

Child Intervention Caseloads – PA-164

1. **Child Practitioner Caseload Appeals** [Mr. Schmidt]

How many child intervention practitioners appealed their caseload in fiscal 2023-24?

Response:

- During the 2023-24 fiscal year, there were nine (9) workload appeals filed.

2. **Overdue Face-to Face Contacts** [Mr. Schmidt]

How many face-to-face contacts with children were overdue at the end of March 2024?

Response:

- In 2023-24, Child Intervention achieved a monthly average compliance rating of 90 per cent for face-to-face contacts.
- As of March 31, 2024, there were a total of 8,181 children under the age of 18 with an active legal authority (i.e. support agreements, custody agreements, temporary or permanent guardianship orders).
 - 89 per cent or 7,275 face-to-face contacts were completed within policy timelines for children under the age of 18 with an active legal authority.
 - 11 per cent or 906 face-to-face contacts were overdue for children under the age of 18 with an active legal authority.
- Priority is given to children based on factors such as higher risk, have medical or developmental needs, behavioral concerns, age and vulnerability.
- The ministry is committed to ensuring all children are seen regularly. When face-to-face contacts are not completed within the prescribed timelines, efforts are made to ensure follow up in a timely manner.

Prevention of Abuse of Children with Transgender Orientation – PA-167

3. **Kinship Care Training Uptake** [Mr. Schmidt]

How many kinship care providers have taken the training available to foster care providers regarding supporting sexual and gender-diverse children and youth?

Response:

- In 2023-24, three (3) kinship caregivers completed Sexual Gender Diversity (SGD) Training for Caregivers.
 - This training is most relevant when a caregiver is providing care to a 2SLGBTQQA+ young person.
- CFS works with kinship caregivers to develop a mandatory Kinship Care Support Plan that identifies supports and training a kinship caregiver may require to adequately care for the child placed in their home. Mandatory training for kinship caregivers includes Kinship Orientation Training, Safe Babies Training (if they are caring for an infant), Foundations of Caregiver Support training, first aid and any other specialized training identified in the Kinship Support Plan to ensure the kinship provider is able to meet the child or youth's specific needs.
- The SGD Training for Caregivers is available for all kinship caregivers and is included on a Kinship Support Plan when a child or youth placed in the home identifies as transgender or gender diverse.

Transition to Adulthood – PA-172

4. TAP Clients Access AISH and Income Support [Ms. Renaud]

How many of those 490 youth now have accessed AISH or assured income? If you would agree to table that number, how many of the 490 youth are receiving AISH support? How many are receiving income support?

Response:

- In 2023-24, 12 per cent of TAP recipients accessed adult support services such as AISH and income support.
- In 2023-24 490 young adults transitioned to TAP from Child Intervention.
 - Of the 490 TAP recipients, 76 applied for AISH and 44 were approved.
 - 29 applications are still pending approval.
 - Two applications were closed by AISH.
 - One application was declined.
 - Two TAP recipients who transitioned out of the TAP program applied and were approved for Income Support.
 - The Youth Employment Connections Program (for youth aged 16-24 with active Child Intervention, Transition to Adulthood Program or Advancing Futures case files) offers pre-employment preparation, including addressing barriers to employment, work search support or work experience opportunities.
 - As of March 31, 2024, the YECF program served 260 clients, of which nine were in care and 251 young adults had an active Transition to Adulthood Program or Advancing Futures file.

Youth Shelters – PA-173

5. Youth Shelter Spaces [Mr. Schmidt]

How many spaces for homeless youth were needed in Alberta at the conclusion of '23-24, how many spaces were there and how many new spaces did CFS create in '23-24?

Response:

- In 2023-24, the seven CFS funded youth shelters offered 85 beds serving youth ages 14 to 21. Approximately 1,000 youth were accommodated in 2023-24.
 - Over 2,000 youth were served in the same period through additional programming at the shelters.
- In 2023-24, average bed utilization across the seven shelters ranged from 30 to 100 per cent depending on the shelter.
 - Bed utilization rates do not reflect the total number of youth accessing services and programming at youth shelters.
- No additional beds were funded in 2023-24; however, CFS provided a \$1.6M increase at the end of 2022-23 to expand youth shelter capacity. Shelters used this funding to:
 - enhance their early intervention services in line with the Youth Emergency Shelter Guidelines including additional outreach and family mediation services;
 - address staffing funding pressures and increase the number of FTEs in their agency; and
 - increase evening and daytime services.

6. Youth Shelter Supports to Enhance Safety [Mr. Schmidt]

What supports did CFS provide to youth shelters to enhance and protect public safety in the neighbourhoods where these shelters are located?

Response:

- In 2023-24, CFS provided \$4.9 million to seven youth emergency shelters across the province through the Youth Emergency Shelter Program (YESP).
- In March 2023, CFS provided a \$1.6 million increase which enabled shelters to:
 - enhance their early intervention services, including additional outreach and family mediation services;
 - address staffing pressures and increase the number of full-time employees in their agency; and
 - increase evening and daytime services.

