

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION BRIEFING NOTE**

CLIFF # 212015

PREPARED FOR: Minister Stephanie Cadieux - **FOR INFORMATION**

TITLE: Child Fatalities Published Statistics

PURPOSE: The Ministry will post child fatality statistics showing the number of deaths between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012 of children in care and children who had received services from the Ministry.

BACKGROUND:

- In April 2005, the Ministry first published statistics regarding deaths of children in care. The Ministry also posted statistics regarding deaths of children who had received services within the past 12 months, under the *Child, Family and Community Services Act* (CFCSA).
- Both types of fatality statistics are now updated every six months and posted in June and December.
- Children who have received services includes:
 - A child who was the subject of a child protection report and whose need for protection was investigated.
 - A child who was provided with a brief youth service, like a food voucher, youth agreement or repatriation home.
 - A child who was placed by court order with a person other than a parent, under the Director's supervision.
 - A child who was formerly in care either by agreement or court order and returned home.
 - A child whose family received support services – for example, homemakers, child care workers, respite or family counseling providers.

DISCUSSION:

Children in Care Deaths:

- Between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012, 15 children in care died. The following classifications of death are those of the BC Coroner's Service.
 - 6 deaths are currently classified as Natural
 - 5 death is currently classified as Accidental
 - 2 deaths are currently classified as Suicide
 - 2 deaths are currently classified as Undetermined with an ongoing investigation by the Coroner's Service
 - No deaths are currently classified as Homicide
 - 3 of the deaths are Aboriginal children
 - 3 of these deaths have proceeded to Case Review and all are in progress.

Children who had received services under the CFCSA in previous 12 months:

- Between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012, 96 children who had received services died. The following classifications of death are those of the BC Coroner's Service.
 - 61 deaths are currently classified as Natural, comprising 64% of the total number of deaths of children receiving services
 - 20 deaths are currently classified as Accidental
 - 1 death is currently classified as Homicide
 - 7 deaths are currently classified as Suicide
 - 6 deaths are currently classified as Undetermined with an ongoing investigation by the Coroner's Service
 - 1 death is currently classified as Undetermined and the Coroner's investigation is complete and their file closed
 - 42 of the deaths are Aboriginal children
 - 6 of these deaths have proceeded to Case Review; one review is complete, the rest are in progress.
- Many of the natural deaths were related to children and youth with special needs who were medically fragile.

Attachment:

Fatalities of Children in Care & Receiving Services under the CFCSA

Program ADM/Branch: Doug Hughes – Quality Assurance
Program Contact (for content): Trisha Myers
Drafter: Trisha Myers
Date: June 14, 2013

FATALITIES OF CHILDREN IN CARE & RECEIVING SERVICES UNDER THE CFCSA

Fatalities of Children in Care by Calendar Year

YEA R	NATURA L	ACCIDEN T	HOMICID E	SUICID E	UNDETERMINED **		TOTAL S
					OPEN	CLOSED	
2001	6	1	1	1	0	0	9
2002	5	3	0	1	0	0	9
2003	5	4	0	2	0	1	12
2004	10	1	0	1	0	2	14
2005	4	2	1	0	0	2	9
2006	7	3	0	0	1	2	13
2007	2	4	0	0	2	1	9
2008	6	5	2	2	0	0	15
2009	8	1	0	1	1	0	11
2010	5	3	0	0	5	0	13
2011	6	1	0	2	0	1	10
2012	6	5	0	2	2	0	15

Fatalities of Children Receiving Services (Not in Care) By Calendar Year

YEA R	NATURA L	ACCIDEN T	HOMICID E	SUICID E	UNDETERMINED **		TOTAL S
					OPEN	CLOSED	
2001	59	21	2	4	0	5	91
2002	44	12	4	3	0	7	70
2003	33	16	0	5	1	8	63
2004	50	11	1	3	1	4	70
2005	46	9	2	1	0	6	64
2006	57	12	6	3	2	5	85
2007	64	10	1	6	2	5	88
2008	46	12	3	1	16	4	82
2009	44	11	3	3	15	2	78
2010	38	12	1	5	6	1	63
2011	40	16	2	2	6	2	69*
2012	61	20	1	7	6	1	96

