

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

CLIFF #230741

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

TITLE: Ministry-Approved Life Skills Program Provider List

PURPOSE: Information and background regarding the development of the Ministry-approved Life Skills Program List

BACKGROUND:

- Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) Regulation Amendments and AYA changes, life skills criteria and launch date were approved in April 2016.
- AYA expansion was announced on October 17, 2016.
- With the development of the new life skills program component, the ministry needed to develop a mechanism to ensure services will be provided based on the eligibility criteria to meet youth needs.
- The eligibility criteria were based on a literature review of best practices in life skills programming, focus group sessions with community agencies in BC providing life skills programming to youth and young adults, and a scan of life skills programs available in BC (*See Appendix 1: Approved Criteria*).
- On October 18, 2016, guided by ministry procurement and reviewed by Legal Services Branch, an application process to be recognized as a ministry-approved Life Skills Program provider based on the criteria was launched on the BC Bid website - <http://bcbid.gov.bc.ca/open.dll/welcome>.
- The intent of the application process was to identify life skills programs that will meet the approved AYA program criteria. The intent was not to solicit services that required additional funding for the administration or establishment of new life skills programs.
- Applicants who were not accredited by either Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) or Council on Accreditation (COA) were asked to submit additional information regarding their operating policies for health/safety, criminal record checks, confidentiality, storage of client information, program oversight, client rights, and staffing.
- Thirty one applications were received through the BC Bid process which closed November 18, 2016.
- Applications were reviewed by the life skills subworking group comprised of practice, policy, contract and Strategic Priorities representatives.
- The applications were vetted and 21 life skills programs met the criteria with the North East SDA not having an approved program (*See Appendix 2-3 for lists that met the criteria and did not meet the criteria*).

DISCUSSION:

- Letters notifying applicants of the outcome of the BC Bid process will be sent December 1, 2016 with an offer for a debriefing.

- The ministry-approved list will then be posted on the MCFD intranet and internet sites, the AYA Online Resource Center, and links to the list will be posted on the Agedout.com, BC Federation of Youth In Care Networks, and the Federation of Community and Social Services Association websites.
- Although there will be a number of approved life skills programs across the province, services for rural areas remains a challenge. Work is under way to address individual approaches and potential waitlists.
- The BC Bid application process for the ministry-approved Life Skills Program will be reposted in January 2017 with regular (twice a year) repostings will occur to refresh the list with new providers.

ADVICE:

Minister to support the notification of the approved applicants and the posting of the successful applicants publically.

Program ADM/Branch: Tami Currie, A/ADM Provincial Office of Domestic Violence and Strategic Priorities

Program Contact (for content): Michelle Wywrot, Director Strategic Priorities

Drafter: Michelle Wywrot, Director Strategic Priorities

Date: November 30, 2016

Appendix 1:

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR LIFE SKILLS PROGRAMS

Contract Length: Young adults can enter an Agreement that is a minimum of 3 months and a maximum of 6 months while enrolled in a life skills program. An Agreement to attend a life skills program may only be renewed or re-initiated beyond six months in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of a Community Services Manager.

Program Hours: Life skills programs must provide a minimum of 12 hours per week or 48 hours per month to be eligible under AYA. All housing-based programs will meet the criteria for program hours. This aligns with best practice research that supports the effectiveness of intensive life skills programs and housing-based programs. As well, it aligns with the YWCA Strive program model which was developed in partnership with MCFD.

Program Components: A life skills program must include the following components to be eligible under the AYA program.

- **One-to-one support:** Programs must offer one-to-one support to young adults.
- **Individualized Development Plan:** With the support of a one-to-one worker, youth must develop and work towards an Individualized Development Plan that includes life skills development and overarching life goals.
- **Hands-on/Applied Learning Activities:** Programs must offer opportunities for young adults to engage in hands-on learning activities (eg. writing a resume, cooking, educational planning).

Learning Domains: A life skills program must include learning opportunities in at least four of the following six core learning domains: education, health and wellness, financial literacy, social skills, employment, and housing. This approach allows for some flexibility in program delivery, while also ensuring that young adults learn key life skills highlighted in the best practice research.

