

Time to Listen: Youth Voices on Substance Use **Year 3 Recommendations Tracking**

The Representative's report *Time to Listen: Youth Voices on Substance Use* was released in 2018 and included five recommendations. Tracking of recommendation implementation is undertaken on an annual basis. The public bodies provided the information for assessment on May 12, 2022. The table below shows the results for the year one and two assessments undertaken in February 2020 and February 2021 in order to provide context for the information presented in this third assessment.

RCY Assessment Definitions:

- **Complete** = 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).

Recommendation		Ministry's Response	RCY Assessment
#1	That the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions (MMHA) ensure that a commitment to youth engagement is embedded in its Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, that the engagement accounts for the diversity of youth who use substances, and	<p>Year 1 Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MMHA is committed to embedding youth engagement in its Mental Health and Addictions Strategy (<i>A Pathway to Hope: A roadmap for making mental health and addictions care better for people in British Columbia</i> was released in June 2019). • MMHA is establishing youth advisory councils in five school districts over the next three years (in progress, target date Sept. 30, 2020) 	<p>February 2020</p> <p>Some progress</p> <p>It appears that MMHA is committed to embedding youth engagement in its Mental Health and Addictions strategy.</p> <p>To be completed: Youth advisory councils to be operational by Sept. 2020.</p>

that youth feedback informs the implementation and evaluation of all substance use services.	Year 2 Report	February 2021
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MMHA has outlined the expectations in <i>A Pathway to Hope: A roadmap for making mental health and addictions care better for people in British Columbia</i> (released in June 2019) that people with lived experience inform and are leaders in mental health and addictions policy, planning and delivery of services and supports. • MMHA’s approach includes meaningful involvement of youth in the development, implementation and ongoing operations of Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) teams. MMHA will hire a District Program Developer (DPD) in each community and part of their role is to facilitate this work. To date, DPDs have been hired in Maple Ridge and Comox Valley. • Foundry has established several youth and family advisory groups. • MMHA has announced significant investments to expand youth substance use treatment beds, and accessing funding is conditional upon health authorities demonstrating how youth and family perspectives are informing the planning and ongoing quality improvement of these bed-based services. • Integrated Child and Youth Teams have been established in two school districts (Comox and Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows) and planning has begun in the three additional school districts which were announced in September 2020 (Richmond, Coast Mountains, and Okanagan-Similkameen). A service framework has been developed. 	<p>Substantial Progress</p> <p>A commitment to youth engagement appears to be embedded within MMHA’s strategy.</p> <p>Ongoing: youth feedback informing implementation and evaluation.</p>
	Year 3 Report	August 2022
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) Teams are being implemented in the first five communities (Comox Valley, Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows, Richmond, Coast Mountain and Okanagan-Similkameen). Implementation has involved local Youth Advisory Council (YAC) involvement including feedback on communications, spaces and program forms. 	<p>Complete</p> <p>MMHA has built youth engagement into its Mental Health and Addictions Strategy.</p>

		<p>Implementation of ICY Teams in fifteen additional communities will occur in 2023/2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundry has established and continues to maintain a Provincial Youth Advisory, and Organizational Governance Youth Advisory Committee, a Provincial Family Advisory, Provincial Family Ambassadors, and a Youth and Family Advisory Working Group comprised of staff from Foundry centres leading engagement in their communities. • Foundry Central Office Youth and Family Engagement Team has engaged youth in the development of a COVID-19 webpage with youth-focused content and resources, including an infographic and eight new articles on wellness topics related to COVID-19. 	
#2	<p>That the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, in partnership with the Ministry of Health (HLTH), lead the creation of an accessible and youth-friendly single source of information about all publicly funded substance use services available in the province. The information source to be available by March</p>	<p>Year 1 Report</p>	<p>February 2020</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MMHA in collaboration with HLTH and other stakeholders is currently in the pre-planning phase of developing a website that will help people search for information related to mental health and substance use online. • The first phase of the project will focus on youth content and services. This will include providing families and caregivers with credible advice on the health system, evidence-based information on mental health and substance use and directing users to organizations such as Foundry where appropriate. The project is on track and will be working towards a launch in summer 2020. 	<p>Some progress</p> <p>Youth content and services is in the pre-planning phase of development.</p> <p>To be completed: Youth-friendly content to be publicly available by summer 2020.</p>
		<p>Year 2 Report</p>	<p>February 2021</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MMHA in collaboration with HLTH and other stakeholders have worked to create The Digital Front Door, which they describe as an accessible and youth-friendly single source of information about mental health and substance use services in B.C. The Digital Front Door development included feedback from youth. The launch of this 	<p>Some progress</p> <p>A single source youth-friendly website is in development.</p>		

