



Child and Family Services Standing Committee Report on Activities 2022 - 2023 FISCAL YEAR

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Child and Family Services (CFS) Standing Committee

Purpose Statement

Standing Committee’s purpose is “to provide leadership, support, and guidance in the development and implementation of strategies to inform and influence services and policies, as well as to actively participate in setting the overall direction and to ensure resilience for child and family services in Manitoba”.

The role of the Standing Committee is set out in section 30(2) of The Child and Family Services Authorities Act, which states:

The Standing Committee is to serve as an advisory body to the authorities and the government, and is responsible for facilitating cooperation and coordination in the provision of services under this Act.

Standing Committee meetings serve as a vehicle to stay up-to-date and participate in decisions relating to changes impacting provincial child and family services’ practices. Additionally, meetings provide an opportunity to bring forward the voice of staff of Authorities and their CFS agencies to raise concerns with the Department of Families to determine and facilitate solutions.

Mission Statement

Standing Committee’s mission is “to collaboratively provide a framework and structure to our agencies to support the needs of families, children, and their communities while respecting and honouring the various aspects of diversity”.

Leadership Council

As per The Child and Family Services Authorities Act:

Leadership Council established

29(1) A Leadership Council is established consisting of persons designated in accordance with the regulations.

Role of the Council

29(2) The role of the Council is to provide a forum to discuss issues related to child and family services. The members of Standing Committee recognize their respective political leadership and value the collaborative working partnership.

Membership

Standing Committee is comprised of the following members:

- The Chief Executive Officer or designate of the First Nations of Northern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority;
- The Chief Executive Officer or designate of the Southern First Nations Network of Care;
- The Chief Executive Officer or designate of the Métis and Inuit Child and Family Services Authority;
- The Chief Executive Officer or designate of the General Child and Family Services Authority;
- The Director of Child Welfare or designate of the Child and Family Services Branch, Department of Families, Government of Manitoba; and,
- An additional designate from the Métis and Inuit Child and Family Services Authority.

Standing Committee Working Groups

A representative from each of the CFS Authorities as well as the CFS Branch make up the various working groups that require subject matter experts related to the tasks and various projects that are assigned and/or supported by Standing Committee.

Using a joint approach, the representatives work collaboratively on the issues raised and provide references and support to implement work relating to supporting service delivery and decision making that align with the federal legislation, An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families.

Communication & Engagement to Shift Policy, Legislation and Practice

Standing Committee strives to ensure collective practice decisions reflect the diversity of services required for families and children involved with the child and family services system (CFS system) in the province. A transparent, coordinated, collaborative effort is not only required within the CFS system (internal), it is also required in the work with community and departmental collaterals (external). Working with 'external' organizations helps to move practice towards a shared understanding of need.

Standing Committee's key objective for practice is to develop, lead, and implement best practice, which prioritizes that children have safety, stability and permanency from childhood through to adulthood. This is achieved by supporting families and communities in their commitment to care for their children.

Standing Committee continues to engage with the Child and Youth Services Division to improve communication about changes to provincial policy, procedure, legislation and standards. This includes learning and sharing information on the Federal legislation and how Indigenous Governing Bodies are moving forward which impacts day-to-day operations of Manitoba child and families' services and the CFSA systems.

Communication Internal

Communication Bulletins - The CFS Branch uses Communication Bulletins in consultation and/or approval by Standing Committee, to advise CFS Authorities and their agencies of major changes to legislation, policy and practices including new forms or supporting documents (for example, FAQs and protocols). This establishes ease of access, clear and consistent communication to the CFS Authorities and their agencies to ensure that policy and practice changes are applicable and understood. Communication Bulletins were issued and are referred to throughout the report.

A) **Changes to section 52 and section 20 of The Child and Family Services Act** – the CFS Branch provided information on Bill 40, The Hospitality Sector Customer Registry Act and Amendments made to The Child and Family Services Act and The Child Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking Act. The changes made allow for greater protections for those victimized by human trafficking and sexual exploitation and to better hold offenders accountable. The CFS Branch provided communication to Authorities attaching a FAQ document to assist agencies in understanding amendments and implementing them in practice. The Authorities then shared this with their agencies.