Table 1: Key Learning Domains for Life Skills Programs

Education	Health and Wellness	Financial Literacy
<p><i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring educational and vocational programs • How to apply for post-secondary and vocational programs • Obtaining funding for post-secondary programs • Effective study habits 	<p><i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making healthy choices • Groceries and meal planning • Finding and accessing health resources • Mental health • Self-care • Coping with stress • Personal hygiene • Sleep hygiene • Physical activity and physical health • Sexual health • Substance Use 	<p><i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budgeting • Contract knowledge • Preparing taxes • Accessing Income Assistance • Setting up a bank account • Credit and interest • Savings
Social Skills	Employment	Housing
<p><i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication • Healthy relationships • Connection to community • Connection to culture • Recognizing social cues • Anger management • Self-awareness 	<p><i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career exploration • How to look for a job • Resumes and Cover Letters • Interview preparation • How to maintain a job 	<p><i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household maintenance (i.e. cleaning, repairs, laundry) • How to find housing • How to maintain housing • Tenancy rights and responsibilities

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APPENDIX 3: Life Skills Program Applicants that did not meet the Eligibility Criteria.

Non Approved Life Skills Program List				
Applicant	Name	Location	Area	Not approved rationale
John Howard Society of North Island	AYA Lifeskills Program	Campbell River	North Vancouver Island	Under development
AKA It's All About You Quality of Life Services	LIVE Youth in Transition	Kelowna	Okanagan	Does not do individualized planning or have any applied hands on activities
Burnside Gorge Community Association	Youth Self Sufficiency	Victoria	South Vancouver Island	Non-structured drop in program offering minimal hours a week
Communitas Supportive Care Society	CLP Life Skills Development	Abbotsford	Fraser East	Does not provide the hours of service
Communitas Supportive Care Society	CLP Transitions	Abbotsford	Fraser East	Does not provide the hours of service
Communitas Supportive Care Society	CLP Employment	Abbotsford	Fraser East	Does not provide the hours of service
Employment Action	Life Skills in Time	Prince George	North Central	Program is not long enough
Making Ourselves Matter Services Society	MOMMS Life Skills Apprenticeship	Prince George	North Central	Program does not exist
Rocky Mountain Behavior Analysts	Rocky Mountain Behavior Analysts	Cranbrook, Creston, Kimberley and Invermere areas	Kootenays	Program is for CLBC eligible clients and requires a fee for service

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

CLIFF # 230766

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

TITLE: Amendments to the Residential Tenancy Act (RTA).

PURPOSE: To provide an update on the implementation of the amendments to the RTA, which are proposed to be announced on December 5th or 6th, 2016.

BACKGROUND:

- PODV provided input, advice and information to the Office of Housing and Construction Standards to amend the Residential Tenancy Act (RTA) (Section 30-36 of Bill 40).
- Changes to B.C.'s residential tenancy rules provide greater support for victims of family violence and individuals who require long-term care.
- This change is part of B.C.'s commitment to a Violence-Free BC and supports the Provincial Domestic Violence Plan.

The Amendments:

- The changes to the RTA allow for the early end to a lease by a tenant who is fleeing family violence or who has been accepted into a long-term care facility. Previously, tenants in those situations couldn't end a lease early without a financial penalty, unless the landlord agreed.
- This change will make it easier for tenants who fear for their safety – or their children's safety – to leave their current situation by providing the landlord with one month's notice, and third party verification.
- Examples of third party verifiers include transition house workers, outreach workers, police officers, physicians, victim court support caseworkers, registered social workers, long-term care facility managers or health authority case managers.
- These changes are widely supported by landlord and tenant associations; legal advocates; anti-violence and victim-serving organizations; and health authorities.
- Another Residential Tenancy Act change taking effect allows landlords to repay a tenant's security deposit by electronic transfer of funds. Previously, deposits had to be returned by ordinary mail, by registered mail or in person.
- While other provinces have similar legislation, B.C. is the only jurisdiction in Canada that does not require a victim of family violence to involve police or the courts in order to end their lease.

DISCUSSION:

- PODV continues to work with the Office of Housing and Construction Standards to assist with the dissemination of this legislative amendment.
- Natural Gas Development is the lead and there is no formal announcement; it will be a news release only.
- Robin Platts, Public Affairs Officer, is the communications contact for this release.

