

DATE: July 28, 2023

Mr. Abid Mavani  
Fatality Inquiry Coordinator  
Justice and Solicitor General  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor Peace Hills Trust Tower  
10011-109 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3S8  
[Abid.mavani@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Abid.mavani@gov.ab.ca)

Dear Abid:

**Re: Haley Marie Penney - Public Fatality Inquiry, Response to Recommendations**

Thank you for providing the Honourable Judge B.R Hougestal report. This letter is to provide a response to Recommendation One.

*Recommendation One*

*It is recommended that the Government continue to study the PChAD program and consider how it might be better coupled with after PChAD therapy.*

AHS supports this recommendation as it also aligns with the recommendations of the Alberta Health 2020 legislative review of the PChAD program.

PChAD is an involuntary, ten-day program for detoxification, stabilization, and assessment. It is not a treatment program but does provide a comprehensive assessment and recommendations for treatment planning upon discharge.

AHS strongly acknowledges that some youth may be at an increased risk for adverse health outcomes and overdose once detoxed in PChAD and discharged back to their community. As a result, AHS works diligently to engage youth and their families to identify and access treatment options upon completion of PChAD services.

As per the legislative review recommendations, AHS continues to work towards facilitating smooth transitions to post-PChAD program services, including direct connection or referral to recovery-oriented services prior to discharge from the protective safe house. In addition, AHS has developed and implemented outcome measurement tools to assess needs for youth leaving the PChAD program and facilitate improved health outcomes.

Sincerely,

*Original Signed*

---

Dr. Francois Belanger  
Vice President Quality and Chief Medical Officer

Alberta Health Services

*Original Signed*

Deb Gordon  
Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Clinical Operations  
Alberta Health Services

Cc: Mauro Chies, Chief Executive Officer, Alberta Health Services