at the centre of all service provision. This is to be developed, delivered, and evaluated in consultation with Manitoba Education and Training, Manitoba Families, Manitoba Justice, and Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living.

Status of implementation: In Progress

**June 2020**

The Protecting Children (Information Sharing) Act (PCISA) Train the Trainer sessions for school divisions occurred during three sessions in November-December 2019. Representatives from all 37 school divisions as well as the Manitoba First Nations School System completed training and are identified as designates who can access the Manitoba Professional Learning Environment (MaPLE) platform for training materials and updates. In addition, a number of related groups (e.g., Clinician discipline groups, School Resource Officers) have also received PCISA presentations.

A planned survey of school division trainers in May 2020 has been postponed due to suspension of classes during the COVID-19 pandemic response and is expected to be completed as soon as feasible in the 2020/21 school year.

Manitoba Families has continued to provide training to staff as requested and has made online training available to all government staff on its intranet website.

In January 2020, a cross-sectoral Train the Trainer session was held with representatives of Child and Family Services Authorities and agencies, Regional Health Authorities, and youth justice service providers. A total of 67 individuals participated in the session. Following the session, organizers incorporated feedback from participants and sent updated material to those who attended. The interdepartmental committee responsible for the session plans to request that those who attended the train the trainer session report back on how many sessions they have led. The work to increase awareness of the PCISA was temporarily suspended during spring 2020 to focus on the COVID-19 response, but has recently resumed.

Amendments to the PCISA have been proposed by [The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2020](#). The primary amendment would add a section allowing sharing information to support children's programming. These provisions currently exist under the Healthy Child Manitoba Act. Should these amendments come into force, the PCISA would be renamed the Protecting and Supporting Children (Information Sharing) Act.

The Department of Families has begun revising training material to reflect the proposed changes to the act. It should be noted that the amendments would not alter the previous provisions of the PCISA or affect how trustees or service providers may share information.

## **RECOMMENDATION TWO:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Department of Education and Training through Healthy Child Manitoba (HCM), and with participation from all school divisions, conduct an urgent review of the current use of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions, and develop a province-wide strategy to limit, reduce, and phase-out exclusionary practices, except in situations of imminent safety risk to students and staff. This review and strategy should provide evidence-informed disciplinary alternatives that are in line with the best interests of the child and respect the right of children and youth to education.

### Status of implementation: In Progress

A working group with participation from Manitoba Education, School Division Superintendents, The Manitoba School Boards Association, and The University of Winnipeg have received feedback from school divisions on how school divisions are tracking suspensions and chronic absenteeism. The information will be used to form a template that can be used consistently across school divisions to report on suspension and chronic absenteeism rates. This data will provide an evidence base to inform strategies to identify trends and reduce the use of suspensions, particularly in instances

where there is not an identified imminent safety risk to students or staff. Work on this initiative is targeted to resume in the fall of 2020 with the return to in-class instruction.

### **RECOMMENDATION THREE:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends the Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living implement, in full, recommendation 5.4, per the Virgo report, as follows: *“Establish a concerted cross-sectoral process to reduce perceived and real jurisdictional boundaries that challenge access to, and coordination of, services. The process of developing this [Manitoba’s Mental Health and Addictions] Strategy, as well as any new opportunities and resources for working together (e.g., through Jordan’s Principle), should be viewed as an accelerator of a new period of trust and collaboration based on shared beliefs and strengths among all partners, and should include an interest in wellness, hope and family/community health.”* (MHA Strategy p.237)

Status: In Progress

Summary of activities completed since the December 13, 2019 report:

The VIRGO Implementation Project Team has continued to work with the cross-departmental working group (with representatives from Education and Training, Families and Justice) to improve mental health and addiction services for all youth in Manitoba.

The Manitoba government interdepartmental Jordan’s Principle working group continued to meet in the early part of 2020, and officials from the Department of Families met with federal officials for updates on the implementation of Jordan’s Principle in Manitoba in January 2020.

Since March 2020, work on Jordan’s Principle has been suspended while the government focuses on the COVID response. Work is set to resume beginning in June 2020.

### **RECOMMENDATION FOUR:**

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, 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 standard of health.

Status: Alternate Solution

Summary of activities completed since the December 13, 2019 report:

Since December, 2019 there has been significant work happening across Government to improve access to mental health and addiction services to children and youth in Manitoba. Two initiatives in particular have been completely or partially implemented as shown below:

- **Community Emergency Department Violence Intervention Program (CEDVIP):** This program assists youth presenting with violence-related injuries to Health Sciences Centre Adult and Children's Emergency Departments. Youth who accept services receive wraparound care in the community for approximately one year to address the issues they identify as putting them at risk of future violence. CEDVIP staff build meaningful relations and support the plan of care as directed by the youth involved. The team is integrated with the Health Outreach and Community Support team and Housing Supports and Service Integration and works closely with other community partners. **Newcomer Trauma-Focused Services:** This initiative will bring together community organizations (Aurora Family Therapy Centre, Family Dynamics and Immigration Partnership Winnipeg) and the formal health system (Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre) to provide mid- to long-term trauma informed, culturally safe therapy to youth and adults suffering from moderate to severe Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other mental illnesses.

**RECOMMENDATION FIVE:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Department of Justice improve communication across the divisions within its department, including probation services, victim services, and prosecution services, as well as with the legal community (e.g. legal aid), and the courts to ensure that probation orders are relevant, effective, child-centred, realistic (given limitations in remote and rural communities), and achievable. The Advocate further recommends that the Department of Justice evaluate their capacity to provide the programming for youth to meet their probation conditions and determine whether or not existing programs and services are sufficient and accessible to youth living in rural and remote locations. When gaps are identified, strategies for culturally appropriate alternatives and program delivery need to be developed.

Status: In Progress

Summary of activities completed since the December 13, 2019 report:

In June 2020 the Department of Justice received a request from the office of the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY), asking for more detail on the responses to this recommendation provided in December, 2019. The Department is currently working on answering each of these questions and these expanded responses will be provided to MACY as soon as possible.