Program ADM/Branch: Tami Currie, A/ADM, Provincial Office of Domestic Violence and Strategic Priorities

Program Contact (for content): Catherine Talbott

Drafter: Catherine Talbott

Date: December 1, 2017

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

CLIFF # 230771

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

TITLE: December 8, 2016 meeting with the Chair of Provincial Child Care Council (PCCC), Wayne Robertson

PURPOSE: To provide summary information for the Minister's upcoming meeting with the PCCC Chair.

BACKGROUND:

- PCCC was established in 1993 under the *Child Care BC Act* to provide recommendations to the minister about child care under that Act and about child care subsidies under the *Child Care Subsidy Act*.
- The *Child Care BC Act* specifies that Council consists of at least 14 and not more than 21 members. Members are chosen to represent the regional and sectoral interests of parents, children, caregivers and communities.
- Currently, eighteen Board Members represent the following stakeholder groups: child care, Indigenous, education, business/law, non-profit, and supported child development.
- Council last met June 23 and 24, 2016. Minister Cadieux was in attendance.

DISCUSSION:

- The upcoming PCCC meeting was scheduled for December 15 and 16, 2016, but has since been rescheduled to January 19 and 20, 2017. It will be held at the BC Law Foundation's Board Room in Vancouver.
- The minister is scheduled to attend the PCCC meeting on January 20, 2017 – exact time to be determined.

Previous Meeting Highlights:

- Appointments: Four new members were appointed to council (Carlos Brito, Melissa Hyndes, Angela (Angie) Maitland and Margaret Warcup).
- A summary of amendments made to the Child Care Subsidy Regulation: (i) the requirement to apply for subsidy every 12 months was removed; and (ii) child support payments were exempted from the income calculation.
- Presentation by Ministry of Education on Early Learning in BC School Districts: A Scan of Promising Practices.

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Upcoming Meeting:

- Appointments: One member has resigned from the council reducing the total membership from 19 to 18 and creating an opportunity for an additional appointment.
- A conversation was started at the last meeting on developing ways to improve communication between MCFD, the EYO and PCCC. This will continue at the January meeting.
- Feedback will be sought from the Child Care Programs and Services working group regarding the upcoming Major Capital funding intake and the delivery of the program.

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ADVICE:

- Council's work is appreciated as are the members' commitment to and involvement in the WGs.
- Advice and recommendations from Council will be given consideration.
- The minister looks forward to continued updates and further discussions with Council.

Program ADM/Branch: Christine Massey, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Provincial Services

Program Contact (for content): Aleksandra Stevanovic, Executive Director, Children and Youth with Special Needs, Autism and Early Years Policy

Drafter: Tracy Boyd, Early Years Policy Analyst

Date: December 6, 2016

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

CLIFF # 230628

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

TITLE: 2016 Child Fatalities Published Statistics

PURPOSE: The Ministry will post child fatality statistics showing the number of children in care and children who had received ministry services who died between January 1 and June 30, 2016.

BACKGROUND:

- In 1996, the Ministry first published statistics regarding deaths of children in care and deaths of children who had received services within the past 12 months under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA).
- Both types of fatality statistics are updated every six months and posted in June and December.
- The last update was in June 2016 and included child fatality statistics between January to December 2015.
- 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, such as 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 child care workers, respite or family counseling providers.

DISCUSSION:

Children in Care Deaths:

- From January 1st to June 30th, 2016, 4 children in care died. The following classification of death is information *currently* provided by the BC Coroner's Service:
 - 4 Natural;
 - 0 Accidental;
 - 0 Suicide;
 - 0 Homicide;
 - 0 Undetermined with an ongoing investigation by the Coroner's Service;
 - 0 Undetermined and the Coroner's investigation is complete and their file closed;
- 3 of the 4 children in care who died were Aboriginal;
- All of these deaths proceeded to Case Review; 3 are in progress, and 1 is completed.
- All of the Case Reviews are File Reviews.

