

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
DECISION NOTE**

DATE: November 18, 2019
CLIFF#: 245492

DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE: September 15, 2019
PREVIOUS CLIFF #: 243818

PREPARED FOR: Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development and
Katrina Chen, Minister of State for Child Care

ISSUE: Direction regarding scope of potential adjustments to Childcare BC Universal Prototype Site (Prototype Site) agreements upon conclusion of current funding term

BACKGROUND:

Currently the 53 Prototype Sites delivering \$200 a month child care are funded through federal funding under the terms of the Canada-British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Agreement; the current funding term is set to expire effective March 31, 2020. The timing of the renewal of this agreement is unknown at this time.

The Ministry has been monitoring and evaluating the 53 Prototype Sites through the Prototype Site Monthly Reports (final reports will be submitted in April 2020) and an evaluation by R.A. Malatest and Associates Ltd. (Malatest) (final evaluation report due June 2020). As such, the Ministry is currently continuing to conduct information-gathering activities to inform the development of options for consideration by Child Care Working Group and Treasury Board (fall 2020). These options will consider future funding models for the 53 Prototype Sites, as well as a phased implementation approach to extend the new funding model to all licensed child care facilities as part of the Province's commitment to delivering universal child care.

Extending/renewing the existing agreements will ensure the Province does not need to go through the previous site selection process (e.g. external call for proposals). This means the Ministry will only be able to make minor adjustments to the existing Agreements, (e.g. changes to the fundamental funding model, consideration of appropriate profit margins, etc., cannot be considered at this time).

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In the event that funding is secured, direction is required on how to proceed with the extension or renewal of the Agreements and confirmation is sought as to the preferred outcome of the program extensions.

DISCUSSION:

There are three areas in which the Province may elect to adjust current Funding Agreements, which will not necessitate a second call for proposals / site selection process:

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OPTIONS:

Option 2: Address Business Model/Cost Pressures and Align Funding w/Services at Under-Enrolled Sites: Extend or renew existing Prototype Site Agreements at current (fiscal 2019/20) funding levels for majority of sites (and accomodation on a case-by-case basis to allow for business model adjustments and or cost pressures), and proceed with negotiating adjusted funding levels (based on average reported 2019/20 enrolment) for Sites which have consistently reported under-enrolment. (RECOMMENDED)

Implications:

- Same as Option 1, and:
- Funding (for sites that accept adjusted funding) will better reflect actual enrolments.
- Administratively more burdensome than Option 1.
- Some Sites may choose not to continue in the Initiative with less funding.

RECOMMENDATION: Option 2

Option 2

November 29, 2019

DECISION and SIGNATURE

Katrine Conroy
Minister of Children and Family Development

DATE SIGNED

Option 2

November 29, 2019

DECISION and SIGNATURE

Katrina Chen
Minister of State for Child Care

DATE SIGNED

Attachments:

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

DATE: November 27, 2019

CLIFF#: 245867

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister

ISSUE: The Federation of Community Social Services of BC Quarterly Update

BACKGROUND:

A meeting with The Federation of Community Social Services of BC (the Federation), represented by Rick FitzZaland, Executive Director, and Tanya Behardien, Board President, and Minister Katrine Conroy has been set for December 11, 2019, as per the Federation's request.

The Federation represents over 140 agencies who provide support to individuals and communities in BC. They hold a strong voice at the provincial government level.

The Ministry of Children & Family Development (ministry) has a strong, collaborative partnership with the Federation, ensuring the Federation is kept informed of the ministry's key priorities, engaging with them on an ongoing basis through regular and ad hoc meetings, and including them on formal advisory bodies.

DISCUSSION:

The Federation is actively engaged with the ministry through their participation in the ministry's Social Sector Advisory Committee (Committee). The purpose of this Committee is to build sustained collaboration between the ministry and the sector, while also providing insight and expertise to support key ministry actions. The Federation has participated in all Committee meetings: three face-to-face and one ad hoc online meeting (over the last nine months).

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SUMMARY:

The ministry continues to value its ongoing partnership and collaboration with the Federation. Mechanisms are in place to allow the Federation to provide ongoing advice and guidance on ministry priorities. The ministry will continue to be responsive to any shifting concerns the Federation raises, by scheduling additional ad hoc meetings and increasing engagement.

