

**Recommendations Tracking – Update** (see Appendix A for assessment definitions)

**RCY Report: Missing Pieces: Joshua’s Story (October 2017)**

**Action Plans: Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, Ministry of Children and Family Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, Provincial Health Services Authority**

October 15, 2020

Recommendation		Ministry’s Response	RCY Assessment
#1	<p>That the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions lead the planning and implementation of a full continuum of mental health services for children and youth in British Columbia – in partnership with the Ministries of Children and Family Development, Health and Education – and that the provincial government provide the resources needed to support this comprehensive system.</p> <p>The comprehensive plan to be developed within 12 months and implementation of the components to begin within 24 months.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In June 2019, the government released <i>A Pathway to Hope: A roadmap for making mental health and addiction care better for people in British Columbia</i>.</li> <li>• The Pathway to Hope is a 10-year vision to improve the mental health and wellness of British Columbians. It includes a three-year plan to address immediate and critical priorities in the following areas:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improved wellness for children, youth and youth adults</li> <li>2. Supporting Indigenous-led solutions</li> <li>3. Improving substance use care</li> <li>4. Improve access and quality of care.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Some progress</b></p> <p>The Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and its partners have completed a “roadmap” or vision, along with an initial three-year plan, which, even if fully implemented, could not be considered a comprehensive plan as it does not address full service needs province-wide. As well, most of the components of this partial plan are overdue for implementation.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions (MMHA) in partnership with Ministries of Health, Children and Family Development, Education, Advanced Education, Skills and Training are responsible for implementing the three-year action plan. The following is a summary of initiatives that have received funding in either 2019/20 or 2020/21:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Expanding Foundry Centres, lead by Ministry of Health and MMHA (Expansion process started Oct. 2019). There are now eight new lead agencies and communities selected for new centres and a Cultural Safety and Humility Standard was developed.</li> <li>○ Establishing Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) Teams: Implementation of ICY teams has begun in two school districts. Three more were to be announced in spring 2020 but were delayed due to Covid-19. In 2020/2021, the three additional ICY teams will be developed and will be operational in 2021/2022.</li> <li>○ Promoting early childhood social emotional development: Updating of frameworks and guidelines has begun, and the creation of a Social Emotional policy framework is in development.</li> <li>○ Enhancing early childhood intervention services: Provincial guidelines were developed to support expansion into five communities. 21 new full-time employees for family support worker, behavioural support consultant and infant mental health clinicians will be allocated to the new and existing agencies.</li> <li>○ Expanding Confident Parents: Thriving Kids programs. These coaching programs empower parents to work with children experiencing anxiety and behavioural</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>11 Foundry Centres are in full operation and eight new centres are currently in development. MMHA's plan is for the cultural safety and humility standard to be implemented by August 2021.</p> <p>Two Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) teams have been selected and implementation is underway. Three more are expected to be developed in 2020/21 and operational by 2021/22.</p> <p>Cross-policy work is complete on step up/step down services and will be implemented in the two school districts with ICY mental health teams in 2021.</p> <p>RCY notes that school-based approaches are a focus of the plan and, while this may be appropriate for many children and youth, there are some young people who are not attached to school and thus may not have equitable access to services and supports for their significant mental health concerns. Further, a very limited number of school districts will be the sites for these services and RCY is concerned</p>
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		<p>problems. 1,010 families have participated in the anxiety program and 1,562 families were supported by the behaviour program across 88 communities. MCFD is developing Indigenous modules for the anxiety program and plans to implement these in 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Step up/down services: The goal is to support the safe transition of children/youth as they move across tiers of services, to shorten or avoid hospitalization and to provide a level of clinical care required to maintain safety and improve wellness. Cross-ministry policy work was undertaken on the service delivery model in preparation for implementation in 2020/2021.</li> <li>○ Mental Health in Schools: Grants have been provided to all 60 school districts and Independent schools for new and enhanced school-based mental health activities. Training on compassionate systems leadership was launched. In 2020/2021, more capacity building grants will be provided to school districts and independent schools and the “erase” strategy, a provincial K to 12 SOGI Collaborative three-year action plan, is in progress.</li> <li>○ Creating virtual counselling for post secondary students: the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training launched Here2Talk on April 16, 2020 (<a href="https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020AEST0024-000698">https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020AEST0024-000698</a>)</li> <li>○ Supporting pregnant individuals and parents with substance use challenges: Multiple deliverables are complete with eight community organizations serving pregnant and parenting women using substances receiving funding to build capacity and supports for families. 511 new mother/baby dyads across the five</li> </ul>	<p>about young people in many communities not having access to timely and relevant services and supports</p> <p>Although it is understandable that some initiatives were temporarily delayed due to COVID-19, the Representative believes that it is particularly important during these times for the ministries to prioritize creating a full continuum of mental health services for children and youth in B.C. As such, the Representative will continue to actively monitor progress on this recommendation over the next year.</p>
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		<p>health regions in B.C. are being served. Further expansion is underway in 2020/2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improving access and quality of care: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Create a web-based portal focused on children and youth. Stakeholder engagement and design is in progress for the “digital front door.” Content still needs to be validated and the initial version site launch is planned for 2020/2021.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Due to COVID-19, some plans and the timing of plans have shifted.</p>	
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## Appendix A

### RCY Assessment Definitions:

- **Complete/Implemented** = All activities that directly support the implementation of the recommendation are complete
- **Substantial Progress** = Most of the activities that directly support the implementation of the recommendation are complete
- **Some Progress** = Some of the activities that directly support the implementation of the recommendation are complete
- **No Progress** = None of the activities that directly support the implementation of the recommendation are complete (pre-planning may be underway but there has been no progress in formal planning or implementation).