B) **Child and Family Services Application Access Resolution** – in response to concerns raised by Standing Committee, the CFS Branch, in partnership with the Child and Family Services Application Team, and the Child and Family Services Information System Help Desk, proposed a plan to address the number of challenges facing CFS users and access to CFSIS. The CYSD

recognizes that CFSA access is critical and foundational to case work and case management. Authorities were encouraged to forward any concerns. The proposed plan will include the development of a FAQ document for common CFSIS helpdesk requests and a streamlined process map that details the type of problem, how to resolve issues, including who to contact.

C) **Reunification** - In August 2022, with support of Standing Committee, the CFS Branch issued a branch communication with information from Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) that outlined its actions to support families during the reunification process, providing clear and consistent direction to the EIA field and what EIA funding is accessible.

D) **Safe Ride Pilot Program** – With the support of Standing Committee, the Department of Families' CFS Branch in partnership with the Child and Family All Nations Coordinated Response Network, announced a new initiative that will support CFS agencies, foster parents and placement resources in the safe return of absent and missing youth in care. In May 2022, the Safe Ride program became operational. On June 22, 2022, a Manitoba Families announcement on the new initiative was made.

This initiative focuses on early intervention through delivery of a rapid response to youth who are absent from placement and safely returning them and providing support and resources to mitigate and reduce future absenteeism including the risk of becoming missing, exploited or involved in high risk activities or violence.

This initiative responds directly to the recommendation of Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls National Inquiry Calls to Justice to have safe ride programs available to enhance safety for Indigenous youth who are at risk of being targeted for sexual exploitation. It also strongly supports Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth's recommendation calling for a missing children and youth protocol by enhancing the resources youth can access when missing or absent from placement. The SAFE Ride program also aligns with a number of commitments and recommendations from Tracia's Trust, the CFS Transformation Strategy and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

- E) **Equitable Standards Evaluation Framework Consultation** - VOICES and the Child Welfare League of Canada will be organizing a key stakeholder engagement on the Supporting Equitable Transitions to Adulthood Youth in Care in Canada report. The stakeholder group focus will be on creating an evaluative framework with a key objective to have a couple provinces/territories pilot the tool. Standing Committee was formally consulted as a key stakeholder.
- F) **RESP/Learning Bonds** – To support the CFS accessing federal benefits the CFS Branch provided information to Standing Committee to disseminate to their agencies on how to apply for RESP funds for children in care. The RESP program through the federal government will be presenting an information session to Standing Committee’s Joint Training Team (sub-committee).
- G) **Youth Addictions Stabilization Unit (YASU)** – The CFS Branch shared information that cross-departmental meetings have occurred on youth addictions to discuss a mechanism for reporting and accountability. The CFS Branch shared Guidelines for the Assessment and Treatment of Youth Who Use Opioids, as well as a Youth Addictions Centralized Intake (YACI) and Youth Addictions Stabilization Unit (YASU) – Fact Sheet with the Authorities that outlines roles, responsibilities; and access and admission, to disseminate to their agencies.

Communication External

A transparent, coordinated, collaborative effort is not only required within the CFS system (internal), it is also required in the work with community and departmental collaterals (external). Working with ‘external’ organizations helps to move practice towards a shared understanding of need.

Presentations by key stakeholders occur at Standing Committee to ensure partnerships, communication and research opportunities and learnings are shared. These presentations foster best practice based on research and outcome measures of key projects.

Information about programming and discussions with Standing Committee during the 2022-2023 fiscal year included:

- a. **Children’s disABILITY Services (CDS)** shared information that CDS will be transferring case management to St. Amant. Phase 1 transfers will occur in the spring and transition will be completed in the 2023/24 fiscal year.