1. The Ministry verifies child fatality categories of death with the Office of the Chief Coroner of British Columbia. The categorization of a fatality may change as a death is investigated or new information becomes available.
2. *This total includes one fatality where there is no Coroner classification of death because the fatality occurred outside the province.
3. **In the "Undetermined" category, "open" indicates a case is still under investigation by the Coroner; "closed" indicates the Coroner's investigation is complete and, due to insufficient evidence or inability to determine, the death cannot reasonably be classified as natural, accidental, suicide or homicide.

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION BRIEFING NOTE**

CLIFF # 212196

PREPARED FOR: Minister Stephanie Cadieux regarding an August 6, 2013 meeting with The Federation of Community Social Services of BC (Federation) regarding the impacts of the negotiated wage increases
FOR INFORMATION

TITLE: Meeting August 6, 2013 with the Federation to discuss the social services sector negotiated wage increases

PURPOSE: To provide information on the ministry's approach to the negotiated wage increases under the Cooperative Gains Mandate and funding for Family Day.

BACKGROUND:

- The Federation represents 140 community social services agencies, research organizations and post-secondary institutions across BC with annual budgets ranging from \$25,000 to \$25 million each.
- Six per cent of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)'s agencies (90) are represented by the Federation and provide non-residential contracted services including foster care. These agencies provide \$175 million in contracts, which is 26 per cent of MCFD's total non-residential and residential contracts.
- MCFD works regularly with members of the Federation on a variety of issues related to MCFD services, including contracting issues through a Collaborative Contract Management Committee.
- In a letter dated June 26, 2013 and subsequently, in an e-mail request forwarded July 22, 2013, the Federation requested a meeting with Minister Cadieux to discuss issues related to the health and community social services sector negotiated wage increases and funding for Family Day.

DISCUSSION:

- During a regular contracting meeting with the sector and the ministry in May 2013, representatives from the Federation Board brought forward the issue of MCFD funding for the negotiated wage increases.
- The ministry advised that under the Cooperative Gains Mandate, compensation increases were only possible through productivity gains or through savings within existing budgets while maintaining service delivery levels.
- The sector indicated that in previous experiences where savings were required in contracted services, success was achieved where the agencies submitted proposals to the ministry.
- On June 5, 2013, MCFD sent a letter to the Federation confirming this approach with the sector.
- The information in this letter was shared with various social services sector agencies resulting in concerns on the approach and the agencies' capacity to find savings to pay for the wage increases without reductions in services.

- The Federation responded to that letter indicating that government must fully fund the wage increases.
- Since that time MCFD has clarified that where agencies do not have the capacity to pay the wage increase without additional funds, MCFD will provide additional funding.
- MCFD has also clarified it will fund the costs associated with the 2012/13 Family Day for CSSEA member agencies. For fiscal 2012/13, impacted agencies may include the Family Day cost pressure in their savings proposals. For fiscal 2013/14 and subsequent years, the Family Day costs will be subsumed within the longer term strategies for managing cost pressures from the negotiated wage increases.
- MCFD continues to work cooperatively with the Federation and has provided a draft response to their concerns for their input.
- Although the Federation continues to work with the ministry, it also continues to lobby for additional funds and does not consider that savings can be found within the sector without reducing services.
- Federation representatives working with the ministry on this issue include Rebecca Ataya, Interim Executive Director, Shane Picken, Board President, and David Young, Board Vice President.
- A copy of the June 5, 2013 letter to the Federation, its response and the draft questions and answers are attached for information. These questions and answers are under review with the sector and will be updated as required.

