

Ministry of Children and Family Development

Background to Provincial Audit Summary Rating Sheet For Child in Care Case Practice Audits Completed Between January 1, 2005 – December 31, 2005

Between January 1 and December 31, 2005, 500 individual child service files in various offices across the province were audited to the Children in Care Service Standards. These 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.

Significant developments in the Ministry during this time period included continuing progress towards transitioning to new governance models with provincial and regional authorities to deliver more integrated, community-driven services and the formal transfer of the responsibility for the provision of community living services from the Ministry of Children and Family Development to Community Living British Columbia (CLBC), a provincial Crown agency dedicated to improving the lives of children and adults with developmental disabilities.

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: 500

	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>	394	78.8%	54	10.8%	52	10.4%	
2	Assuming Responsibility for a Child in Care <i>CIC Service Standard #4</i>	450	90.0%			50	10.0%	
3	Ensuring a Child's Safety While in Care <i>CIC Service Standard #5</i>	465	93.0%			35	7.0%	
4	Ensuring the Rights of a Child in Care <i>CIC Service Standard #6</i>	283	58.1%			204	41.9%	12
5	Involving a Child and Considering the Child's View in Case Planning and Decision Making <i>CIC Service Standard #8</i>	407	81.4%	27	5.4%	66	13.2%	
6	Maintaining Personal Contact with a Child in Care <i>CIC Service Standard #9</i>	378	75.6%			122	24.4%	
7	Meeting a Child's Need for Stability and Continuity of Lifelong Relationships <i>CIC Service Standard #10</i>	423	84.6%	47	9.4%	30	6.0%	
8	Assessments and Planning for a Child in Care <i>CIC Service Standard #11</i>	250	50.0%	129	25.8%	121	24.2%	
9	When a Child is Missing or has Run Away (Reportable Circumstance) <i>CIC Service Standard #14</i>	31	60.8%			20	39.2%	449
10	Notification of Fatalities, Critical Injuries and Serious Injuries (Reportable Circumstances) <i>C&FS Standard #24</i>	32	36.4%	3	3.4%	53	60.2%	412
11	Planning for a Child Leaving Care <i>CIC Service Standards #15 and #16</i>	180	84.1%			34	15.9%	286
12	Supervisory Approval	419	83.8%			81	16.2%	
	Total Applicable Indicators: 4,840 NA Ratings Not Included in Count	3,712	76.7%	260	5.4%	868	17.9%	1,159

= 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