- As reported in December 2019, Manitoba Justice continues to attend the Judge Liaison Meeting along with representatives from Prosecution Services and Defence. Further detail of these meetings will be provided as per the above mentioned request.

- Probation Services meets regularly with representatives from the Crown Attorneys office to ensure communication between these two groups and address challenges that may arise in working with each other.
- The Reclaiming Our Identity program has not been offered since the beginning of the pandemic as all group programming has been stopped at this time. Individual work with youth as it relates to this and other programming, continues to be offered by custody and community staff.
- The FASD docket that was spoken to in the December 2019 report, continues to operate. Responses to the specific questions posed by MACY in the recent request for information will be provided as soon as possible.
- The review of the youth justice system continues. A more thorough explanation of the progress made to date is attached.

### **RECOMMENDATION SIX:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Department of Families in partnership with the Child and Family Services (CFS) Authorities: (1) clarify training content and expectations of workers and supervisors with respect to CFS minimum provincial standards, and (2) prioritize the development of high quality, culturally appropriate, modernized, and accessible training on the minimum provincial service standards within two years. The Advocate further recommends that all existing workers who have not received training on minimum standards and all new CFS workers be required to complete this training within three to six months.

Status: In Progress

#### Summary of activities completed since the December 13, 2019 report:

As previously noted, the content and training on CFS Standards in Manitoba will be significantly affected by two major developments: anticipated legislation change from the recommendations of The Child Welfare Legislative Review Committee, and the new federal legislation, An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families. Once these developments are in a later stage, a more comprehensive approach to training can be developed by the four CFS Authorities, who hold primary responsibility for training of agency staff.

As noted, the Child Welfare Legislative Review Committee made a number of recommendations to the Province for changes as part of child welfare transformation in Manitoba. These included a number of recommendations to make changes to the CFS Act, which are currently under review. Changes to the CFS Act and the other work on child welfare transformation requires changes to the Regulations as well as the CFS Standards. Once this direction is finalized, there will need to be updated communication and training for CFS agency staff on new requirements and guidelines. When that is determined in partnership with the Authorities, the Department will ensure MACY is advised as to the next steps and updates.

In the interim, the CFS Authorities continue their scheduled training for staff on the CFS Standards. Because this is part of the role of the Authorities, MACY may wish to contact

the Authorities directly should ongoing information about dates of programming and staff participation numbers be required.

The new federal legislation came into force on January 1, 2020, and was a component of the shared federal-provincial-territorial (FPT) goal of reducing the number of Indigenous children and youth in care. Section 12 of the federal legislation has a requirement to provide notice to an Indigenous child's parent, caregiver and relevant Indigenous Governing Body (IGB) before service providers (including provincial CFS agencies) take any significant measure regarding the provision of CFS to the child.

The work of the Child and Family Services Division in response to this new law will result in updates to CFS Standards to reflect these new responsibilities.

- On October 15, 2019, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Child and Youth Services Division (CYSD) proposed to the CFS Standing Committee that a National Standards Working Group be established to develop a Notice of Significant Measures process to be used by all agencies and Authorities when an IGB requests notification under Section 12. Standing Committee asked the Department of Families to lead this work with members from each Authority participating in the working group.
- The CYSD has been supporting the four CFS Authorities in establishing protocols and materials to support CFS agencies addressing the requirements for notification under Section 12. Each Authority will be responsible to ensure their agencies are in compliance with Section 12, recognizing that each First Nation community will be working with their CFS agency in various capacities to ensure seamless delivery of services and building their own family law for compliance with Federal legislation.

**Manitoba's progress on the recommendations from *In Need of Protection: Angel's Story*, released December 13, 2018, is below:**

#### **RECOMMENDATION ONE:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Education and Training, Manitoba Families, Manitoba Justice, and Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living engage with experts in childhood trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in order to develop a trauma prevention and response plan of action to (a) educate service providers and the public on ACEs, and (b) create appropriate, accessible immediate and long-term evidence-informed interventions to address the trauma crisis that is ongoing in Manitoba.

Status: In Progress

#### Summary of activities completed since the December 13, 2019 report:

The following Health, Seniors and Active Living led initiatives underway since December 2019 are either directly or indirectly related to this recommendation:

Directly:

- Newcomer Trauma-Focused Services: This initiative will bring together community organizations (Aurora Family Therapy Centre, Family Dynamics and Immigration Partnership Winnipeg) and the formal health system (Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre) to provide mid- to long-term trauma informed, culturally safe therapy to youth and adults suffering from moderate to severe Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other mental illnesses.
- Funding was provided to Prairie Mountain Health to provide Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for Children and Adolescents training to a minimum of 15 staff.

Indirectly:

- Community Emergency Department Violence Intervention Program (CEDVIP): This program assists youth presenting with violence-related injuries to Health Sciences Centre Adult and Children's Emergency Departments. Youth who accept services receive wraparound care in the community for approximately one year to address the issues they identify as putting them at risk of future violence. CEDVIP staff build meaningful relations and support the plan of care as directed by the youth involved. The team is integrated with the Health Outreach and Community Support team and Housing Supports and Service Integration and works closely with other community partners.
- Funding was provided to the Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre (MATC) to provide at least six community-based MATC staff with training in Dialectical Behaviour Therapy treatment for high-risk youth, supporting targeted treatment for highly vulnerable community youth.

Department of Families:

Trauma and Resilience Training was designed and developed by the Department Training Unit in 2017. This one-day no-cost session provides staff with appropriate and effective ways to support participants/clients struggling with the effects of trauma, and to implement trauma and resilience informed approaches.

In the fall of 2019, this training was made mandatory for some branches within the Employment and Income Assistance program.

As of March 12, 2020, 506 Department of Families employees have received this training. The 506 staff members trained are from the following program areas: Early Learning and Child Care, Employment and Income Assistance, Child and Family Services, Centralized Services and Resources, Family Conciliation, and Manitoba Housing.