Program ADM/Branch: Anne Sandbu, ADM

Program Contact (for content): Bernard Achampong, Director, Procurement Governance and Policy Branch

Drafter: Andrea Ames, Procurement Project Manager

Date: August 1, 2013

Pages 6 through 11 redacted for the following reasons:

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June 5, 2013

Ref: 211857

Shane Picken
President
The Federation of Community Social Services of BC
Second Floor, 526 Michigan Street
Victoria BC V8V 1S4

Dear Shane Picken:

As you are aware, the Health Employers' Association of BC (HEABC) and Community Social Services Employers' Association (CSSEA) have negotiated the provision of a two-year 3% wage increase for the unionized staff in their affiliate agencies.

These agreements were reached under the provincial government's cooperative gains mandate. The mandate stipulates that negotiated compensation increases must be made possible through productivity gains or through savings within existing budgets while maintaining service delivery levels.

The ministry recognizes the importance of this modest increase for staff in the sector and also understands the significant cost pressures these increases are placing on many of our contracted service providers. The ministry will be working closely with the unionized service providers to address the impacts of these increases. Once these are resolved, the ministry will work with the non-unionized service providers in the fall.

This is a complex issue that requires working with multiple government partners. The ministry has been working with other government funders to develop joint strategies that could address the anticipated cost pressures within existing budgets, while maintaining the timelines, appropriateness and quality of services provided to the vulnerable citizens being served.

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The ministry is committed to fostering innovation and respecting the autonomy of the contracted community agencies, and as recommended by you, will allow agencies to submit proposals for managing the anticipated cost pressures through concerted efforts of finding efficiencies, savings or aligning services to better meet the needs of children, youth and families. The initial steps for the proposals for covering the negotiated wage increases are as follows:

- Contracted agencies (union and non-union) are given autonomy and flexibility to address the cost pressures independent of government.
- Unionized agencies implementing the negotiated increases are our first priority.
- The ministries and agencies will work together, as a first step, to identify efficiencies through examination of expenditures, finances and retained earnings as well as to explore Lean, or other process efficiency opportunities.
- Agencies supported by the ministry to find savings will be expected to submit proposals as to how their negotiated increases could be addressed. More information on the proposals and associated principles will be developed and provided in consultation with the sector.

The ministry will work on a contract-by-contract basis with agencies faced with significant cost pressures or unable to find funds from their existing budgets. Over the longer term, various other strategies to address cost pressures will be explored by the funding ministries. These strategies include workforce capacity planning, streamlining administrative practices, and standardizing contracting for procuring services and managing contracts within a more sustainable service delivery model.

The ministry is committed to ensuring better outcomes for children, youth and families through sustainable service delivery mechanisms and continuity of services provided, and will be looking to our contracted community social services sector for support to address the challenges and opportunities presented by these negotiated increases.

The ministry Executive Directors of Service and/or Community Services Managers in your service delivery area will be your first point of contact for all inquiries or issues related to the negotiated compensation increases. Agencies currently experiencing immediate compensation related cost pressures are encouraged to contact their respective Executive Director of Service or Community Service Manager to facilitate a suitable solution.

Additional information on the compensation increases and associated impacts will be provided through local ministry offices and various other channels including the ministry's internet site.

Sincerely,

Anne Sandbu
Executive Financial Officer and
Assistant Deputy Minister
Finance and Corporate Services

Bev Dicks
Assistant Deputy Minister
Service Delivery

ISSUE NOTE

Issue: Northern First Nation Child Welfare Governance Initiative.

Background:

- The Northern First Nation Chiefs & Child Welfare Leadership Caucus (NLC) has been meeting with Ministry of Children and Family Development Executive to work towards collective goals in Aboriginal Service Improvement.
- The NLC is comprised of the First Nation Chief's of the 54 First Nations in Northern British Columbia, as well as the executive directors of six Delegated Aboriginal Agencies.
- MCFD has a contract in place to support the initiative, and is held with an appointed host agency, Carrier Sekani Family Services.
- The next Northern First Nation Chiefs & Child Welfare Leadership Caucus is scheduled for June 25 & 26, 2013.
- An email invitation has been extended to the Deputy Minister's office to have the Minister, the Deputy Minister, and the Provincial Director of Child Welfare attend the Caucus meeting, and a formal letter of invitation may be forthcoming.

