

Collins, Alison J SDSI:EX

From: MacMillan, Karen SDSI:EX
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2013 12:34 PM
To: Marshall, Sheena SDSI:EX; Collins, Alison J SDSI:EX
Subject: FW: Social Assistance and treatment for off reserve First Nations

Can we please get a formal email response drafted to this MLA regard their inquiry? Thanks

Karen MacMillan
Manager, Executive Operations
Deputy Minister's Office
Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation
Phone: 250-387-2807

From: Sem, Edward SDSI:EX
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2013 12:30 PM
To: MacMillan, Karen SDSI:EX
Subject: Re: Social Assistance and treatment for off reserve First Nations

Okay

From: MacMillan, Karen SDSI:EX
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 10:19 AM Pacific Standard Time
To: Sem, Edward SDSI:EX
Subject: RE: Social Assistance and treatment for off reserve First Nations

Think this one is better dealt with by formal written response. It isn't about a specific case but about policy and regulation.

Karen MacMillan
Manager, Executive Operations
Deputy Minister's Office
Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation
Phone: 250-387-2807

From: Sem, Edward SDSI:EX
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2013 10:17 AM
To: MacMillan, Karen SDSI:EX
Subject: CA Request/MLA Todd Stone/Social Assistance and treatment for off reserve First Nations

Hi Karen:

Could you check into this.

Thanks.

Ed

From: Bower, Maryanne [<mailto:Maryanne.Bower@leg.bc.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 08:28 AM Pacific Standard Time
To: Sem, Edward SDSI:EX
Subject: FW: Social Assistance and treatment for off reserve First Nations

Hi Ed,

I'm not sure if you are the best person to forward this concern to as I suspect it crosses between two Ministries.

Can you look into this for me? If this is, in fact, true is there a rationale for that decision that I can pass on to the constituent. Are there other options for First Nations individuals that fall into this category?

Thanks.

Maryanne

Maryanne Bower
Constituency Assistant to Todd Stone
MLA Kamloops – South Thompson
Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure & Deputy House Leader
446 Victoria Street, Kamloops, BC V2C 2A7
Phone: (250) 374-2880
Fax: (250) 377-3448
Toll Free: 1-855-474-2880
Email: maryanne.bower@leg.bc.ca

From: Wilson, Danielle [<mailto:Danielle.Wilson@interiorhealth.ca>]
Sent: October 2, 2013 1:47 PM
To: Bower, Maryanne
Subject: Social Assistance and treatment for off reserve First Nations

Hi Maryanne,

It has recently come to my attention that First Nations peoples that reside off reserve and are receiving Social Assistance payments do not qualify for such financial assistance when said person seeks substance use treatment at a facility located on reserve. In my verbal conversation with a representative of the Ministry of Housing and Social Development in Kamloops, I was informed that this is correct, simply because of treatment facility is located on reserve.

There are a few issues concerning this as on reserve treatment facilities are better situated to provide culturally appropriate care for Aboriginal clients. In addition, regardless of being on or off reserve, First Nations peoples are residents of BC foremost and such jurisdictional boundaries when seeking betterment of one's health should not be a barrier to such persons.

Thank you for your time and effort in looking into this. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me and I await your reply on this issue,

Danielle Wilson • Practice Lead • Interior Health Authority
Aboriginal Health • c/o 311 Columbia Street 9th Floor, Kamloops, BC V2C 2T1
Phone: 250.318.1003 • Email: Danielle.Wilson@interiorhealth.ca

Collins, Alison J SDSI:EX

From: Minister, SDSI SDSI:EX
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2013 4:43 PM
To: 'todd.stone.mla@leg.bc.ca'
Subject: 180829 Stone - SDSI Response
Attachments: 180829 Stone Release of Personal Info.pdf

Ref: 180829

Honourable Todd Stone, MLA
Kamloops–South Thompson
todd.stone.mla@leg.bc.ca

Dear Minister Stone:

Thank you for the copy of an email dated October 2, 2013, from Danielle Wilson, Practice Lead with the Interior Health Authority, regarding the access of First Nations persons living off reserve to drug and alcohol residential treatment facilities on reserve. I appreciate Maryanne Bower's forwarding the email to me.