This training has been delivered to staff in Winnipeg, the Pas, Dauphin, Swan River, Morden, Selkirk, Steinbach, Portage La Prairie, and Brandon.

The Department of Families includes the issue of trauma in the two day working with refugees training, which is provided to staff at no cost. To date, 270 Families staff have completed this training.

On June 19, 2020, the Province announced an investment of more than \$675,000 over three years in a successful youth-led mental health and addictions prevention program. PAX Dream Makers, a youth engagement and leadership initiative that will provide two years of training and engagement to an additional 88 youth from Northern First Nation communities, Rolling River and other school divisions. Research has shown that students who participate in PAX do better in school and are more likely to graduate from high school. Participants need fewer special education services, have better mental health (including fewer suicidal thoughts/attempts), have fewer smoking, alcohol and drug addictions, and are less involved in crime into their adult years. This program promotes mental wellness and will help prevent future trauma to the participants. More information about this announcement can be found at this link: [Province of Manitoba | News Releases | Manitoba Invests More Than \\$675,000 in Youth-Led Mental Health and Addictions Initiative](#).

Manitoba's four CFS Authorities provide continuous and ongoing training on the effects of trauma to their agency staff. MACY may wish to contact the CFS Authorities directly for additional details about the training and staff participation under their jurisdiction.

#### **RECOMMENDATION TWO:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Department of Families, in collaboration with Manitoba Education and Training, Manitoba Justice, and Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living, in consultation with Manitoba Status of Women, Indigenous and Northern Relations, the Winnipeg Police Service and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, (1) expand StreetReach, Winnipeg Outreach Network (WON), and culturally appropriate services in First Nations and rural and remote communities; and (2) independently evaluate and then update Tracia's Trust: Manitoba's Sexual Exploitation Strategy.

Status: In Progress

Summary of activities completed since the December 13, 2019 report:

Work to enhance StreetReach services has adapted to ensure the health and safety of youth and staff around Covid-19. The hiring of new positions with Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre in Winnipeg and Macdonald Youth Services in Thompson moved to a virtual model. Alternative models of service delivery to protect youth and staff as much as possible from risks of exposure to COVID-19 include increased use of virtual and remote supports where appropriate; ensuring vital in person work with high-risk youths continues with appropriate protective personal equipment for staff as well as for youths when possible and appropriate; development of online resources for spiritual and cultural supports; new short-term model of individual land based work rather than in large groups by Clan Mothers. While intended to address the current Covid-19 response, the increased flexibility of resources will help in increasing access for services to youths in remote locations.

In addition, the April 8, 2020, announcement by government to extend services to youths aging out of the child welfare system during Covid-19 response will ensure some of the



most vulnerable continue to receive uninterrupted supports during this unprecedented time.

Community partners working with the Province and StreetReach on these initiatives previously announced are the Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre, Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, Macdonald Youth Services, Clan Mothers, and Neecheewam Inc.

Unforeseen complications in building renovations means the full opening of the Neecheewam treatment facility, Safe Access for Everyone (SAFE), will occur during summer 2020. In the interim, Neecheewam has hired two staff who have begun the work of relationship building with youths involved in StreetReach Winnipeg and staying in Strong Hearts Crisis Stabilization Unit. These youths will be the main group referred to the facility. Neecheewam will develop individualized case plans for each child, working with their guardian and other involved services. The placement will not be locked, in keeping with feedback received from community and youths, and in keeping with the temporary use of a non-locked facility for Strong Hearts. The open nature of the placement is considered essential in developing the needed trust relationships to increase successful treatment, required flexibility of admission, and in reflection of the long history of colonization, residential schools and ongoing racism faced by most of the youths involved with StreetReach and their families. Youth will be able to self-refer to the locked Crisis Stabilization Unit located in the same building. Family, community supports and positive connections to support an individual's healing journey will have access to the youth in the facility.

Evaluation of the StreetReach enhancements, land based healing through Clan Mothers, and Neecheewam will be part of a larger evaluation of services provided through the bi-lateral funding agreement. All the involved programs have been involved in the design of the evaluation. In addition, Neecheewam will also undertake an internal evaluation. Expansion of services after 2021/2022 will be determined in the future.

### **RECOMMENDATION THREE:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Communication Services Manitoba, Manitoba Education and Training, Manitoba Families, Manitoba Justice, Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living, Manitoba Status of Women, and Manitoba Indigenous and Northern Relations collaborate with youth advisory groups, the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, Winnipeg Police Service, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Indigenous and community organizations, and the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth to carry out ongoing public education via awareness campaigns that (a) denounce the sexual exploitation of children and youth and (b) raise awareness about the ongoing demand for purchasing sex and/or sexually exploiting children and youth in Manitoba.

Status: Complete – Ongoing

Summary of activities completed since the December 13, 2019 report:

Additional work undertaken by the Child and Youth Services Division, and the Tracia's Trust regional teams to increase public education and awareness about sexual exploitation includes:

- 2020 Stop Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Week. The signing of this proclamation by the Province is used to highlight this issue with media and the public.
- The Sexual Exploitation Unit partnered with the Advisory Council of Knowledge Keepers to host the Stop Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Forum during the Awareness Week on March 10 and 11, 2020. This free public awareness annual event is funded by the Province, and attended by representatives from each regional team and is open to all service stakeholders and community including Non-government organizations and surrounding First Nation community representatives. It is promoted by the Province on social media sites. This year's Key Note Speaker presented on the safety around the use of technology; her personal and professional passion is to provide current and relevant tools and information to children and adults to help them use their various forms and technology and social media as safely as possible. Attendance for the two days was approximately 225 people.
- The Department of Families Sexual Exploitation Unit partnered with the Department of Education on February 14, 2020 (Annual Memorial March for Manitoba for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2Spirited), for a one day awareness workshop for educators. Presentations were made by: Sheila North, the StreetReach Unit, staff from New Directions for Children, Youth, Adults and Families, Physical Education and Health Consultant/ Guidance Counsellor (Lessons from the classroom). The day included an overview of the Tracia's Trust Strategy, as well as an interactive discourse in smaller groups between participants and representatives from Winnipeg Police Service, Canadian Centre for Child Protection, New Directions.
- Most regional teams include yearly youth engagement initiatives that focus on sexual exploitation such as online contests, video series, surveys and various online platform tools. These are paid for by the Province. Examples of the recent initiatives include:
  - The Brandon regional team has created and distributed pop sockets featuring messaging surrounding consent. They have also developed a snap chat filter with the same messaging. This team participates in a yearly career symposium targeted at teens where they distribute the pop socket and facilitate conversations about sexual health, consent and sexual exploitation.
  - Northern teams (Norway House and Thompson) have participated in local community radio shows to discuss sexual exploitation with their communities.
  - In 2019 the Steinbach regional team hosted "The realities of human trafficking in Manitoba" event.
  - The Southeast regional team organized workshops for First Nations Communities that included sexual exploitation education, prevention and

safety information for community members while in urban settings. They also regularly organize workshops for grades 10-12 students and staff at Southeast Collegiate. The event features the same information as listed above with focus on safety info for students relocating to an urban setting from isolated communities.

- Pine Falls hosted Val Caldwell- internet safety expert to present at local schools and in the evening for parents.
- Flin Flon hosted a play called “Love Bomb”- a play about exploitation geared towards high school age youth in their region and team members regularly facilitate programming surrounding exploitation to local schools.
- The Sexual Exploitation Unit is working in collaboration with the Department of Families training unit to develop a 1 day pilot training curriculum to inform all Families staff and build an awareness framework. This pilot training curriculum will be evaluated for potential use outside of the Department of Families.

On March 6, 2020, the Province announced new funding for the Canadian Centre for Child Protection to launch an awareness campaign to combat online sexual exploitation of children. More details about that announcement can be found in the press release: <https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=46912&posted=2020-03-06>

Media coverage of this announcement, as well as those related to the enhancement of services and supports for sexually exploited youths, add to increasing public awareness and knowledge about this issue. The target of this campaign to increase awareness of exploitation online is for ages 9 – 12 years, and is timely given concerns about increased potential risk to children due to increased reliance on technology and group virtual contacts while schools are closed due to Covid-19.

The work of public education and awareness about sexual exploitation of children and youth must be ongoing and sustained. The focus of it will need to change at different moments in time to reflect current needs and concerns. And the leadership of such work must be driven by community, as was outlined in the Tracia’s Trust research report findings.

Given Manitoba’s history of colonization, its ongoing impact and racism, it is particularly important that Indigenous community leaders are directing community partnerships in action on this issue. The Tracia’s Trust Strategy provides a structure for community-based partnerships with local Indigenous leaders.

Manitoba is committed to ongoing and repeated public awareness and education campaigns with our community partners.

#### **RECOMMENDATION FOUR:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Minister of Families, through the Child and Family Services Division (CFSD), in collaboration with the four child and family services Authorities, (1) conduct an evidence-informed review and update of existing provincial service standards, and (2) establish province-wide measures of service

accountability through a provincial quality assurance framework. Both the service standards and the quality assurance measures must be consistent throughout the province, culturally appropriate, and supported and enforced by the governing child and family services Authorities within their child and family services agencies. As per provincial legislation, quality assurance measures at the authority level must then be assessed and monitored by the Minister of Families.

Status: In Progress

Summary of activities completed since the December 13, 2019 report:

See response to Circling Star Recommendation #6

#### **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.

Status: In Progress

Summary of activities completed since the December 13, 2019 report:

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living is committed to addressing the needs of youth by improving residential and non-residential treatment options for youth with mental health and addiction issues. For example, since December, 2019 the province has fully or partially implemented the following initiatives:

- **Community Emergency Department Violence Intervention Program (CEDVIP):** This program assists youth presenting with violence-related injuries to Health Sciences Centre Adult and Children's Emergency Departments. Youth who accept services receive wraparound care in the community for approximately one year to address the issues they identify as putting them at risk of future violence. CEDVIP staff build meaningful relations and support the plan of care as directed by the youth involved. The team is integrated with the Health Outreach and Community Support team and Housing Supports and Service Integration and works closely with other community partners.
- **Newcomer Trauma-Focused Services:** This initiative will bring together community organizations (Aurora Family Therapy Centre, Family Dynamics and Immigration Partnership Winnipeg) and the formal health system (Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre) to provide mid- to long-term trauma informed, culturally safe therapy to youth and adults suffering from moderate to severe Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other mental illnesses.

As previously reported, the Department of Families has also been working to address this recommendation through the development of a new residential treatment facility by Neecheewam Inc., as well as expanded addictions supports for sexually exploited youths

through the relocation of AFM staff, the development of land based healing services from Clan Mothers, and the new enhanced services through StreetReach in Winnipeg as well as expansion to Thompson. These initiatives were developed in keeping with the Tracia's Trust research report and were community led.

As previously noted under recommendation two of this report, implementation of these services has been affected by COVID-19. This includes, as outlined in more detail above, the move to using more virtual contacts for hiring and where appropriate in direct contact with youths, and development of plans for safe in person contact which continues to be essential for youths due to their high risk of being harmed. As noted previously, other innovations have taken place such as the development of online spiritual and cultural resources and models of land based work in small groups without requirements of travel together. Other details about the status of the Neecheewam treatment facility, SAFE, are provided under the response to recommendation two of this report.

### **RECOMMENDATION SIX:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living, in collaboration with the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba and other stakeholders, amend The Youth Drug Stabilization (Support for Parents) Act so that longer warrants or successive warrants are possible to ensure children and youth get the medically supported withdrawal management services they need based on evidence-informed treatment best practices for addictions (e.g. methamphetamine, alcohol, opioids).