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- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada has also been invited, and as of the date of this note there has not been confirmation of attendance. Follow up is being completed this week by the Technical Working Committee.
- The Deputy Minister requested an internal scan/mapping of the child and family service line in relation to the 54 First Nations represented by the Caucus – this work is in process with an expected final DRAFT by June 12 for review by MCFD Executive.

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Decision required:

- **This is a 30 day issue.**
- A decision is required by the Minister regarding attendance at the June 25 & 26, 2013 caucus meeting.

ISSUE NOTE

Issue: MCFD Commitment and Contributions to Social Services Sector Cooperative Gains Strategy

Background:

- The Community Social Services Employers' Association (CSSEA) and Health Employers' Association of BC (HEABC) have reached two-year agreements under the provincial government's cooperative gains mandate. The term of the proposed agreement is April 1, 2012 – March 31, 2014.
- CSSEA proposed a general wage increase of 3%, which consisted of an initial increase of 1.5% effective April 1, 2013 and a further 1.5% effective January 1, 2014. CSSEA also proposed a wage increase of 4% in two years – 2012/13 and 2013/14 for agencies delivering Aboriginal Services¹.
- CSSEA represents 206 member social service organizations, ranging in size from under 10 to more than 600 plus employees and collectively employing more than 15,000 staff.
- HEABC proposed a general wage increase of 3%, which consisted of an initial increase of 2%, is effective the first pay period following ratification of the agreement and a further 1% increase the first pay period after April 1, 2013.
- HEABC represents more than 260 publicly funded health care employers, as well as the province's six health authorities, covering more than 100,000 unionized health care employees.
- Currently the ministry has approximately 719 contracts with 120 CSSEA agencies, and approximately 235 contracts with 40 HEABC agencies.
- MCFD has contracts with unionized agencies belonging to CSSEA and HEABC as well as non-unionized agencies. The majority of MCFDs unionized contracted agencies are not-for-profit.
- Historically, wage increases for the unionized sector were applied to the non-union sector to support equality, recruitment and retention of staff. As a result, the non-unionized sector may seek to provide equivalent increases.

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- Under the cooperative gains mandate, compensation increases must be made possible through productivity gains or through savings within existing ministry or agency budgets while maintaining service levels.

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- The ministry is working with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) which is the government lead for developing an overarching joint savings plan for the sector.
- Some of the key cooperative gains strategies are:

¹ This applies to the Delegated Aboriginal Agencies at MCFD

² \$4.552M unearned revenue added to FY12.13 actual expenditures

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- In advance of the final plan for the joint strategy, the ministry is working closely with its contracted community agencies to address the anticipated cost pressures in the social services sector through the self-management strategy. Meetings are underway with sector representatives and MCFD to initiate the self-management strategies.
- The table below provides the estimated incremental cost pressures impacts in \$ millions for CSSEA/HEABC and non-union community agencies.

Compensation increase cost pressure impacts by fiscal year (\$ millions):

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Decision required:

- **This is a 30 day issue.**
- No decision required; for information purposes only.
- Strategies must be completed to ensure agencies are able to fund legislated wage increases and sustain services through this fiscal year.

² \$4.552M unearned revenue added to FY12,13 actual expenditures

ISSUE NOTE

Issue: Implementation of the Integrated Case Management (ICM) System

Background:

ICM Phase 2 Implementation

- ICM was implemented for over 4,000 staff (including Delegated Aboriginal Agency staff) in MCFD on April 2, 2012.
- Although some challenges were anticipated and steps were taken to address them as they arose, the extent of the issues – particularly relating to the child protection case management components of ICM – were significant. ICM is performing as expected for other transactional program areas such as the Child Care Subsidy and Autism Funding.
- To address these challenges, an action plan supported by access to up to \$12 million was announced in July 2012.
- Progress has been made against the action plan, specifically:
 - Since July 2012, more than 100 additional staff have been temporarily hired to ensure that front-line workers have the resources, training and support they need while they transition to the new system.
 - Significant enhancements to ICM were implemented in September 2012 to make the system more user-friendly and functional, including making it easier to produce reports, enter data and find information quickly.
 - Comprehensive training:
 - Regional Executive and team leaders completed training in September 2012.
 - Enhanced on-site training has been provided to child protection managers and team leaders in every region, and to more than 1,750 front-line child protection workers across B.C. As well, 75 staff members have been trained as dedicated ICM trainers.
 - The ICM user guide has been revised to be more user-friendly.
 - File reviews of all child protection cases initiated after April 1 2012 are underway.

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Queenswood Report

- An external consultant (Queenswood Consulting Group) was hired to conduct an assessment of the current system as it relates to child protection practice.
- Their interim assessment report was received in early January 2013. This report has provided input into the development of the case management (including further improvements to the child protection) components of ICM.

- MCFD is building on last summer's action plan by taking further steps to respond to the recommendations outlined in this report. These steps have included changes to MCFD's project governance structure and more robust project management practices:
 - The MCFD ICM Project now reports directly to the Deputy Minister; and,
 - An executive level project director has been put in place and an enhanced MCFD ICM Project Management Office, solely focused on the ICM project, has been established and will remain in place through the end of the project.

Phase 3 Implementation

- ICM Phase 3 was implemented on March 4, 2013, in MCFD and Social Development (MSD).
- For MCFD, Phase 3 focused on functionality to support Child Care Subsidy, Autism Funding, Medical Benefits programs and the implementation of the ICM Service Provider Portal.
- The Phase 3 implementation was successful, with minimal impact on staff.
- Phase 3 did not involve the child protection component of ICM.

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ISSUE NOTE

Issue: MCFD response to allegations that the Métis Commission for Children and Families of BC (Métis Commission) may have mishandled funds through inappropriate accounting practices and conflict of interest.

Background:

- Métis Commission has served as the designated representative for the Métis community in BC under the *Child Family and Community service Act* (CFCSA) Regulations since 2001.
- The role as designated representative makes the Métis Commission the logical contractor to provide ongoing support to Métis service providers.
- From 2008 to 2011, the MCFD focus on expansion and support of governance and capacity building within Aboriginal organizations led to a significant increase in funding for the Métis Commission.
- In addition to its responsibilities as "designate" under the CFCSA Regulations, by 2012 the Métis Commission had expanded to include developmental work in a number of areas including:
 - Quality Assurance
 - Policy development
 - Development of a Provincial Model for Métis Service Delivery (Indigenous approach funding ending March 31, 2012)
- Total funding to the Métis Commission in 2010/11 was \$1.16M.
- Funding for 2011/12 was reduced to \$880k and it was further reduced to \$586k for 2012/13.
- In November 2012, MCFD received a copy of the reasons for judgement in a wrongful dismissal case against the Métis Commission. In the reasons for judgement, the judge found in favour of a former employee who alleged improper financial management practices and conflict of interest on the part of the Métis Commission and the Métis Commission's Chief Executive Officer.
- On March 19, 2013, MCFD received an anonymous letter with significant additional allegations with respect to fraud and misconduct and MCFD staff are evaluating for inclusion in the audit.
- Aboriginal Services Branch is conducting a thorough review of the deliverables, and effectiveness of the Métis Commission contract.
- Aboriginal Services Branch and Financial Services Branch are coordinating a formal audit of the Métis Commission and the associated organization White Buffalo Aboriginal Health Society and Resources Center.

Decision required:

- **This is an ongoing issue.**
- No decision required; for information purposes only.

ISSUE NOTE

Issue: Results of practice audits of Family Service files in 3 Service Delivery Areas and 1 Delegated Aboriginal Agency are due to be posted on the MCFD internet site at the end of June 2013.

