



Ministry of Seniors, Community and Social Services Response to the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate

Mandatory Reviews into Child Deaths
October 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022

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Background

On September 28, 2022, the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate (OCYA) released *Mandatory Reviews into Child Deaths, October 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022*. This report reviewed the circumstances of fifteen (15) young people who died during that time and provides one recommendation that involves Seniors, Community and Social Services as well as other ministries.

Seniors, Community and Social Services shares the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate's concern over the number of deaths reviewed in this report, and the commitment to improve outcomes for Alberta's children and youth with complex needs. The reports and investigative reviews the OCYA undertake are an integral part in ensuring our accountability in responding to the issues that affect Alberta's children and youth.

Seniors, Community and Social Services' response considers:

- existing processes and initiatives for cross-ministry coordination of service delivery for young people with complex needs and their families;
- current ministry initiatives and actions to support service coordination; and
- engagement with other ministries to enhance coordination on service delivery.

We welcome the OCYA's recommendations and thank the Advocate and their office for their ongoing commitment to strengthening supports for vulnerable children, youth and families in Alberta.

SCSS Response to OCYA Recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Ministries of Health, Education, Children's Services, Community and Social Services and Justice and Solicitor General should develop and publicly report on a coordinated action plan to address service gaps for young people with complex needs while longer-term initiatives are under development.

Ministry Response

Seniors, Community and Social Services accepts the intent of this recommendation. The ministry shares the belief that young people with complex needs and their families should have access to services and supports to address their immediate needs.

Action Planned or Underway

The safety and well-being of young people is paramount to all ministries identified in the report. Representatives from Seniors, Community and Social Services met with the other named ministries to collaboratively address the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate's recommendation. Seniors, Community and Social Services is committed to helping young people with complex needs access available supports and services and will continue to engage collaboratively with other ministries to coordinate accessible services and supports for young people with complex needs.

- Seniors, Community and Social Services intends to achieve progress on this recommendation by leveraging existing cross-ministry tables and mechanisms to address the recommendation.