Status: No Change

#### Summary of activities completed since the December 13, 2019 report:

The issue is still being reviewed and therefore, there is no change in the report from last December.

**Manitoba's progress on the recommendations from *Learning from Nelson Mandela: A Report on the use of Solitary Confinement and Pepper Spray in Manitoba Youth Custody Facilities*, released February 21, 2019, is below:**

### **RECOMMENDATION ONE:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Manitoba government and Manitoba Justice amend *The Correctional Services Act* to prohibit the solitary confinement of youth for a period exceeding 24 hours, per the Nelson Mandela Rules.

Status: In Progress

#### Summary of activities completed since the December 13, 2019 report:

More detailed answers to the specific questions, which were recently received by the Department of Justice, will be provided as soon as possible.

- Manitoba Justice does not practice solitary confinement as defined by the Nelson Mandela Rules.

- Placing youth in Observation is done in accordance with the Youth Observation Policy and is done only as a last resort and only to the extent necessary.
- The Youth Observation Policy has previously been provided to MACY.
- All information regarding youth placed in Observation is provided to MACY quarterly. However, MACY has requested that during the pandemic, this information be provided monthly. This process began with the April 2020 information and will continue as has been requested.

#### **RECOMMENDATION TWO:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Manitoba government and Manitoba Justice restrict the use of any form of segregation under 24 hours in youth custody facilities through an amendment to *The Correctional Services Regulation*.

Status: In Progress

Summary of activities completed since the December 13, 2019 report:

- The Youth Observation Policy has been provided to MACY.
- Further information, as has been recently requested, will be forthcoming.

#### **RECOMMENDATION THREE:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Justice collect, track, analyse, and report on incidents of segregation across youth custody facilities to ensure transparency and accountability.

Status: In Progress

Summary of activities completed since the December 13, 2019 report:

- The tracking forms for both Provincial Youth Custody Centres are provided to MACY quarterly.
- As of April 2020, they are being provided monthly, as per MACY's request during the pandemic.

#### **RECOMMENDATION FOUR:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Justice immediately prohibit the use of pepper spray in youth custody facilities except in situations of immediate risk to life\* to correctional staff or other youth in custody by amending *The Correctional Services Regulation*.

Status: Complete

Summary of activities completed since the December 13, 2019 report:

Further information has been requested by MACY and will be forthcoming.

#### **RECOMMENDATION FIVE:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Justice respond to the overrepresentation of youth with mental illnesses, cognitive vulnerabilities,

and childhood trauma by developing an action plan with Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living and Manitoba Families for the implementation of evidence informed and culturally-safe therapeutic behavioural management alternatives to solitary confinement and pepper spray, with the goals of enhancing the rehabilitation and successful reintegration of youth into Manitoba communities, reducing recidivism, and improving the public safety of all Manitobans.

Status of implementation: In Progress

Summary of activities completed since the December 13, 2019 report:

- The Youth Justice Review is in progress. Further information on this review is attached.
- Additional information has been requested by MACY and will be forthcoming.

#### **RECOMMENDATION SIX:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Justice and Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living immediately embark on the development of a specialized health facility led and run by mental health professionals to provide evidence-informed programming for youth with mental illnesses or cognitive vulnerabilities in custody, including youth who are found not criminally responsible.

Status: In Progress

Summary of activities completed since the December 13, 2019 report:

The Youth Justice Review is in progress. Further information on this review is attached.

**Manitoba's progress on the recommendations from *A Place Where it Feels Like Home: The Story of Tina Fontaine, released March 12, 2019*, is below:**

#### **RECOMMENDATION ONE:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Education and Training ensure its recently established *Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education* review the measurement of and response to absenteeism across Manitoba. It is further recommended that the Commission review the use of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions, with the goal of developing a province-wide strategy to limit, reduce, and phase-out exclusionary practices, except in situations of imminent safety risk to students and staff. This review and strategy should provide evidence-informed practices that are in line with the best interests of the child and respect the right to education for children and youth.

Status of implementation: Complete

The Minister of Education informed The Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education that the issue of student absenteeism is a priority and should be included in their review. In addition, see response to recommendation two from ***Documenting the***

***Decline: The Dangerous Space between Good Intentions and Meaningful Interventions.***

**RECOMMENDATION TWO:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living expedite the public release of a clear implementation plan to address the child and youth-specific recommendations contained in the report on *Improving Access and Coordination of Mental Health and Addiction Services: A Provincial Strategy for all Manitobans* (“Virgo Report”).

Status: Complete Alternate Solution

Summary of activities completed since the December 13, 2019 report:

Since December, 2019 there has been significant work happening across Government to improve access to mental health and addiction services to children and youth in Manitoba.

Since the Virgo Report, MHSAL has invested in the development of a health system wide transformation plan called the Manitoba Clinical and Preventive Services Plan. A key component of the plan, would be the development of a coordinated services plan for mental health and addictions. Various planning tables are underway but with Covid19, some of the work had to temporarily focus their efforts on the pandemic.

As stated in December, an alternate solution is being proposed for this recommendation which includes the implementation of initiatives to improve access and coordination of mental health and addiction services for children and youth. For example:

- To help Manitobans age 16 and over experiencing mild to moderate anxiety due to COVID-19, the province is providing up to \$4.5 Million to Morneau Shepell, Canada’s leading provider of technology-enabled HR services, to launch an internet-based Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (iCBT) program free of charge. Youth who may not be comfortable seeking help for their anxiety, especially during the pandemic, can access this service and be connected with a clinician from the comfort and privacy of their own home.
- Other initiatives include the Community Emergency Department Violence Intervention Program (CEDVIP) that assists youth presenting with violence-related injuries to Health Sciences Centre Adult and Children’s Emergency Departments along with the Newcomer Trauma-Focused Services that brings together community organizations (Aurora Family Therapy Centre, Family Dynamics and Immigration Partnership Winnipeg) and the formal health system (Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre) to provide mid- to long-term trauma informed, culturally safe therapy to youth and adults suffering from moderate to severe Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other mental illnesses. Additionally, an investment in mental wellness for youths of over \$675,000 over three years was made in the PAX program (details noted under the response to Angel’s Story, Recommendation One).