First Nations persons living off reserve may apply for income assistance from the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation's BC Employment and Assistance (BCEA) program. Non-status and non-Indian persons residing on commercial property on reserves may also apply for assistance to the BCEA program. BCEA program clients must pursue all available sources of income to be eligible for income or disability assistance.

Eligible status and non-status persons living on a reserve are granted social assistance by the band administering authority, following the policies set by Aboriginal Affairs Northern Development Canada (AANDC). The AANDC is a federal agency that funds income assistance for people living on reserves and it sets its own policies. Persons with Indian status residing on commercial property on reserves also apply to the band administering authority.

The BCEA program provides several drug and alcohol supplements to help clients address substance abuse problems, including the following:

- A standard daily user fee (or per diem) of \$40 per day for clients who access licensed residential alcohol or drug treatment facilities. This per diem user fee is also issued to approved, unlicensed alcohol or drug treatment facilities and support recovery homes. A further \$95 monthly comforts allowance is provided to clients while they reside in such a facility.
- A supplement for non-residential alcohol or drug treatment, counselling, or related services to eligible clients and their dependent children, to a maximum of \$500 per 12 consecutive calendar months.
- A supplement to meet the costs of transportation to and from an approved special-care facility for residential alcohol and drug treatment in British Columbia.

These supplements may be provided to recipients of income assistance and disability assistance when no other resources are available.

If an alcohol or drug residential treatment facility is located on-reserve, the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation considers the AANDC program a resource that must be explored. If the AANDC does not provide funding for the alcohol or drug residential treatment facility, the ministry may consider funding if the facility meets the ministry's eligibility requirements. For more information, your constituent or their advocate may wish to contact an Employment and Assistance office supervisor, or the regional community relations and service quality manager.

Please share this information as you feel appropriate and, please note, should anyone wish to advocate for a specific individual, a signed consent to release information is required. I have attached a Release of Information form for your convenience.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Don McRae
Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation

Attachment

Legislative Office:
East Annex, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
Phone: 250 952-7270
Fax: 250 387-9100

Constituency Office:
10 - 7300 Vedder Road
Chilliwack, B.C. V2R 4G6
Phone: 604 858-5299
Fax: 604 858-5299
website: www.lauriethronessmla.ca
e-mail: laurie.throness.mla@leg.bc.ca



Province of
British Columbia
Legislative Assembly



Laurie Throness, M.L.A.
Chilliwack-Hope

October 18, 2013

Hon. Don McRae
Minister of Social Development
And Social Innovation
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

Dear Minister McRae,

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER'S OFFICE

Referral #
Refer to:

OCT 24 2013

MIN Response ☒ Reply Direct ☐ Info File ☐ FNA ☐
DM Response ☐ Reading ☐

Other:

This week I had a meeting with a constituent who has a son who receives assistance from CLBC. He had two questions and two helpful suggestions that I would like to share, and request your response.

His son, s.22 required his wisdom teeth to be extracted, for which IV sedation was necessary. IV sedation costs nearly \$400, but CLBC would provide only \$51 for this procedure. Since almost every person will require their wisdom teeth to be extracted, and since many clients of CLBC require sedation, it represented a financial difficulty for his father who paid for the procedure, applied for Social Assistance to cover the remainder, and has appealed his rejection. Is this not something that should be covered on a routine basis by CLBC and if not, why not?

s.22 is on a medication which should be monitored by a psychiatrist, but now a doctor merely fills the prescription on a regular basis without s.22 ongoing use being monitored, whereas a formal mental health patient receives full monitoring by a psychiatrist. Should not a CLBC client receive the same treatment?

s.22 suggested that CLBC does not have an information package that it gives to a new client (and the client's family) outlining all the services that are available to a client once they turn 19 years of age and arrive in the ambit of the CLBC. s.22 found out by accident about some of the services offered. Perhaps more information would help to ease the frustration of families who are beginning their relationship with CLBC.

And finally, s.22 suggested that there needs to be a formal identifier for a client on an existing BC identification platform that indicates that they are disabled. This would be particularly helpful for clients who do not appear, at first sight, to be disabled. Officials in customs or in airlines would then be immediately aware that they are dealing with someone who requires special care. Would this be a possibility?

Thanks for your consideration of these important matters.