- b. **Emergency Placement Resources (EPR) Collective Ownership document** – Standing Committee approved a Collective Ownership document that was presented by the CFS Branch and Winnipeg Child and Family Services. The primary objective is to collectively ensure children and youth are not having to be placed in an emergency shelter and to reduce the length of stay in emergency shelters. The document outlines the roles of the EPR Team, Guardian Agency Team and the Collaborative Authority Resource Team Members.
- c. **The LINK: Youth and Family Supports** – Provided information on The Caring Connections Home that is licensed and funded by CYSD. It offers a single access point to stabilize the youth and assist with repairing relationships with caregivers. The goal of the program is to prevent placement breakdowns and limit the number of placements for youth. Guardians, caregivers, caseworkers and families can refer to the program by contacting Mobile Crisis. It is important to note youth do not need to be involved with CFS, and Caregivers must be willing to work collaboratively with the intention to return the child home. The Link committed to keep in contact with the All Nations Coordinated Response Network and monitor how the program is working.
- d. **Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY)**
- i. In June 2022, the Acting Manitoba Advocate presented an overview of what the office is working on, the systemic issues they are seeing, their role in reconciliation, advocacy and investigation statistics and the reports that have been completed, and upcoming reports.
 - ii. MACY provided a presentation on their role in regards to Serious Injury Legislation [section 21(1)], the reporting requirements, the serious injury reporting form and their internal process; and examples provided to review and discuss on what may or may not constitute as a need to report as a serious injury. Standing Committee will meet and work collaboratively to draft guidelines for the field.
- e. **SPECTRUM Demo Project 1 Results** – In October 2021, a presentation on this research project was provided to Standing Committee. The goal of the project is to compare outcomes of child development for children who have been removed from their home versus children who are able to stay in home with safety plans and or supports. In February 2023, the project results

were presented and an invitation to participate in discussions regarding next steps. Standing Committee identified a representative to sit on the Steering Committee.

Communication to Support Provincial Alignment with the Federal Act – Key Areas of Discussion

Standing Committee continues to actively discuss the implications of the Federal Act - An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families; and Indigenous Governing Bodies Mandates, including how it impacts current and future practice. Key areas of discussion have focused on placement priority, notice of significant measures and the continued increase in the number of Indigenous Governing Bodies. Given the implications of the Federal Act and the need to ensure coordination of child and family services as IGB's come forth across Canada, this will remain as a standing item on the Standing Committee agenda. This will ensure sharing of information, consistency in interpretation and practices related to compliance with the Federal Act and seamless service delivery for children in the province.

- i) **Authority Determination Protocol (ADP)** – Standing Committee continues to identify the challenges related to the ADP and our devolved system given the Federal Child Welfare Legislation, and the need to adapt to ensure culturally appropriate services are provided to families. Modifications were made to CFSIS and the ADP to enhance the collection of citizenship and treaty numbers by allowing for alphanumeric entries; and the ADP field guide was updated to a more manageable size.

Further changes to the ADP may be required to ensure culturally appropriate service delivery and choice; the evolution of Indigenous Governing Body laws which will continue to force the provincial CFS system to align and coordinate service delivery. Discussions are ongoing.

- ii) **Collaborative Case Transfer Table (CCTT)** - The CCTT is about provincial case transfers process that ensures IGB transition is completed based on prioritized case transfer needs. One of which is currently that provincial files needs to align based on Métis Citizenship/eligibility. In preparation of the Manitoba Métis Federation enacting child and family services law, Standing

Committee is working collaboratively to address the policy and operational implications, which includes case transfers, funding framework policy, amending regulations and system adaptation.

The Sponsor Table, consisting of the four CFS Authorities and the Director of Child and Family Services, struck a Working Group that would be tasked with ongoing case transfers among provincial agencies and prioritization of Métis eligible and/or Métis citizenship files that require transfer in or out of current Métis Authority agencies. The Working Group will draft a Terms of Reference that sets out governance structure and roles, highlight what is in scope and the level of priorities, and determine the various policies and procedures. The Working Group reports up to the Sponsor Table which is responsible for all case transfer work. The CCTT membership mirrors the Standing Committee membership.

iii) Designated Intake Agency (DIA) Services

DIA Consultation – Funding models to support DIA work is underway. The CFS Branch proposed a consultation process with agencies to better understand the pressures for agencies providing DIA services and for IGB transition. Consultation to hear directly from DIA on any challenges, current operational needs, issues and what is working well. Data extracts to further support consultation and funding options were completed and shared. Once consultations are complete, information will be compiled, and key findings will be shared with Standing Committee. This data and consultative findings will guide divisional recommendations for DIA functionality/service delivery models and funding, while promoting flexibility in regions where there may be unique needs. Consideration of how provincial DIA continues to change and adapt to ensure coordination of service delivery with IGB partners and in anticipation of IGB readiness is a key objective.