Youth Mental Wellness Centres – PA-173

7. Centre Creation Progress [Mr. Schmidt]

Aside from expanding the virtual opioid dependency program, what work did the ministry do to make progress on the creation of these four new youth mental wellness centres?

Response:

- The Mental Health and Addiction ministry leads this initiative and engages CFS to support work as they deem appropriate/necessary. Questions about youth mental wellness centres should be directed to the ministry of Mental Health and Addiction.

Family Violence Death Review Committee – PA-173

8. Access to Recent Reports [Ms. Renaud]

When will Albertans have access to the next reporting period and where will we find future recommendations and response tracking?

Response:

- In 2023-24, the Committee finalized seven recommendations from two in-depth case reviews. A report, including case summaries for Case 12 and 13 with recommendations to government, will be made publicly available on Open Data in coming weeks.
- CFS will continue to post the Family Violence Death Review Committee Reports on Open Data as they become available.

Mental Health Supports Accessibility – PA-173

9. Foster Caregivers Support - Accessibility [Ms. Renaud]

What is the ministry doing to improve accessibility, to make alterations or improve usage (of mental health supports)?

Response:

- In 2023-24, CFS launched a program making Mental Health Supports available to every foster caregiving family in Alberta.
- Foster caregivers can access up to five one-hour counselling sessions (per active foster care licence) per fiscal year, for up to \$220 per session (these are available for the caregiver or other family members in the home).
- Each foster caregiving family is provided with:
 - a letter introducing mental health supports accessible for foster caregivers;

- a Fact Sheet and Frequently Asked Questions about the program;
- a list of contracted counselling vendors; and
- a “referral and evaluation,” which is the document required to ensure the vendor directly bills CFS for their services rendered.
- For caregivers who wish to find their own counselling supports, CFS provides a Foster Care Support Plan, outlining what the foster caregiving family is entitled to (five one-hour sessions at \$220 each, per year, per foster care licence).

Foster Care Awareness Campaign – PA-173

10. Campaign Costs [Ms. Renaud]

What was the total spent on foster care awareness and advertising in this fiscal year?

Response:

- The total amount allocated to foster care awareness and advertising in 2023-24 was \$550,000. Funding was provided to:
 - The Alberta Foster and Kinship Association was awarded a \$200,000 Promotional Campaign grant; and
 - CFS provided grant funding of \$350,000 to LoveStrong, a combination of eight agencies within the Edmonton region. The purpose of this grant is to strengthen and accelerate the recruitment of caregivers in the Edmonton Region.
- CFS spent \$175,000 on the Foster Care Awareness Campaign in 2022-23.

11. Campaign Funding Targets and Results [Ms. Renaud]

Other than the anecdotal information in the annual report, what targets have been established for this spending, and when will Albertans see results?

Response:

- Since the Foster Awareness Campaign that ran February and March 2023, there have been 1671 inquiries received, and over 100 applications. So far, there are 14 new licensed foster homes, with more than 70 enrolled in pre-service training, and 27 that completed the home assessment process.
- To continue the awareness and to help in efforts to recruit new, quality caregivers, this campaign has been followed by CFS funding support provided in 2023-24 to both the Alberta Foster and Kinship Association (AFKA) and the Love Strong collaborative in Edmonton.
 - The funding provided to both AFKA and Love Strong will help them target recruitment efforts in the areas of greatest need in Alberta.
- In addition to the awareness campaigns and targeted recruitment efforts, the ministry is conducting procurement of foster caregivers through agency partners.

RESP Accounts – PA-173

12. Account Details and Values [Ms. Renaud]

What is the total value of the 7,000 accounts? Does the 7,000 number go back to 2004? How many youths have withdrawn from the RESP accounts? How many RDSP accounts have been opened and what is the total value?

Response:

- The RESP Program was established in 2006 for each child or youth in the care of the director under a Permanent Guardianship Order (PGO) or a Permanent Guardianship Agreement (PGA).
- As of June 30, 2024, approximately 9,700 RESP accounts have been opened for PGO/PGA clients. The total value of these accounts is just over \$8.5 million.
- The number of clients who accessed their RESP in 2023-24 is not tracked by CFS.
- The ministry does not have data on the RDSP as the program is administered by the federal government.

Women's Emergency Shelters and Second Stage Housing – PA-173

13. Accessible Units [Ms. Renaud]

How many of those units are accessible?

Response:

- CFS does not collect or report data regarding the number of accessible beds/units or accessibility features in funded women's shelters; however, the department is aware many shelters provide ramps to allow for easier access to their facilities, as well as wheelchair accessibility and barrier-free accommodation in the buildings.
- As per the ministry's Women's Shelter Standards, funded shelters offer services to all women who meet the entrance criteria, regardless of age, creed, socio-economic status, mental or physical disability or sexual orientation. No matter an individual's needs, no one is turned away from a women's emergency shelter without being offered help. This includes referral to outreach services and/or other community-based supports.