
BACKGROUND

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Ministry of Children and Family Development

NEW FUNDING & NEW INITIATIVES EQUAL ENHANCED SERVICES

Following a Ministry of Children and Family Development budget increase of \$80 million in 2005/06, Budget 2006/07 provides \$273 million in additional funding to assist the ministry in carrying out its mandate to protect the health, safety and well being of B.C. children. Of that total, \$100 million has been earmarked over the next three years to give government the flexibility to respond to recommendations from the current external reviews.

Programs specifically targeted to children at risk include:

- New approaches to working with families, such as mediation and family group conferences;
- Additional resources for grandparents and other relatives looking after children under kith and kin agreements; and
- More social workers and other front-line staff to help vulnerable families and children and youth at risk.

Specifically, in this fiscal year:

- A \$22-million increase for children at risk. This includes supports for caregivers, families and staffing;
- An additional \$20 million for children and family services; and
- \$14.3 million in additional funding for the Child and Youth Mental Health Plan (in addition to a \$12.7-million increase in 2005/06).

The Ministry of Children and Family Development has also initiated a number of measures aimed at improving the speed and thoroughness with which case reviews are conducted – and to improve management information to stay on top of reports and analysis.

- A recruitment process is underway that will lead to additional staff in the regions and at headquarters to speed up the process of completing reviews and monitoring performance.
- MCFD is clarifying policy around the types of reviews that are conducted and when and how they are conducted, how recommendations are developed and recording reasons when a review will not be conducted.
- Enhancing mentoring and training programs for specialized social workers to complete case reviews.
- Strengthening the way we monitor the ministry's work performance (what the ministry refers to as Quality Assurance).
- Building a new framework for monitoring the progress of Child Death Reviews, including reporting on progress to the ministry's executive.
- Implementing a new management information system to track and share information relating to fatalities, critical incidents and recommendations.
- Reviewing standards to assess the readiness of any new agency to deliver child welfare services.

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