Background:

- In July 2006 MCFD committed to publicly posting practice audit summary reports twice per year – in June and December. The audit summary reports are posted on the MCFD intranet site at: http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/about_us/case_practice_audits.htm
- On March 18, 2013 the Quality Assurance Branch audit team commenced an audit of Family Service files in 3 Service Delivery Areas: North East; North Central and North Vancouver Island.
- The audit results are expected in May and the Service Delivery Division will be responsible for developing an action plan to address the areas of concern.
- The final audit reports are expected to be complete in June in time for posting on the public internet site for June 30.
- In addition to the audits in the 3 Service Delivery Areas, the Quality Assurance audit team will be conducting an audit of one Delegated Aboriginal Agency and the final audit report will also be complete in time for posting on the public internet site on June 30.

Decision required:

- **This is an ongoing issue.**
- No decision required; for information purposes only.

ISSUE NOTE

Issue: Stakeholder concerns with the recent *Child, Family and Community Service Act* amendments pertaining to domestic violence.

Background:

- On February 20, 2013 government introduced four amendments to the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA). The amendments received Royal Assent on March 14, 2013.
- The amendments pertaining to domestic violence will be brought into force by regulation at a future date to provide time for the joint training of Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) staff, Delegated Aboriginal Agency (DAA) staff and anti-violence community partners on the legislative amendment. MCFD will partner with the anti-violence sector on the development and delivery of the training.
- The amendments pertaining to domestic violence clarify that domestic violence is a relevant factor to consider when child protection workers assess when a child is in need of protection and clarifies that physical harm to a child is likely to increase if the child is living with domestic violence by or towards a person with whom he/she resides. A child protection report is required to be made if the child is emotionally harmed by living with domestic violence by or towards a person with whom he/she resides.
- The amendments act on the recommendations made by the Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) in the 2009 report *Honouring Christian Lee - No Private Matter: Protecting Children Living with Domestic Violence* and a second report of March 2012 entitled *Honouring Kaitlynn, Max and Cordon: Make Their Voices Heard Now*.
- In these reports the RCY recommends that changes to the CFCSA legislation be made to provide social workers with clear direction in assessing the safety of children who are exposed to domestic violence.
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- The amendments have raised concerns by some anti-violence organizations. To date, the Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA), the BC Society of Transitions Houses (BCSTH), the Elizabeth Fry Society and the University of Victoria – School of Social Work have written letters expressing concerns about the amendments.
- While the intent of the amendments is understood by the stakeholders, they are concerned that the amendments may in fact have unintended consequences and actually increase the risk to women and children for the following reason:
 - If a women with children leave transition houses and return to an abusive situation that transition house workers will need to make a report to MCFD which may deter mothers from considering transition house support in the first place if they know MCFD will be contacted if they return home.
 - The relationship between anti-violence workers and mothers accessing services could fundamentally change as mothers may be fearful that sharing of information will incite child protection concerns and removal of their children

- Regarding the first concern, the CFCSA already requires that anyone who has reason to believe that a child has been or is likely to be abused, neglected or harmed and that the parent is unwilling or unable to protect the child, must report it to a child welfare worker.
- Stakeholders are also concerned that adequate funding be available to ensure that joint training can be developed and implemented regarding the amendments for the anti-violence sector and child protection workers
- In December 2012, staff from the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence met with EVA and BCSTH to discuss the proposed amendments. At that time the proposed amendments were shared under a confidentiality agreement.
- At that time similar concerns were expressed by these stakeholders and a strong recommendation was made that adequate and mandatory cross-sectoral training precede these legislative changes
- Prior to the amendments coming into force MCFD is committed to:
 - Working with the anti-violence sector (e.g. victim services, violence against women and transition house programs) to develop and provide joint training regarding the amendments and unique risk factors present in domestic violence circumstances where children are present in the home; and,
 - Reviewing and revising the Chapter 3 – Child Protection Response policies to ensure they are consistent with the Best Practice Approaches: Child Protection and Violence Against Women. The Best Practice Approaches were developed by government and the anti-violence sector to promote an integrated response to mothers impacted by abuse and their children.
- The Provincial Office of Domestic Violence will be regularly monitoring development and implementation of the training on the domestic violence amendments.

