

INFORMATION UPDATE — Transition Process
Ministry of Children and Family Development
September 2008

The Decision to move Children’s Services to the Ministry of Children and Family Development and retain Adult Services with Community Living British Columbia:

Over the last three years, government has received input from families, many of whom believe that the division of responsibility for services to children with special needs and their families is confusing and not responsive to the needs of families.

The transfer of services for children and youth with special needs to the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) will ensure there is clarity about where services or programs can be accessed and will better enable integration of services between provincial ministries. This will also complement work that is well underway to create a cross-ministry framework for children and youth with special needs.

During the last several months, Ministry staff has been working very closely with staff in Community Living British Columbia (CLBC) to develop a smooth transition process and one that will ensure no disruption in service delivery. This includes a streamlined transfer of service contracts from CLBC to MCFD to ensure continuity of supports for families and children; ensuring all information about the children and families being supported is available and transferred and the associated information systems are accessible and: establishing agreement on staff transfers, budgets and associated resources, and current protocols with other ministries and agencies are updated to ensure a smooth, uninterrupted transfer of services.

The transition of responsibility for CLBC from MCFD to the new Ministry of Housing and Social Development (MHSD) will also ensure a more streamlined process to access an array of supports for adults. The change will see financial, housing, medical and employment supports available under one umbrella.

Impact on the System of Support:

MCFD and MHSD will work closely to assist in successfully transitioning youth with special needs to effective adult supports, including those transitioning to adult community living supports, where eligible. To this end, the Office of the Advocate for Service Quality, for adults with developmental disabilities supported by CLBC, will also continue to be available to assist in addressing any issues relating to the transition planning process for youth with special needs who are between the age of 17 and 19.

The Transition Plan:

Ministry staff has been working very closely with staff at CLBC and MHSD to ensure a smooth transition process and one that will ensure no disruption in service delivery. As a key aspect of the transition process, CLBC and MCFD regional “leads” have been established in each of the five regions of the province. Under their leadership, each of the respective regions is now in the process of planning region and community specific transitions.

Impact on Children's Services:

The recently amended regulation to the *Community Living Authority Act* that outlines eligibility for adult community living services does not impact how CLBC and MCFD are currently delivering children's services. There is no intent through the amended regulation to change the current eligibility for children's services.

Impact on Staff:

Staff have rights under their collective agreements that address this type of occurrence. Our commitment to work with the British Columbia Government Employees' Union (BCGEU) will ensure there is as little disruption during this process as possible. The development of a transition plan for staff will take some time.

Impact on Service Delivery Partners:

Service delivery contracts will be transferred from CLBC to MCFD and will reflect all current funding levels and contract deliverables.

The expectation is that MCFD will continue to provide services in an increasingly integrated manner. In the same way we are building a collaborative framework in communities to support the development of a cross-ministry framework for children and youth with special needs, we hope to do the same in other areas of the ministry's work.

MCFD will continue to engage with community partners and stakeholders in any change processes that may result from integrated approaches in supporting children and families.

Community Engagement:

As part of the transition process involving children's services, there will be an opportunity for families, care providers and service partners to make suggestions on service delivery improvements. This will include the development of service delivery structures that enable uninterrupted service, support the transitions envisioned, while building on the positive experiences of CLBC. MCFD regions will facilitate community engagement to ensure family and community perspectives are considered in the development of MCFD service delivery models.

Timeline for Transition Process:

We anticipate that the transition process will take several months and be finalized prior to fiscal year end, March 31, 2009.