Children who had received services under the CFCSA in previous 6 months:

- Between January 1st and June 30th, 2016, 47 children who had received services died. The following classification of death is information currently provided by the BC Coroner's Service:
 - 29 Natural*, comprising 62% of the total number of deaths of children receiving services;
 - 4 Accidental;
 - 0 Homicide;
 - 4 Suicide;
 - 10 Undetermined with an ongoing investigation by the Coroner's Service;
 - 0 Undetermined with a Coroner's investigation completed and their file closed;
 - 2 deaths occurred outside the province of British Columbia and have no Coroner classification; a reportable circumstance was completed with respect to both deaths, therefore they are included in the total 47 fatalities count;
- 17 of the children who died were Aboriginal.
- All fatalities were screened to determine whether a Case Review was required.
- 4 of these 47 deaths have proceeded to Case Review; 3 are in progress and 1 is completed.
- *Many of the Natural deaths were related to children and youth with special needs who were medically fragile.
- 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.

Attachment:

Fatalities of Children in Care & Receiving Services under the *Child, Community & Family Service Act*.

Program ADM/Branch: Cory Heavener – Provincial Director of Child Welfare

Program Contact (for content): Trisha Myers – Manager - Practice Support & Issue Management

Drafter: Sonya Foote – Practice Analyst - Practice Support & Issue Management

Date: November 21st, 2016.

FATALITIES OF CHILDREN IN CARE & RECEIVING SERVICES UNDER THE CFCSA

Fatalities of Children in Care by Calendar Year

YEAR	NATURAL	ACCIDENT	HOMICIDE	SUICIDE	UNDETERMINED ⁱ		TOTALS
					OPEN	CLOSED	
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	6	0	2	1	0	15 ⁱⁱ
2013	2	2	2	2	0	1	9 ⁱⁱ
2014 ⁱⁱ	6	3	0	4	0	1	14 ^{iv}
2015	1	3	2	3	2	0	11
2016 ^{vii}	4	0	0	0	0	0	4 ^{iv}

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

YEAR	NATURAL	ACCIDENT	HOMICIDE	SUICIDE	UNDETERMINED ⁱ		TOTALS
					OPEN	CLOSED	
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 ⁱⁱⁱ
2012	61	20	1	7	6	1	96
2013	53	10	2	7	0	8	80 ⁱⁱ
2014 ⁱⁱ	38	10	6	4	3	4	65 ^{iv}
2015	66 ^v	17	4	11	9	1	110 ^{iv}
2016 ^{vi}	29	4	0	4	10	0	47 ^{iv}

ⁱ 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.

ⁱⁱ Updated classification from the Coroner regarding cause of death.

ⁱⁱⁱ Late report of death outside of six month bi-yearly report.

^{iv} This total includes fatalities where there is no Coroner classification of death because the fatality occurred outside the province or country.

^v Over 61 % of the total number of deaths for 2015 were attributed to natural causes.

^{vi} These totals reflect Child Fatalities between January 1st, to June 30th - mid-year report for 2016.

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

CLIFF# 230838

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

TITLE: Youth Detention and Reintegration

PURPOSE: Information regarding youth detention and reintegration in response to a letter/note from s.22 dated October 11, 2016

BACKGROUND:

- Youth custody counts have been in a steady decline since the mid 1990's. In the mid 1990's BC had 7 youth custody centres and over 400 youth in custody on average
- Today BC has two custody centres (Burnaby and Prince George) and an interim holding unit (Victoria) with a count consistently under 50 youth
- All youth in custody have, or are assigned, a community youth probation officer in their home community
- While a youth is in custody, their assigned community probation officer provides overall case management responsibilities, including:
 - Identifying and coordinating the involvement of appropriate participants (parent, guardian, social workers, others) in service planning;
 - Identifying the youth's program needs while in custody;
 - Monitoring the youth's completion of custody programs and the youth's eligibility and appropriateness for a court review; and
 - Developing the youth's reintegration plan.
- All youth in custody, whether detained or sentenced, have a multitude of programming and supports available including: Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services, health care, counselling, education, clergy, Indigenous supports and elders and more
- Youth in custody can also complete trade certificates, including: First Aid, Forklift Operation, and a Barista's program that assist in successful reintegration

DISCUSSION:

- Reintegration planning starts as soon as a youth enters custody. At minimum, probation officers, working with case management staff at the custody centre, ensure that suitable escort or supervision arrangements are in place for the youth's return to the home community
- Reintegration planning includes addressing residence, education/employment, program, therapeutic needs, and service planning to reduce the risk of reoffending
- For youth not returning to their parents' home, the focus on reintegration plans addresses a suitable residence for the youth – this involves close planning with the youth, the guardian(s), aboriginal community, and others involved in supporting the youth
- While in custody, youth may benefit from funding that specifically addresses transitions and reintegration. This allows eligible families and/or support workers to be supported in visiting the youth at a custody centre, for the youth to be supported in travel home during reintegration leaves from custody, or to provide for short-term

necessary expenses to improve reintegration success rates upon release from custody,
e.g. rent money

- Funding mentioned above flows from the redesign of youth justice Full Time Attendance Programs

Program ADM/Branch: Alison Bond/Service Delivery Division

Program Contact (for content): Phil Peachey

Drafter: Phil Peachey

Date: December 12, 2016

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

CLIFF: 230918

PREPARED FOR: The Honourable Stephanie Cadieux- **FOR INFORMATION**

TITLE: Federal Poverty Reduction Strategy (FPRS)

PURPOSE: To provide an update on BC's participation at the Provincial Territorial (PT) and Federal Provincial Territorial (FPT) Poverty Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings held in Ottawa on December 5 & 6, 2016.

BACKGROUND:

- PT and FPT PAC meetings were held in Ottawa on December 5 and 6th.
- Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Tami Currie, attended the meetings on behalf of British Columbia.
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- Ministries invited included: Health, Jobs Tourism and Skills Training, Social Development and Social Innovation, Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, Community Sport and Cultural Development, and Education and the Office of Housing and Construction Standards.

DISCUSSION:

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Program ADM/Branch: Tami Currie, Provincial Office of Domestic
Violence and Strategic Priorities
Program Contact (for content): Tami Currie
Drafter: Tami Currie
Date: December 16, 2016

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

CLIFF# 230818

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

TITLE: Public Posting of Case Review Summaries

PURPOSE: Sixteen case review report summaries will be posted on the Ministry's website in December 2016.

BACKGROUND:

- In the *BC Children and Youth Review*, Judge Hughes recommended that the Ministry publicly release summaries for each child death review completed in the previous six months.
- The Ministry's commitment is to post summaries of all case reviews completed after January 2008.
- As of June 2011, the Ministry revised its process for posting summaries to include all fatality and critical injury case reviews.
- The summaries are posted twice each year; in June and December.
- Privacy issues are considered when preparing the summaries.
- The ministry conducts two types types of case reviews: file reviews; and, comprehensive reviews. File reviews involve examination of the physical and electronic records related to the incident. Comprehensive reviews involve examination of the records in addition to interviews of ministry staff and others involved in the matter.

DISCUSSION:

- The 16 case review summaries in the December 2016 posting are all file reviews.
- Six of the case reviews concern children/youth who were known to the Ministry but not in care, and 10 reviews involved a child/youth who was in the care of the Ministry.
- Thirteen of the 16 case reviews involve the death of a child/youth.
- Two of the case reviews involve Aboriginal children for whom a Delegated Aboriginal Agency (DAA) had conduct of their case file.
- Five of the case reviews determined that no action plan was required. The other 11 case reviews resulted in a total of 21 actions of which:
 - 1 has been completed.
 - 21 are in progress; of these, 12 are overdue.
- The main themes of the actions associated with the case reviews are: the review of policy and guidelines, care plans (including permanency planning), and services to youth.
- The case reviews identified practice concerns in the area of assessment and planning for the child/youth, and collaboration with service providers and/or other Ministry program areas.
- It is the responsibility of each Service Delivery Area (SDA) and DAA to complete the action plans. The Office of the Provincial Director of Child Welfare monitors the completion of every action in the action plans by following up with those accountable

for the actions, until they are completed. Any overdue actions require an explanation, and the required steps and timeframe for completion. Any unreasonably overdue actions are brought to the attention of the responsible Assistant Deputy Minister.

Program ADM/Branch: Cory Heavener, Office for the Provincial Director of Child Welfare/Quality Assurance Branch

Program Contact: Sharon Crux

Drafter: Deanna Jacobs

Date: December 13, 2016