



# **Children and Youth with Support Needs Service Framework**

## **Recommendations for Functional Needs-Based Eligibility, Type and Frequency of Services and an Evaluation Framework**

**Prepared for: British Columbia Ministry of Children  
and Family Development**

**Prepared by: CanChild Center for Childhood Disability Research,  
McMaster University**

**May 2021**



## About CanChild

---

Since its founding in 1989, CanChild has become an international leader in the field of childhood disability research through programs of innovative research and a commitment to making research findings accessible to a wide range of audiences. In 2018, CanChild received formal Senate approval as a University Research Centre at McMaster University.



To ensure CanChild research addresses real-world concerns, our researchers work in close partnership with multiple stakeholders, including:

- Children, youth and young adults with disabilities and their families
- Healthcare professionals and organizations who provide services for children and youth
- Researchers and university educators in Canada and around the world
- Policy analysts and decision-makers from provincial and national governments

While the scope of CanChild's activities is broad, the majority of our work is applied clinical and health services research focused on issues of concern for children and youth with physical, developmental and communication needs and their families.

## About the CanChild Contributors

---

**Rachel Teplicky** is an Occupational Therapist and CanChild's Business and Engagement Officer. She oversees CanChild's Measurement and Analysis Service and brings expertise in the areas of the F-Words for Child Development and participation-focused assessment, goal setting and intervention.

**Marilyn Wright** is a Physiotherapist and CanChild Clinical Consultant involved in the development of the Gross Motor Function Measure and the Stay-Fit initiatives. Marilyn's areas of focus include physical activity and exercise in children, education, health research methodology and policy, motion analysis, pediatric oncology rehabilitation, and the ICF.

**Dr. Peter Rosenbaum** is a Developmental Pediatrician and researcher whose extensive work has focused on childhood disability, family-centred service, family well-being, measurement and functional classification in childhood disability.

**Dr. Diana Tajik-Parvinchi** is a Clinical Scientist investigating cognitive and socio-emotional mechanisms of mental health and their neural correlates with the aim of understanding how change can be brought into this context to improve quality of life for children and youth with support needs.

**Dr. Kinga Pozniak** is a Sociocultural Anthropologist who researches the experiences of parents of children with neurodevelopmental conditions, including parents' experiences with healthcare services for their children and family engagement in research.

**Dr. Michelle Phoenix** is a Speech-Language Pathologist and Assistant Professor in the School of Rehabilitation Science. Her research focuses on service delivery models, accessibility and engagement in rehabilitation services, family-centred care, and public engagement in research.

**Dr. Elaine Kwok** is a Speech-Language Pathologist and a researcher. Elaine uses implementation science to bring research evidence into clinical practice in order to improve functional outcomes of preschoolers with communication disorders.

**Dr. Olaf Kraus de Camargo** is a Developmental Pediatrician whose practice focuses on developmental-behavioural pediatrics and child neurology, and is an active member of MacART (McMaster Autism Research Team) and the EFCT ('effect') Eating and Feeding Consult Team.

**Kim Hesketh** is a Physiotherapist and the Manager of Rehabilitation Services at the Children's Treatment Network of Simcoe York. Kim's previous experiences include being part of the Orthopaedic Cerebral Palsy Clinic team at B.C. Children's Hospital and chairing the B.C. Provincial Physiotherapy Council.

**Anne Gaetan** is CanChild's Administrative Assistant. Anne has a background in Social Work, and Family and Addiction Counselling, in addition working as a learning strategist in post-secondary education.

Page 004 of 128

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.17

# **Children and Youth with Support Needs Service Framework**

## **Recommendations for Functional Needs-Based Eligibility, Type and Frequency of Services and an Evaluation Framework**

### **Executive Summary**

---

In January 2021, the British Columbia Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) contracted CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research to develop recommendations for an evidence-informed approach to assessing child and youth functional abilities, strengths and needs in their Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN) program that would inform:

- Eligibility for, type and frequency of an array of child and youth-focused services and family supports outlined in the CYSN Service Framework
- An evaluation framework for measuring the effectiveness and impact of the CYSN Service Framework implementation, including the needs-based eligibility framework.

An interdisciplinary team from CanChild, with diverse clinical and research expertise, embraced the opportunity explore functional-needs based approaches, while incorporating a focus on child/youth and family strengths. To do so, we collaborated with MCFD leaders, interviewed stakeholders involved in service delivery for CYSN in BC, reviewed and synthesized literature, undertook national and international jurisdictional scans, and reviewed related CanChild projects. MCFD's goals and values and CanChild's conceptual approaches/frameworks informed the process.

s.17

Page 006 of 128

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.17

## Section 1: Background

---

In January 2021, the British Columbia Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) contracted CanChild to provide recommendations for determining eligibility for, and evaluation of, their Child and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN) Service Framework.

The specific objectives of this project were:

To develop recommendations for an evidence-informed approach to assessing child and youth functional abilities, strengths and needs that inform:

- Eligibility for, type and frequency of an array of child and youth-focused services and family supports outlined in the CYSN Service Framework.
- An evaluation framework for measuring the effectiveness and impact of the CYSN Service Framework implementation including the needs-based eligibility framework.

The recommendations in this report are based on MCFD's proposed services framework, process model and goals of CYSN services that were available at the time of preparing this report. It is expected that these frameworks and models will continue to evolve and as such, the recommendations within this report will need to be reconsidered as these shifts occur.

s.17

Page 008 of 128 to/à Page 128 of 128

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.17