	31, 2020, and updated annually, at minimum.	resource was delayed as COVID-19 resources were prioritized; however, it was briefly live under the brand of wellbeing.gov.bc.ca but has returned to the development phase and is now noted as “coming soon.”	To be completed: Youth-friendly website to be publicly available.
		Year 3 Report	August 2022
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Wellbeing website launched in 2021 to help people living in B.C., including youth, find mental health and substance use resources and supports through an easy-to-use online tool. The site provides a first step for someone looking for non-urgent mental health and substance use information and supports. There are plans for further development and additional content in 2022/2023 to increase resource listings across all regions of the province. 	Complete The youth-friendly website is complete and publicly available.
#3	That the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and the Ministry of Health (HLTH) – in association with other relevant partners – lead the development of, and ensure funding of, a comprehensive system of substance use services capable of consistently meeting the diverse needs of all youth in the context of the broader multi-sectoral	Year 1 Report	February 2020
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MMHA and HLTH are committed to this recommendation and are partnering with Métis Nation BC, First Nations Health Authority, and the BC Association of Friendship Centres to develop a comprehensive system of substance use services. Integrated child and youth teams will be established in five school districts over the next three years (in progress, target 2020). Step-up and step-down mental health and substance use services that provide an alternative to hospitalization are in progress, with 20 short-term placements and two intensive day treatment programs being implemented over the next three years (in progress, Phase 1 services in 2020). Foundry (centres offering health and wellness resources for ages 12 to 24) will be expanded (https://foundrybc.ca/expansion2020/). These centres deliver culturally safe services that embody Indigenous perspectives of health and wellness (target, March 31, 2020) 	Some progress MMHA and HLTH are in the very early stages of creating a comprehensive system of substance use services for youth by launching some initiatives and expansion activities. To be completed: Funding and a comprehensive system of services to be in place by 2022.

<p>continuum of care, with specific attention given to the development of culturally relevant and culturally safe services and supports for First Nations, Indigenous, Métis and Inuit youth and their families. The health authorities to have a comprehensive system of substance use services for youth in place by April 2022.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary care networks will be established across B.C. to provide quality team-based primary care services to the population of local communities and coordinating access to health authority specialized services through integration and service redesign. The goal is to have primary care networks in 70 per cent of B.C. communities in the next three years (in progress, target 2021/2022). 	
<p>Year 2 Report</p>		<p>February 2021</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MMHA and HLTH are committed to working with other government ministries, Indigenous partners and other key groups to develop a comprehensive system of substance use services. • In August 2020, an investment of \$36 million was announced to double youth substance use treatment and withdrawal-management beds by adding 123 beds. Locations for the new services are being determined in consultation with health authorities. • Since the last progress update, eight additional communities and lead agencies have been selected for Foundry centre expansion. Over the past six months, establishment activities for the new centres have been initiated, including orientation, onboarding, project structures and governance. • Foundry is continuing to develop a Reciprocal Learning and Responsibility Framework (Indigenous Cultural Safety). Foundry Central Office is creating two new positions – a Lead, Indigenous Wellness and Partnerships and a Coordinator, Indigenous Engagement – to implement the Framework. • Implementation of the BC Women’s Hospital-led Provincial Perinatal Substance Use Project continues. • In September 2020, the Ministry of Education released the Mental Health in Schools Strategy outlining a vision and pathway for mental health 	<p>Some progress</p> <p>MMHA and HLTH have made significant investments in creating a comprehensive system of substance use services for youth by advancing key initiatives and expansion activities.</p> <p>To be completed: Funding and a comprehensive system of services to be in place by 2022.</p>