Transition of DIA Parkland Region - Preliminary discussions occurred regarding which Authority would assume DIA responsibility in Parkland given the need to amend transition from Michif to a new provincial agency as part of IGB planning. The General Authority will proceed with planning as agreed upon at Standing Committee and will work with the CYSD on implementation.

iv) **Identification of Membership/Citizenship and Eligibility** – As part of IGB readiness, entering in a Culture of Origin in CFSIS was supported by SC as an important action to ensure that families are receiving culturally appropriate services from the appropriate authority. In August 2022, in consultation with the CFS Authorities, the CFS Branch sent out communication to all users of the CFS Application advising that updates were made to reflect current practices of recording Métis Citizenship numbers in Manitoba. The application now has the ability to record whether the individual is a Métis Citizen or has self-declared themselves to be Métis. This will assist in ensuring individuals’ Métis heritage is recorded and that families will receive culturally appropriate services both provincially and once IGB laws are in force.

v) **Indigenous Governing Bodies Support Branch (IGBSB)** - The Indigenous Governing Bodies Support Branch (IGBSB) was developed in 2022/2023 to support the implementation of Indigenous laws from a whole-of-government approach. The IGBSB Assistant Deputy Minister provided monthly updates to Standing Committee on various work that provided opportunity for dialogue and engagement that included legislative amendments.

- The IGBSB will be distributing an updated directory of Indigenous Governing Bodies identified for the purposes of receiving Section 12 Notices of Significant Measures for children receiving CFS services in Manitoba.
- The IGBSB shared their experiences in the historical signing of the first trilateral coordination agreement in Manitoba with Peguis First Nation and the federal government; and the work involved in the regulatory amendments to repeal the provincial mandate for Peguis CFS.
- The IGBSB offered to provide presentations to the Authorities and their agencies to discuss the announcement on the legislative amendments to the provincial Child and Family Services Act that received royal assent June 1, 2022.
- The IGBSB provided updates and review of the draft Bill “The Implementation of Indigenous Jurisdiction over Child and Family Services Act (Various Acts Amended)” and held preliminary discussions on the need for policy development and training in the system for implementation for when amendments come into force on Royal Assent.

- vi) **Inuit Service Delivery** – Recognizing that Inuit families currently being served by Métis CFS will not have this option once MMF IGB laws are enacted, a new provincial service agency needs to be identified. Then all Inuit service delivery files need to transfer as soon as possible to the new agency. Standing Committee members were asked to identify an Authority and Agency to provide services to the Inuit.
- vii) **First Nation Registration Proposed Project** – The lack of CFSIS data available to clearly identify Indigenous Peoples by First Nation Registration under the Indian Act poses challenges related to culturally appropriate service delivery and IGB transition. Standing Committee has raised these issues and the collaborative case transfer Sponsor table and Working group has also identified this as impacting their work. CYSD has begun dialogue with Vital Statistics and other jurisdiction including Ottawa representatives to better understand processes related to the release of parental birth information in order for CFS agencies to proceed with obtaining First Nations registration.
- viii) **Red River Métis Definition and Citizenship** – The Central Registry Office at Manitoba Métis Federation provided a presentation on the Métis Citizenship and Harvester Registration Process. This highlighted the need to work with existing families across all Authorities to support citizenship registration and treaty status. The presentation was disseminated to Authorities to share with their agencies.
- ix) **Vital Statistics and Métis Citizenship** - Additionally, Vital Statistics was provided information on how to connect with the Métis Citizenship Central Registry Office in order to strengthen information sharing and to facilitate citizenship applications.

Communication to Support Legislative Amendments

As part of Stakeholder consultation, Standing Committee agreed to a process where members work collaboratively to provide input to any proposed legislative amendments that support practice changes within the provincial CFS system. If there would be any direct impacts (positive or negative); further consultation with Standing Committee will occur.

Much of the work of Standing Committee results from decisions made at the provincial level to review, revise or develop new Legislation, Regulations, Standards, Policy and responses to recommendations made to the CFS system. Standing Committee is one structural entity that represents the voices of Authority agencies as they collaborate with the Department of Families on any of these changes.

In 2022/23, the CFS Branch provided information regarding the webinars that were held for CFS agency staff on the Information Sharing Legislative Amendments. The webinar provided an overview of the Legislative changes, walked through the specific change and provided practical operational examples. The CFS Authorities were provided a pre-recorded webinar registration link to share with their agencies to those who were unable to attend to be viewed on their own time. In addition to the video, a FAQ document will be provided.