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2020/2021 CCOF Renewal

Care Provider Journey

December 12, 2019



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A NEW
DAY FOR
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CHILDCARE BC

What's New for 2020/21



Starting Early



Reduced Documentation



New Adjudication Tools



More Communications and Town Halls



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CHILDCARE BC

New Streamlined Approach

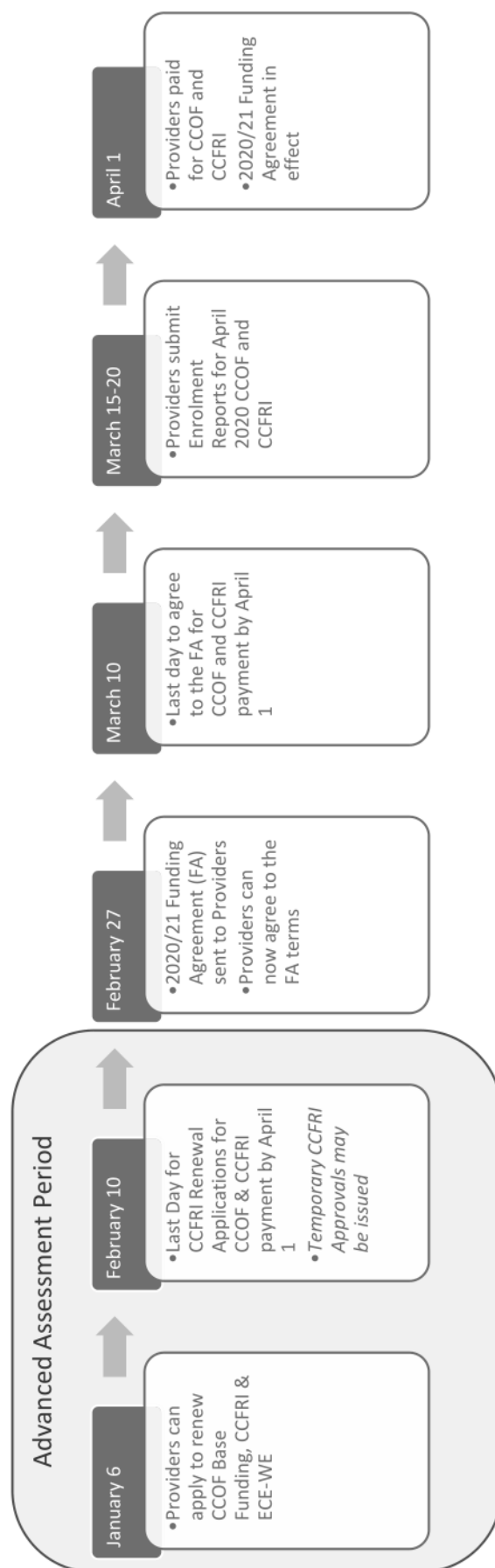
2019/2020	2020/2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjudication began March 1 • Ongoing staff training and retraining on complex Stage 3 • Evolving policies during renewal • New temporary approvals added post-launch • 89 pages of Documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCFRI Guidelines 26 pages • ECE-WE Guidelines 25 pages • Funding Agreement 38 pages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjudication begins January 6 • Staff fully trained January 17th • Policies finalized December 2019 • Temporary approvals available, as needed, mid-February • 45 pages of Documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCFRI Guidelines 14 pages • ECE-WE Guidelines 8 pages • Funding Agreement 23 pages



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2020/21 Renewal Timelines

For Payment by April 1st



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January 6, 2020



**Renewal Launch
Email**



**Website
Improvements**



**Updated CCFRI
and ECE-WE
Guidelines**



**New Program
Confirmation
Form**



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CHILDCARE BC

Website Improvements

Provider step-by-step guide on how to apply and renew

Information for providers, parents and staff

Clearer layout with easier access to information



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Updates to the 2020/21 Guidelines

CCFRI Guidelines

- Specific policy for parent fee increases to create a more inclusive child care environment for all children, including those with extra support needs.
- A fee increase will only be considered historic if it is of a similar amount and timeframe. Previously, increases that were of a similar percentage were also considered.

ECE-WE Guidelines

- Wage Enhancement – increasing from \$1/hour to \$2/hour
- Statutory Benefits – increasing from 18.57% to 18.73%
- Process for claiming EHT offset funding



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New Two-Part Renewal Form

- Save and return function
- Shows previous Parent Fees and providers required to confirm
- Providers receive a copy of their form
- Request for Information now part of the form
- Integrated into Adjudication Tool

Program Confirmation Form	
Part 1: Providers apply to renew CCOF, CCFRI and ECE-WE	(Provider receives approvals and Funding Agreement to review)
Part 2: Providers Agree to Funding Agreement	(Providers can invoice starting March 15)



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Updates to the 2020/21 Funding Agreement



Provider requirements:

- make every reasonable effort to provide an inclusive and supportive environment for all Enrolled or Drop-in Space children, including children with extra support needs
- advise CCFRI Parents of approvals, fees and increases
- advise ECEs of WE approval and fee increases for wages
- not create optional fees for services previously included

Province ability to:

- post CCFRI Parent Fees
- share the status, date and reason for approval or denial of CCFRI and ECE-WE applications; and Parent Fee increases and reason



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Staffing Service Levels

- 20 permanent FTEs year round
- 25 FTEs from the Affordable Child Care Benefit until April
- More efficient support model with all staff in one location
- Additional Quality Assurance



2020/2021 Renewal Form Demo



Thank You!