		<p>promotion in the B.C. K-to-12 education system, with substance use education identified as a key action.</p>	
		<p>Year 3 Report</p>	<p>August 2022</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget 2021 included \$97M for integrated mental health and substance use care for children, youth and young adults. • MMHA is leading the development of a framework to set the child, youth and young adult substance use and wellness provincial strategic direction for ministries, health authorities, community agencies and others toward a more consistent and integrated system of care. MMHA will engage with partners and stakeholders on components of the framework in fiscal year 2022/2023. • In August 2020, government announced investments for 123 new youth substance beds across the province and enhancements to 22 existing provincially accessible beds. This funding includes ongoing funding for 115 community-based treatment and withdrawal management beds allocated to regional health authorities and 8 provincially accessible specialized treatment beds allocated to the Provincial Health Services Authority. • In 2021/2022, 30 community-based beds were allocated with 28 beds open and 2 in progress. MMHA and HLTH are currently working with health authorities and Indigenous partners to implement the remaining beds and to ensure that new bed-based services are culturally safe and meet the needs of Indigenous children and youth. • Expansion of youth substance use services across all health authorities is currently underway. It is anticipated that new and expanded services and supports will be implemented by the end of 2023/2024. These services include school- and community-based prevention and early intervention resources, community-based youth substance use and concurrent disorder services, crisis intervention 	<p>Some Progress</p> <p>MMHA and HLTH continue to make significant investments in creating a comprehensive system of substance use services for youth by advancing key initiatives and expansion activities.</p> <p>Implementation is still pending for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95 of the 123 new youth substance beds • Expansion of youth substance use services across all health authorities • Additional Foundry centres • Overdose Strategy with First Nations partners • B.C. Perinatal Substance Use Project • Contracted School-based Youth Mental

		<p>and stabilization services, wraparound youth substance use services to support the ongoing expansion of youth substance use bed-based services which will help to create a more seamless system of care for youth with substance use concerns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government will advance work to co-develop a strategy with First Nations partners and work collaboratively with other key partners and experts to ensure a culturally safe and trauma-informed response for youth following an overdose while simultaneously continuing to build up a voluntary system of care for youth in all regions of the province. • Progress on the development of eight additional Foundry centres has continued. Five are expected to open in 2022 with the remaining three in 2023. Budget 2021 committed to expanding Foundry by an additional four centres with planning beginning 2023/2024, bringing the provincial total to 23. • Since the last update, Foundry Virtual Mobile App which was co-created with youth, has also launched with a public announcement made in May 2021. Services offered in this app and web portal include drop-in and scheduled counselling, primary care, peer support and group sessions. For those without access to internet there is also access to the virtual team via phone. • Foundry also launched the Foundry Works! Youth employment program in May 2021 that integrates health and social services. The pilot will be running virtually until integration into the centres which is scheduled for May 2022. • Foundry is continuing to develop an Indigenous Cultural Safety and Humility framework and created a Director of Indigenous Wellness, Equity and Leadership Development position. 	<p>Health Services Needs Assessment</p>
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		Year 1 Report	February 2020

<p>#4</p>	<p>That the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and the Ministry of Health (HLTH) lead the development of and implementation of a full spectrum of youth-specific harm reduction services, including the creation of youth-specific spaces for supervised consumption that is embedded within a system of wraparound services and supports. The full spectrum of youth harm reduction services be in place by March 31, 2020.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm reduction and youth-specific interventions are key aspects of the Pathway to Hope roadmap. Youth-specific initiatives include: (a) expansion of Foundry centres (b) overdose prevention and response services including supervised consumption spaces and (c) naloxone training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Expansion of Foundry centres (eight new centres in implementation, target date March 31, 2022). The inclusion of harm reduction and substance use services will expand as Foundry sites come online and expand to include a full suite of services. b) Youth-specific overdose prevention and response services. Examples include drug checking for youth at festivals (in progress, target March 2021) and witnessed consumption within a youth group home. Work is underway with regional health authorities to ensure accommodation for youth access to overdose prevention sites and supervised consumption with staff support (in progress, target March 2021). Currently, youth-specific overdose prevention services are being provided ad hoc or youth can access adult overdose prevention sites. In addition, harm reduction policies and guidelines are being updated to better support youth populations. c) The ministries are working with BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) to provide youth with access to take home naloxone (In progress, target March 2020). Ongoing community trainings for overdose response and youth-specific naloxone training materials are in development. 	<p>Some Progress</p> <p>Youth-specific harm reduction services are in development.</p> <p>To be completed: Expansion of Foundry centres, youth-specific overdose prevention and youth to have access to naloxone.</p>
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Year 2 Report		February 2021	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HLTH in partnership with MMHA and health authorities are continuing to work on enhancing harm reduction service delivery principles, resources and interventions that focus on the unique needs of youth. • Foundry sites continue to provide harm reduction services to youth including the provision of harm reduction supplies, overdose 		<p>Some Progress</p> <p>Some youth-specific harm reduction services have been developed and implemented at Foundry locations.</p>	