Sincerely,

Laurie Throness

cc: s.22



JAN 03 2014

Ref: 181136

Laurie Throness, MLA
Chilliwack-Hope
10-7300 Vedder Rd
Chilliwack BC V2R 4G6

Dear Mr. Throness:

Thank you for your letter dated October 18, 2013, regarding dental services for s.22 and the concerns and suggestions that his father, s.22, has discussed with you.

I appreciate your advocacy on behalf of your constituents, and your interest in Community Living BC and the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation's BC Employment and Assistance (BCEA) program.

The BCEA program pays for general anesthetic or intravenous (IV) sedation provided in a dentist's office, and other supplemental health services, for adults with developmental disabilities who are receiving Persons with Disabilities (PWD) assistance. Information about the services that the ministry covers is available at www.eia.gov.bc.ca/factsheets/2005/dental.htm. Preauthorization is required for IV sedation, which the dentist can obtain by submitting the proposed treatment plan to the ministry in advance.

The ministry pays \$50.57 towards the cost of IV sedation per hour or a portion thereof. Fees for supplemental dental procedures are legislated by regulation. For the established fee schedule, please visit www.eia.gov.bc.ca/publicat/pdf/dentistschedule.pdf. As the rate is set by regulation, ministry staff do not have the authority to vary the rate of coverage. When a dentist charges a fee higher than the regulated rate, the recipient is required to either find another dentist who charges the approved rate or pay the difference themselves.

Since Community Living BC's (CLBC) services supplement, rather than replace or duplicate, services provided by other ministries, CLBC does not reimburse the cost of IV sedation or any difference between the dentist's fee and the ministry's rate. The Supports and Services for Adults, Youth in Transition section of CLBC's website, www.communitylivingbc.ca/, has information on services for young adults, including those provided by ministries and agencies other than CLBC.

BCEA program clients may request a reconsideration of a ministry decision that results in the refusal, reduction or discontinuance of assistance can be reconsidered. A reconsideration decision may further be appealed to the Employment and Assistance Appeal Tribunal. The tribunal's appeal decision is final. Clients, however, may file a petition in the British Columbia Supreme Court asking a judge to review the decision. This is called a judicial review and must generally be done within 60 days after the tribunal's decision is handed down. For more information, please see www.gov.bc.ca/eaal/popt/redress.htm.

.../2

CLBC also responds to complaints from the public, and communicates with them about the outcome of that process.

In your letter, you raised the question about monitoring the administration of a CLBC client's medication. The client's general practitioner, who is their primary care physician, typically monitors individuals whose condition is stabilized. An individual or parent, who is concerned that monitoring by a specialist is necessary, can discuss this with their general practitioner who may make the referral to a psychiatrist. This is the case with most patients receiving medications for mental illnesses or other health conditions.

I appreciate your comments with regard to the importance of an orientation for new and transitioning individuals and families. CLBC has been reviewing the orientation package that is provided by its local offices, with the intention of providing a practice guide to assist staff in determining what materials might be useful. Members of the Legislative Assembly will be informed when the orientation package is available, so that they can have this information for reference when responding to constituents' questions. In the meantime, I understand that CLBC's Community Relations Specialist for the Fraser region, Lisa Porcellato, has arranged to meet with you and your constituency office staff to discuss services for young adults and other issues of concern.

You further raised a question about including a notation that a person has a developmental disability on British Columbia identification platforms. CLBC supports the inclusion of persons with developmental disabilities in communities where they may live as independently as possible. A notation being added to a British Columbia identification card is not an action that CLBC currently supports. If safety is a concern, the contact information of people who may be called when clients need assistance can be a useful tool, as is a letter from the individual's general practitioner. Many airlines will make special arrangements for passengers who have developmental disabilities, if the individual or family calls in advance to register for this service.

CLBC has a number of online resources that can also assist individuals and families to feel safer in the community. These are available at www.communitylivingbc.ca, under CLBC Publications, Safeguards Resources.

I hope this information is useful. Please feel free to contact my Ministerial Assistant, Joan Dick, by calling 250-356-7750, or by email at Joan.Dick@gov.bc.ca, if you would like clarification on any of these points or if my office can be of further assistance.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,



Don McRae
Minister

pc: Joan Dick, Ministerial Assistant to the Honourable Don McRae
Lisa Porcellato, Community Relations Specialist, Fraser Region, Community Living BC