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

DATE: December 4, 2019
CLIFF#: 246142

DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE: May 29, 2019
PREVIOUS CLIFF #: 240846, 238332& 243570

PREPARED FOR: Minister Katrine Conroy - Minister of Children and Family Development

ISSUE: Public Posting of Deaths of Children in Care and Children Not in Care who had received Services.

BACKGROUND:

To provide information on statistics of children who died between January 1 and June 30, 2019 that will be posted on the Ministry's website in late December 2019.

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 are publicly posted in June and December to ensure public accountability.

A child in care means a child who is in the custody, care or guardianship of a director under the CFCSA. A child who has received services (not in care) includes: a child who was the subject of a child protection report and whose need for protection was investigated; a child who was 'in care' under the *Adoption Act*; or a child who is being supported via the Child and Youth Special Needs (CYSN) program. Supports may include therapeutic care for children diagnosed as palliative, medical supplies, therapeutic equipment, home therapy, nursing support services and medical benefits.

A child who has received services (not in care) may also include: 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; or a child who was receiving mental health services.

DISCUSSION:

The Ministry verifies child fatality categories of death with the British Columbia Coroner's Service (BCCS) - Child Death Review Unit¹ before postings occur. The classification of a fatality may change as a death is investigated or new information becomes available. The classification of death information may change over time and the statistics are updated to reflect recent changes verified with the BCCS.

¹ Current 2019 child fatality data was reviewed and reconciled by BCCS as of November 12, 2019.

Children in Care Deaths:

From January 1 to June 30, 2019, 9 children in care died. The following classification of death is information *currently* provided by BCCS :

- 4 Natural;
- 3 Accidental²;
- 1 Suicide;
- 0 Homicide;
- 1 Undetermined;
- 2 Accidental deaths were confirmed by BCCS as opioid/fentanyl related deaths;
- All 9 deaths proceeded to Case Review - 4 are completed File Reviews and 5 are File Reviews – in progress.
- 5 of the 9 children in care were in the Continuing Custody of the Director at time of their death; 1 was under a Temporary Custody Order; 1 was under an Interim Custody Order and 2 were Under Removal.
- 6 of the 9 children were First Nations, Métis or Inuit.

Children who had Received Services (not in care) in previous 12 months:

Between January 1 and June 30, 2019, 45 children who had received services died. The following classification of death is information *currently* provided by the British Columbia Coroner's Service:

- 26 Natural³;
- 6 Accidental²;
- 2 Homicide;
- 5 Suicide⁴; and
- 4 Undetermined- 3 with an Open BCCS investigation and 1 with a Closed classification.
- 15 of the 45 children who died were First Nations, Métis or Inuit.
- 1 of the 6 Accidental deaths were children and youth who died of opioid/fentanyl related causes, confirmed by BCCS; 4 of the 6 Accidental deaths were First Nations, Métis or Inuit.
- All fatalities were screened to determine whether a Case Review was required.
- There are 2 Case Reviews – Both are File Reviews In Progress.
- There are 2 fatalities out of province/country that do not have a BCCS classification.

SUMMARY:

² Accidental deaths may include motor vehicle accidents, drownings, choking, poisonings, unsafe sleeping practices, house fires or drug overdoses.

³ The majority of children who died of Natural causes were receiving services from the CYSN program area; which comprises 58% of the total number of deaths of children receiving services for this time period.

⁴ Suicide deaths - 4 of these 5 deaths were due to hanging; One was First Nations, Métis or Inuit. In consultation with the BCCS, it was determined that the number of children and youth who complete suicide by self-hanging is proportionate with provincial child fatality data.

Child fatality data from 2018 and 2019 (to date) reveals no significant variations from past years.