Decision required:

- **This is a 90 day issue.**
- No decision required; for information purposes only.

ISSUE NOTE

Issue: Contract negotiations with Taborview Holdings.

Background:

- The Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) had identified possible protection concerns and quality of care issues related to the care being provided to the youth residing in Taborview specialized resources. The decision to conduct the Special Report arose from the RCY's initial review of an incident involving the 11 year old boy s.22 tasered in Prince George on April 7, 2011.

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- Previous concerns were identified by the RCY regarding allegations of physical harm and quality of care concerns related to the resources managed by Taborview in Prince George and Cranbrook, BC in December 2010. A protocol investigation was completed on April 19, 2011 and the Provincial Director of Child Welfare re-opened the protocol investigation and all the youth currently living in a Taborview resource were re-assessed by two Ministry staff from outside the region to assure there are no ongoing child protection concerns. It was determined there were no ongoing child protection concerns.
- Taborview is an accredited resource and the accrediting body, the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), is aware of the concerns and monitored per their guidelines.
- In August 2011, two 5-year contracts were signed with Taborview Holdings. One had a 2,254,944 million annualized value for 15 beds for youth aged 12-18 years with complex behavioural presentations, mental health issues, youth justice involvement and alcohol and/or drug use. The second contract was for children and youth with special needs for eight beds worth 1,358,016 million. The two contracts had 365 days notice period for termination.
- In the fall of 2011, a decision was made not to place additional youth in Taborview Holdings in Prince George. Since that date, no youth have been placed at Taborview in Prince George.
- Discussion began on February 15, 2012 with the Taborview owner regarding modifications to the residential contracts as the number of placements was reduced from 23 placements to 20 placements.
- The Ministry has given termination notice on the Taborview (contractor George Hoover) residential contracts in Prince George.
- In August 2012, a decision was made to provide 365 days notice on the 12 bed contract. The decision was made due to that fact that no placements could be made at Taborview. There was also a need to reduce the overall number of group home beds in Prince George.
- In November 2012, after a meeting between the contractor and Deputy Minister Stephen Brown a decision was made to provide the 365 days notice to terminate the eight bed contract.

- After the contractor expressed concerns regarding the termination of both contracts, a decision was made in December 2012, to negotiate a 6 to 8 bed contract with Taborview Holdings. The contract was not to include youth with complex need such as children and youth with special needs or children and youth with mental health issues.
- Negotiations for the new contract began in January 2013. There was initially a significant difference between MCFD and the contractor regarding the number of beds for the contract and the overall contract value.
- Since May 2013, ADM for Service Delivery Beverly Dicks has been working with the local Executive Director of Service and corporate services staff to finalize the contract. A draft contract was developed for eight beds for \$960,000. This would provide two four-bed homes, which are licensed. All terms of the contract have been agreed to, except for the language regarding staff qualifications.
- The Provincial Director of Child Welfare Doug Hughes is reviewing the proposed language regarding staff qualifications.
- MCFD has put forward the expectation that all staff have a social service diploma or degree. Currently, only one staff member employed in the program have the qualification outlined in the new contract. MCFD is asking the contractor to hire staff with diploma/certificate and experience but the contractor is proposing staff with experience should not have to meet the educational requirement of the contract.
- MCFD is proposing that the contractor be given a short period of time, 3 to 6 months to ensure that all staff have the qualifications outlined in the contract.
- Taborview continues to receive payments for both residential contracts under the 365 day notice period. There are currently four youth placed in Taborview.
- Assistant Deputy Minister Beverly Dicks will be required to make a decision over whether MCFD in Prince George will continue to contract with Taborview if they do not meet the above educational criteria.

Decision required:

- **This is a 30 day issue.**
- No decision is required; for information purposes only.