		<p>prevention training, and Take-Home Naloxone (THN) in the communities they serve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth over the age of 16 with a history of substance use and who meet eligible criteria are also able to access Overdose Prevention Services (OPS) and Supervised Consumption Services. The BCCDC's youth and harm reduction guidance states that harm reduction supplies and naloxone should be made available to all youth, following mature minor guidelines. The BCCDC policy is currently being updated to strengthen the language around providing these services to youth. • The Ministry of Education also provides information to schools on assessing risk through using the Naloxone Risk Assessment Tool as well as information on obtaining naloxone kits, if needed. • The Ministry of Education amended the ERASE (Expect Respect and a Safe Education) website to include substance use content which was written from a harm reduction lens, providing information to students, families and educators in a non-judgmental manner. External links were also vetted to ensure they also follow harm reduction principles. 	<p>To be completed: youth-specific spaces for supervised consumption.</p>
Year 3 Report		August 2022	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundry sites continue to provide harm reduction services including harm reduction supplies, overdose prevention training and take-home naloxone (THN). • The provincial THN program continues to serve youth (29.2 per cent of kits being distributed to individuals ages 19 to 30 and four per cent distributed to individuals under 19). 	<p>Some Progress:</p> <p>Youth-specific harm reduction services beyond Foundry locations yet to be developed.</p> <p>Work with regional health authorities to ensure accommodation for youth access to overdose prevention sites and supervised consumption with staff support yet to be completed.</p> <p>Youth specific safe consumption sites yet to be developed.</p>
	Year 1 Report		February 2020

<p>#5</p>	<p>That the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), in partnership with the Ministry of Health (HLTH) and other relevant youth-serving organizations, develop a comprehensive training program for foster parents that addresses the context in which youth use substances and supports the development of skills to cultivate open and safe dialogue about substance use with youth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCFD and HLTH are developing an online training course for foster caregivers. The training incorporates how to support caregivers in having conversations about safe use with youth in care and helping support safe homes for youth to come home if they have been using (in progress, target date March 30, 2020). • MCFD consulted with youth advisory council, HLTH and internal MCFD subject matter experts and the caregiver training team on development of training program. • As of Dec. 6, 2019, HLTH has reviewed and provided feedback on the full course outline and detailed feedback on four of the seven draft lessons that make up the training. • Partner with BC Federation of Foster Parent Association to create video(s) to accompany content in Problematic Substance Use training (in progress, target March 30, 2020). • Begin implementation of training program for caregivers (not yet started, target April 1, 2020). 	<p>Some progress</p> <p>An online training program for foster parents is in development. Content has been developed and consultations have occurred.</p> <p>To be completed: Finalize the training program and begin implementation by April 2020.</p>
	<p>The training program be finalized by Oct. 1, 2019, with training for all foster parents to begin immediately thereafter.</p>	<p>Year 2 Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCFD has collaborated with HLTH to develop an online training course for foster caregivers called “Supporting Open and Safe Dialogue about Substance Use.” The project team included two members of the Youth Advisory Council and HLTH subject matter experts as their schedules allowed. <p>This course has been added as a module in the new mandatory In-Service training (effective December 2019) for foster caregivers and is also available as a stand-alone course for caregivers who completed In-Service training prior to Dec. 31, 2019. Since the pilot in April 2020, 324 learners have been registered in the new In-Service training and 102 learners have registered for the stand-alone course as of Nov. 4, 2020.</p>	<p>February 2021</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>An online training program has been developed and implemented for foster parents that addresses the context in which youth use substances and supports the development of skills to cultivate open and safe dialogue about substance use with youth.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The course was piloted in April 2020. As part of the pilot, participants and subject matter experts were given the opportunity to provide feedback, which was incorporated into the final product. • MCFD partnered with BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations to create a video to accompany content in the substance use training module. • MCFD will review and update the substance use training module approximately every two years. 	
		Year 3 Report	August 2022
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HLTH and MCFD have developed an online training course for foster caregivers called “Supporting Open and Safe Dialogue about Substance Use”. This course was launched in 2020 and added to PRIDE in-service training. 	Complete