**RECOMMENDATION THREE:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Justice evaluate the continuum of Victim Support Services for children and develop quality control measures to ensure that services are child centred and provided in a timely manner.

Status: complete

**RECOMMENDATION FOUR:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Manitoba government, through its Deputy Ministers of Health and Social Policy and Priorities (DMHSPP) committee, work with the government's Legislation and Strategic Policy Branch to analyse the province of Alberta's *Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act* and Alberta's *Drug-Endangered Children Act* to determine how safe and secure treatment facilities can be introduced in Manitoba. It is further recommended that the DMHSPP committee develop a plan to ensure the continuum of services for children and youth includes safe, secure, home-like settings for treatment and programming when children and youth are at imminent risk of harm or death.

Status: In Progress

Summary of activities completed since the December 13, 2019 report:

Please refer to response to Recommendations #5 and #6 in In Need of Protection: Angel's Story.

**RECOMMENDATION FIVE:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Families, in consultation with other government departments and relevant stakeholders, create a new protocol to ensure that response plans are created for missing youth in general, and sexually exploited youth in particular who are at risk of imminent harm.

Status: As previously submitted – Complete, ongoing

Summary of activities completed since the December 13, 2019 report:

Update: The collaborative work between the Department of Families, CFS Authorities and Agencies and law enforcement must be ongoing and continuous. The previous collaboration between Winnipeg Police Services, the Department of Families, and care providing organizations and related follow-up work was in response to this need and is reported to have helped provide clarity and improvements to reporting. This collaboration will change over time, and new approaches will be required at different times in response to changing situations, development of new ideas, evolving understanding of best practices, and new initiatives.

The Department of Families continues to provide training to group care providers on incident reporting which includes protocol for calling in youth who are absent from placement.

StreetReach coordinates High Risk Victim Response Plan when a youth is deemed a high-risk victim for sexual exploitation, in coordination with WPS. These are bi-annual response plan meetings organized with invitations to key collaterals to create a plan for the youth when missing.

For all youth attached to StreetReach, the case managers are continually engaged in planning through systems meetings etc. There are internal guidelines in place for how to prioritize when youth are away from placement, which includes following the missing list daily from WPS to track frequency and length of time a youth is missing (key indicator of risk), and connecting with social workers to see about communication the youth may have had.

StreetReach also watch for youth not known to the program, but who may be frequently on the Missing Person's list, as these youths are at greatest risk for victimization and violence when not in placement/safe place. StreetReach will then reach out to the youth's legal guardian to advise of the program and encourage a referral so we can get involved and mitigate risk as best as possible.

While the enhancement and expansion of services to Thompson is in the early stages of development, StreetReach Winnipeg will coordinate with RCMP and Brandon Police Service if a missing child is believed to be in Winnipeg.

Additionally, the work of StreetReach with law enforcement includes not simply support around reporting of missing high risk youths, but also work together to identify alleged offenders and suspects, and support tracking to help hold offenders accountable.

As previously submitted, the enhancement of StreetReach services in Winnipeg and in Thompson will provide additional supports to this work with law enforcement.

**Manitoba's progress on the recommendations from *The Slow Disappearance of Matthew: A Family's Fight for Youth Mental Health Care in the Wake of Bullying and Mental Illness* released on February 27, 2020, is below:**

**RECOMMENDATION ONE:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Education, in conjunction with Manitoba school divisions, highlight and promote the provincial learning objectives that focus on mental health literacy and mental well-being coping skills for all students from Grades K-12. Secondly, Manitoba Education and Manitoba school divisions should ensure that training is available to all teachers that will support and facilitate their classroom skills in mental health promotion.

Status of implementation: Pending

Summary of activities:

Manitoba Education and school divisions are committed to promoting the mental well-being of all students. Classroom initiatives such as Thrival Kits, Project 11, Community

Schools mental health expansion, PAX, PAX Dream Makers, and We Well-Being are underway in many school divisions across the province with a focus on teacher training and student learning in the area of mental health promotion. Consultation with school divisions will occur in the fall of 2020 in the context of the social-emotional impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and responding to presenting student mental health needs.

#### **RECOMMENDATION TWO:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Department of Education, with participation from all school divisions, develop a province-wide policy to limit, reduce, and phase-out exclusionary practices, except in situations of imminent safety risk to students and staff. This policy should provide evidence-informed disciplinary alternatives that are in line with the best interests of the child and respect the right of children and youth to education.

Status of implementation: In Progress

#### Summary of activities:

See response to recommendation two from ***Documenting the Decline: The Dangerous Space between Good Intentions and Meaningful Interventions.***

#### **RECOMMENDATION THREE:**

*Safe and Caring Schools: A Whole School Approach to Planning for Safety and Belonging* is a valuable tool created by the Department of Education and is an example of best practices for creating positive school environments. The Manitoba Advocate recommends that Manitoba Education continue its work to promote these supporting documents with Manitoba school divisions because all schools in Manitoba should be implementing the optional tools in the *Safe and Caring Schools* supporting documents.

Status of implementation: In Progress

#### Summary of activities:

The Department of Education continues to promote this resource as a tool to create positive school environments. Professional development on the implementation of a whole school approach to safety and belonging will be a part of the summer institute for educators in August 2020 and upon request during the 2020/21 school year.

#### **RECOMMENDATION FOUR:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Health, Seniors, and Active Living, along with representatives from Shared Health, children's emergency staff and child and adolescent psychiatry - in accordance with their master plan overview of Health Sciences Centre - evaluate practices at the Health Sciences Centre – Children's Hospital Emergency Room, with the intent of developing and implementing a child and youth-centred, separate and specialized access point that meets the needs of children and youth who are experiencing a mental health crisis.

