

Ministry of Children and Family Development

Background to Provincial Audit Summary Rating Sheet For Child in Care Case Practice Audits Completed Between June 1, 2004 – December 31, 2004

Between June 1 and December 31, 2004, 102 individual child service files in various offices across the province were audited to the revised Children in Care Service Standards. These were the first audits conducted in relation to the revised service standards. The audits were conducted by regional auditors in accordance with standardized methodologies, procedures and tools.

Recommendations were developed to address any practice issues identified in the audits. Recommendations are tracked and monitored for implementation by the Regional and Provincial Directors of Child Welfare.

During the time period covered by this provincial audit summary, the Ministry was responding to the need to change child welfare practice to ensure more children could remain safely within their families and communities rather than be taken into government care. A service transformation plan for child and family services was developed to change the way actual services are delivered for individuals and their families to achieve the most positive outcomes for vulnerable children, their families and their communities.

The audit results highlighted areas for improvement, including assessments and planning for a child in care and notifications of fatalities and critical injuries.

Assessments and Planning for a Child in Care

The standards require that every child who comes into care has a plan of care that is holistic, current, relevant to the child's unique circumstances and responsive to the child's changing needs.

The relevant audit measures assess compliance with the procedural requirements to document a plan of care within 30 days of a child's admission to care, to document a thorough assessment of the child's needs within six months, and to document reviews every 90 days while the child remains in care. The results should not be interpreted to conclude that a child in care's needs were not assessed and planned for because the procedural requirements were not met in some cases.

Notification of Fatalities and Critical Injuries

The relevant measures address whether or not the required reportable circumstance report was completed. They rely on a small sample that is not representative. The Ministry is aware of all fatalities of children in care and children who had received services in the previous 12 months. In addition to receiving reportable circumstance reports from the regions, the provincial office

receives and checks reports on child deaths from the Coroner and reviews the monthly child death listing reports from Vital Statistics.

All audit measures that received non-compliance ratings were immediately brought to the attention of Team Leaders who ensured that outstanding work was completed.

Total # of Cases Audited: 102

	CRITICAL MEASURES	C		PC		NC		NA
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#
1	Preserving the Identity of an Aboriginal Child in Care <i>CIC Service Standard #1 and C&FS Standard #19</i>	79	83.2%	5	5.3%	11	11.6%	
2	Assuming Responsibility for a Child in Care <i>CIC Service Standard #4</i>	94	92.2%			8	7.8%	
3	Ensuring a Child's Safety While in Care <i>CIC Service Standard #5</i>	95	93.1%			7	6.9%	
4	Ensuring the Rights of a Child in Care <i>CIC Service Standard #6</i>	64	63.4%			37	36.6%	1
5	Involving a Child and Considering the Child's View in Case Planning and Decision Making <i>CIC Service Standard #8</i>	84	82.4%	7	6.9%	11	10.8%	
6	Maintaining Personal Contact with a Child in Care <i>CIC Service Standard #9</i>	82	80.4%			20	19.6%	
7	Meeting a Child's Need for Stability and Continuity of Lifelong Relationships <i>CIC Service Standard #10</i>	90	88.2%	10	9.8%	2	2.0%	
8	Assessments and Planning for a Child in Care <i>CIC Service Standard #11</i>	39	38.6%	35	34.7%	27	26.7%	
9	When a Child is Missing or has Run Away (Reportable Circumstance) <i>CIC Service Standard #14</i>	12	54.5%			10	45.5%	80
10	Notification of Fatalities, Critical Injuries and Serious Injuries (Reportable Circumstances) <i>C&FS Standard #24</i>	9	34.6%	4	15.4%	13	50.0%	76
11	Planning for a Child Leaving Care <i>CIC Service Standards #15 and #16</i>	45	81.8%			10	18.2%	47
12	Supervisory Approval	74	72.5%			28	27.5%	
	Total Applicable Indicators: 1,012 NA Ratings Not Included in Count	767	75.8%	61	6.0%	184	18.2%	204

= Number of applicable cases
% = Percent of total

Rating Definitions:

C Full Compliance to the standard

PC Partial Compliance: The intent of the standard is met but significant practice issues have not been addressed

NC Non-Compliance to the standard's criteria requirements

NA Not applicable to the standard being measured