ATTACHMENTS:

FATALITIES OF CHILDREN IN CARE & RECEIVING SERVICES UNDER THE CFCSA

Fatalities of Children in Care By Calendar Year

YEAR	NATURAL	ACCIDENT	HOMICIDE	SUICIDE	UNDETERMINED ⁵		TOTALS
					OPEN	CLOSED	
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	4	2	3	1	0	11
2016	4	0	1	1	0	0	7 ^{iv}
2017	4	5	0	0	3	0	12
2018 ^{vi}	5	4	0	2	2	0	13
2019	4	3	0	1	0	1	9

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

YEAR	NATURAL ^v	ACCIDENT	HOMICIDE	SUICIDE	UNDETERMINED ⁱ		TOTALS
					OPEN	CLOSED	
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	11	6	4	3	4	67 ^{iv}
2015 ⁱⁱ	70 ^v	17	4	11	3	2	110 ^{iv}
2016 ⁱⁱⁱ	54	17	1	9	15	0	97 ^{iv}
2017	58	26	6	12	5	0	108 ^{iv}
2018 ^{vii}	60 ⁱⁱⁱ	22 ⁱⁱ	2	7	7	2 ⁱⁱ	101 ^{vi}
2019	26 ^v	6	2	5	3	1	45 ^{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 58% of the total number of deaths for January 01-June30 2019 were attributed to Natural causes.

^{vi} These numbers represent data from January 1 to December 31, 2018 - bi-yearly report.

^{vii} This total includes a child in care under the Adoption Act who received services within 12 months of death.

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

DATE: November 27, 2019
CLIFF#: 246180

DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE (if applicable): n/a
PREVIOUS CLIFF # (if applicable): n/a

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister

ISSUE: Provincial Director of Child Welfare report on Children and youth reported lost or missing from care

BACKGROUND:

At the request of the Provincial Director of Child Welfare, the Monitoring team, Child Welfare Branch, recently completed a project to learn more about children and youth in care who have been reported as lost or missing as per Reportable Circumstance policy.

This project was produced as part of an initiative to make a greater use of different types of quality assurance data. There were two primary objectives:

- To better understand the issues related to children and youth reported as lost or missing
- To consider ways to inform and improve practice

The project included a literature and jurisdictional review on risk/protective factors and promising practices in responding to and preventing youth from running from care; a descriptive analysis of administrative data of children and youth in care reported as lost or missing; and a review of electronic case files for a sample these children and youth.

A reference group guided the project. Reference group members were from Provincial Practice Branch, Quality Assurance Branch, Reportable Circumstances and Practice Support and Issues Management in Child Welfare Branch, Centralized Screening in Service Delivery Division, Delegated Aboriginal Agencies, Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks, and the Youth Advisory Council.

DISCUSSION:

A total of 248 children and youth in care served by MCFD and Delegated Aboriginal Agencies (DAAs) had at least one “lost or missing” Reportable Circumstance Report (RC) submitted between April 1, 2015 and March 31, 2018. The vast majority were between the ages of 14 and 18, and Indigenous female youth were over-represented in this group. Some of these children had more than one lost or missing RC, and a total of 403 lost and missing RCs were submitted during this period.

Nearly half of the children and youth who were reported lost and missing from care were in a contracted residential resource, compared to roughly 10 percent of the all children and youth in care. Of the children and youth with a sibling also in care, less than 20% were placed with one

of their siblings. This is significant given that residing with another sibling has been shown in the research literature to be a protective factor against running away from care.

The average time that children and youth were missing from care was 13 days. Older children were more likely to be missing for longer periods; all children under 10 were found within 24 hours. Electronic records for children and youth reported lost or missing indicated that staff were taking appropriate steps to locate these children and youth, guided by clear policies.

Patterns of frequently running away were noted in 71% of files reviewed. Electronic records did not include information on what planning had occurred with youth to stop this pattern.

Nearly 20% of youth were arrested and placed in a correctional facility for a period of time before returning to a placement. This happened much more frequently for Indigenous children and youth; one quarter of Indigenous children and youth were arrested and jailed when found compared to only 5% of non-Indigenous children and youth.

Key risk factors identified in the research literature include having previously run away; coming into care due to a parent inability to support needs rather than protection reasons; a high number of removals and/or placement changes; being in group care; a permanency plan to remain in care long-term/age out of care or not having a permanency plan. Protective factors include living with a relative or being in the same placement as a sibling; the presence of supportive group care staff; and longer stays in the same placement.

Promising practice identified in other jurisdictions includes guidelines for ministry staff around responding to youth who run away from care and resources for caregivers and social workers.

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NEXT STEPS:

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

DATE: December 4, 2019
CLIFF#: 246146

DATE OF PREVIOUS NOTE: May 29, 2019
PREVIOUS CLIFF #: 240846, 238332& 243570

PREPARED FOR: Minister Katrine Conroy - Minister of Children and Family Development

ISSUE: Public Posting of Deaths of Children in Care and Children Not in Care who had received Services.

BACKGROUND:

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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.

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