Status: TBD

Summary of activities:

MHSAL is currently in the process of assigning this recommendation to the most appropriate Branch of the department and will be able to report on status and progress in the December 2020 report.

**RECOMMENDATION FIVE:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Health, Seniors, and Active Living develop, implement and fund mental health and addictions system *Navigators*, who act as case managers for children and youth who are accessing the upper tiers of the youth mental health and addiction system, similar to Ontario's model. These Navigators should be knowledgeable and well-trained and offer case coordination and rapid response services to ensure children and youth know their health care plan, can access appropriate services, and ensure case reviews are initiated when services are not effective. Further, much like the requirement for child and family services workers, mental health and addictions Navigators should provide services in accordance with provincial standards of care that change in their intensity and frequency according to the assessed levels of risk to a child or youth.

Status: TBD

Summary of activities:

MHSAL is currently in the process of assigning this recommendation to the most appropriate Branch of the department and will be able to report on status and progress in the December 2020 report.

**RECOMMENDATION SIX:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Government of Manitoba, through the Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living create a long-term, residential treatment centre for youth who are in the top tier of mental health care needs and for whom less intensive options have been ineffective.

Status: TBD

Summary of activities:

MHSAL is currently in the process of assigning this recommendation to the most appropriate Branch of the department and will be able to report on status and progress in the December 2020 report.

**RECOMMENDATION SEVEN:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that in a commitment to transparency and accountability, Manitoba Health, Seniors, and Active Living publicly release its framework and plan for transforming the youth mental health and addictions system in Manitoba so recent and anticipated investments and announcements can be understood by Manitobans not as one-off announcements, but as part of an overall tiered strategy for improving access, coordination, content, and capacity of the child and youth health care system in the province.

Status: TBD

Summary of activities:

MHSAL is currently in the process of assigning this recommendation to the most appropriate Branch of the department and will be able to report on status and progress in the December 2020 report.

**RECOMMENDATION EIGHT:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the government of Manitoba set a proclamation date for the remaining portions of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act* in the spring of 2020.

Status: Pending

Summary of activities:

Government introduced and passed The Advocate for Children and Youth Act to improve transparency and expand the scope of the mandate of the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY). Significant changes from this legislation included the ability to make reports public and to advocate across a much broader range of child serving systems. This has resulted in more meaningful and comprehensive work on behalf of Manitoba's children.

In response to the expanded mandate provided to MACY, the Province created a new committee of Deputy Ministers. The Manitoba Advocate Children and Youth Recommendations Action Planning (MACY-RAP) committee provides leadership, ensuring a whole of government approach to coordinate collaborative and aligned activities across departments. Reports and recommendations from the Advocate are complex and often involve multiple systems and service providers.

The Province continues to work to improve the lives of Manitoba children and families, and continues the important work on child welfare transformation.

**Manitoba's progress on the recommendations from *SAFE AND SOUND: A Special Report on the Unexpected Sleep-Related Deaths of 145 Manitoba Infants released April 2020*, is below:**

**RECOMMENDATION ONE:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Government of Manitoba develop and implement an action plan, in consultation with First Nations and Metis governments, to ensure that every infant in Manitoba under 24 months has a safe sleep surface (crib, bassinette, or culturally appropriate safe alternative) in which to sleep. The action plan ought to be targeted to both expectant parents and caregivers of infants under 24 months who cannot afford to purchase a safe sleep surface. The action plan will be designed and delivered based on the child-first and substantive equality principles.

Status: TBD

Summary of activities:

Given that this recommendation will involve collaboration with First Nations government, the MACY-RAP Subcommittee is currently exploring which Department will lead this consultation process.

**RECOMMENDATION TWO:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Government of Canada, in consultation with the First Nations governments of Manitoba, develop and implement a plan to ensure that no infant living in Manitoba First Nations communities is without a safe sleeping surface (crib, bassinette, or culturally appropriate safe alternative), in line with Jordan's Principle.

Status: this recommendation is directed to the Federal Government

**RECOMMENDATION THREE:**

Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living, in partnership with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs' First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba, and First Nations and Metis governments develop, carry out, and subsequently evaluate, a new public education campaign that raises awareness of the known risk factors associated with sleep-related infant deaths.

Status: TBD

Summary of activities:

Given that this recommendation will involve collaboration with First Nations government, the MACY-RAP Subcommittee is currently exploring which Department will lead this consultation process.

**RECOMMENDATION FOUR:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the public education campaign be informed by data presented in this report and by evidence on effective risk communication and behaviour modification.

Status: TBD

Summary of activities:

Given that this recommendation will involve collaboration with First Nations government, the MACY-RAP Subcommittee is currently exploring which Department will lead this consultation process.

**RECOMMENDATION FIVE:**

The Manitoba Advocate recommends that public education materials (e.g., books, pamphlets, videos, posters, etc.) developed by the Government of Manitoba, as part of

any safe sleep education campaign, be written in accessible language and available in the prominent Indigenous languages of Manitoba.

Status: TBD

Summary of activities:

Given that this recommendation will involve collaboration with First Nations government, the MACY-RAP Subcommittee is currently exploring which Department will lead this consultation process.

**RECOMMENDATION SIX:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living, in partnership with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs' First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba, develop an accredited online training module on safe infant sleep practices, accessible through the Shared Health Learning Management System (LMS).

Status: TBD

Summary of activities:

Given that this recommendation will involve collaboration with First Nations government, the MACY-RAP Subcommittee is currently exploring which Department will lead this consultation process.

**RECOMMENDATION SEVEN:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living, in consultation with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs' First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba, develop a smoking cessation resource that prenatal healthcare providers and child welfare service providers can make available to expectant mothers.

Status: TBD

Summary of activities:

Given that this recommendation will involve collaboration with First Nations government, the MACY-RAP Subcommittee is currently exploring which Department will lead this consultation process.

**RECOMMENDATION EIGHT:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Government of Canada resource an implementation strategy to expand prenatal and postnatal maternal child health programs, in consultation with First Nations and Metis Governments, into all of Manitoba's First Nations communities.

Status: this recommendation is directed to the Federal Government

**RECOMMENDATION NINE:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Justice and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner work with RCMP and police services across the province to develop (if necessary) and implement a form based on the CDC's SUIDIRF data collection form, to be used by all law enforcement officers in the province who attend the scene of an infant death.

Status: Pending

Summary of activities:

Manitoba Justice is actively gathering information on current practices to inform further analysis on where police protocols and training may need to be amended.

**RECOMMENDATION TEN:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Justice provide the resources necessary for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to develop an electronic database, in partnership with the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth, to collect and report on the incidence of and risk factors associated with all suspected sleep-related infant deaths in Manitoba.

Status: In Progress

Summary of activities:

The Office of the Medical Examiner (OME) electronic database records the information required to produce the Annual Statistical Review for the Minister required under The Fatality Inquiries Act (the FIA). A coincidental update of the database has begun and the OME will be exploring some expansion to the data elements recorded. At present, the information on the circumstances in potential unsafe sleep cases is available in the paper file. Upon request, MACY investigators may have access to the paper file before it is complete to gather information they may require beyond the S.10 obligation in the FIA. This may also apply in cases where there are active criminal investigations.

**RECOMMENDATION ELEVEN:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Collaborative Inter-departmental Working Group on Infant Mortality be reinstated and review cases of sleep-related infant deaths quarterly to look at trends and leverage this information to create and implement interventions to prevent future deaths.

Status: TBD

Summary of activities:

MHSAL is currently in the process of assigning this recommendation to the most appropriate Branch of the department and will be able to report on status and progress in the December 2020 report.

**RECOMMENDATION TWELVE:**



The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Families, as part of the changes to provincial child welfare standards announced to end the use of birth alerts, include an assessment of the infant sleep environment in every safety plan for expectant mothers, and provide mothers and primary caregivers with the safe sleep surfaces and public education information they need to ensure the safety of their child.

Status: TBD

Summary of activities:

This recommendation is under review, with next steps to be determined in the near future.

**RECOMMENDATION THIRTEEN:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Families work with child and family services authorities to develop a provincial standard that requires all child and family service providers to assess infants' sleep environments as part of prescribed face-to-face contact with anyone receiving child welfare services, including all infants who are not in care.

Status: TBD

Summary of activities:

This recommendation is under review, with next steps to be determined in the near future.

**Manitoba's progress on the recommendations from "*Stop Giving Me a Number and Start Giving Me a Person*" released May 5, 2020, is below:**

**RECOMMENDATION ONE:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living conduct a gap analysis of the youth mental health and addictions system, based on the tiered model proposed in the Virgo Report. The gap analysis ought to speak to the overall transformation framework and strategic plan for child and youth mental health and addictions services. Further, the Manitoba Advocate recommends the gap analysis, framework, and strategic plan is released publicly to Manitobans.

Status: To Be Determined (TBD)

Summary of activities:

MHSAL is currently in the process of assigning the recommendations in this Report to the most appropriate Branch of the department and will be able to report on status and progress in the December 2020 report.

**RECOMMENDATION TWO:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living demonstrates its framework and strategic plan for

transformation of the youth mental health and addictions systems in Manitoba ensures equitable access to services across all areas of Manitoba, which are tailored to the unique needs of children and youth in our province.

Status: TBD

Summary of activities: See comment in #1

### **RECOMMENDATION THREE:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Government of Manitoba provide early childhood trauma education and training about trauma and its effects to service providers across all government departments delivering services to children and youth.

Status: In Progress

Summary of activities:

See the response for Angel's Story: Recommendation # 1

### **RECOMMENDATION FOUR:**

In line with Article 24 of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Government of Manitoba conduct an annual review of what therapeutic trauma interventions are available to children and youth in Manitoba and create an inventory of resources, whether the resources require formal referrals from service providers or are open for self-referrals, any associated eligibility criteria (age, location, care status, etc.) and promote the annual inventory and its findings in the public.

Status: TBD

Summary of activities: See comment in #1

### **RECOMMENDATION FIVE:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living, in collaboration with rural communities in Manitoba, and the federal government, where applicable, implement recommendation 4.8 of the Virgo Report:

*Building upon the successful experience of the NorWest Youth Hub and lessons learned from the experience of other provinces, develop a provincial plan for scale-up of the youth hub model, or similar models of integrated youth services, taking advantage of support from philanthropy as it may be available* (Virgo Planning, 2018, p. 235).

Status: TBD

Summary of activities: See comment in #1

**RECOMMENDATION SIX:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living, in collaboration with rural and First Nations communities in Manitoba, and the federal government, where applicable, implement recommendation 2.11 of the Virgo Report, as summarized below:

In the RHAs other than the WRHA, create mental health hubs (as identified in the Peachey report), with a view to:

(a) developing these as integrated regional mental health and substance use/addictions (SUA) “focal points”, and

(b) harmonizing a core set of regional services and supports to the hospital emergency departments and crisis services including:

- Screening, assessment, and support for SUA.
- 24/7 access to psychiatric consultation and acute assessment/treatment services.
- A core set of professionals in addition to psychiatrists with capacity in SUA support – e.g., clinical psychologists and psychiatric emergency nurses.
- Cross-trained mental health and addiction liaison workers co-located in hospital emergency departments/other hospital programs.
- Infrastructure and staffing to ensure safety and security of patients and staff.
- Links to community mental health and addictions services, including centralized intake (Virgo Planning, 2018; full wording may be found at p. 225).

Status: TBD

Summary of activities: See comment in #1

**RECOMMENDATION SEVEN:**

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Government of Manitoba develop an inpatient or community-based long-term treatment resource that offers stabilization, assessment, treatment, and aftercare for youth who are at the top tier of mental health and addictions care needs, and for whom less intensive options have been ineffective.

Status: TBD

Summary of activities: See comment in #1