Coordination of Initiatives to Support the CFS System

Presentations were made to Standing Committee to help inform the diversity of services through pilot programs and new initiatives that are available for families and children involved with the CFS system.

Some initiatives respond to recommendations made by the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY). Responses to recommendations are provided to MACY each year and posted on the government's proactive disclosure website. The work associated with any recommendation may go beyond the response provided to support the CFS system to ensure best practice.

The following information has been shared with the Authorities and they have discussed and shared with their agencies.

- i. **Amber Alert Protocol** – In June 2022, Standing Committee approved an Amber Alert Protocol that was created to provide clarity of roles and responsibilities, and outline the required responses of CFS agencies in Manitoba when law enforcement has or is considering issuing an Amber Alert. The CFS Branch and the Joint Training Team (subcommittee of SC) hosted a webinar for Authority and agency staff that provided a detailed outline on the provincial protocol, and allowed for a question and answer period. The protocol is available in CFSIS.

ii. **Child and Family Services Application (CFSA) User Access** – In April 2021, Standing Committee approved a policy to clarify the process for approving Child and Family Services Application users’ access to the electronic child and family services administrative data system. This process reinforces timely access to information contained in the CFSA; supports best practices that contribute to the safety, permanency and well-being of children and families; and ensures that access to the information aligns to the user’s current job function.

Any exceptions for province wide CFSA access require approval by Standing Committee. In 2022/23, Standing Committee approved 15 requests for province-wide access.

iii. **Provincial Investigations and Offender Assessment Options** – Given agencies identified the need for assessments due to sexual offending and the high costs and wait times, the CFS Branch proposed a potential solution to Standing Committee. A proposed new model that would expand the role of provincial investigators to allow them to provide a sexual risk assessment to child and family services agencies; and provide recommendations around safety and risk mitigation from a child welfare perspective. This could assist agencies in their case planning on complex situations involving offenders as they may also be a parent, intimate partner and are members of family and communities. Authorities and their agencies preliminary feedback is being sought and further dialogue will occur in 2023/24 on options for collaboration to create this type of resource.

iv. **Transfer of Rate Approval Process** – The CFS Branch presented a proposed plan to transfer the rate approval oversight from the CYSD to the Authorities. The intent was to transfer the oversight upon the enactment of the Single Envelope Funding (SEF) to Authorities.

v. **Missing Child in Care Protocol and Procedures** – In 2021/22, Standing Committee in partnership with the CFS Branch implemented the Provincial Missing Child in Care Protocol and its supporting document, the Missing Child in Care Response Plan (MCICRP). The protocol includes the requirement that a MCICRP be developed for every child in care in Manitoba aged 12 years and older. This protocol was developed in response to a recommendation made by the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth in A Place Where it

Feels Like Home: The Story of Tina Fontaine, to create a protocol for all missing children in Manitoba, and in acknowledgement of best practice measures related to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls to Justice.

In 2022/23, to support the system and improve compliance around MCICRP, a communication bulletin was issued to CFS Community care providers and CFS Authorities advising that the Provincial Training Unit developed a one-day training, which will guide workers through the requirements of the protocol, as well as the hands on development of response plans for the youth on their caseloads. Following the implementation of these training sessions, ongoing feedback will be sought from the CFS Authorities and their agencies regarding the process and administrative outcomes. Standing Committee continues to monitor compliance and work to reduce missing and absent children.

- vi. **Standards Modernization Project & Standards On-line Training project** - Based on Standing Committee information including CFS agency operational feedback, it was agreed that the current provincial standards lack clarity, are not user friendly, too prescriptive and contain information that is either irrelevant, outdated and often unattainable. Given there is no legislative review requirements in The Child and Family Services Act, Standing Committee supported the Standards Modernization Project. The Modernization project is based on the creation of Foundational Provincial Standards that can be supplemented by Authority Specific Standards to reflect culturally appropriate service delivery needs and expectations. This project will also address various MACY recommendations.

The CYSD/Authority Working Group provided updates to Standing Committee on the work completed during the 2022/23 fiscal year.

Phase 2 involved reviewing each Standard for outdated and redundant information. Standards were revised by Authority working group members and their mandated agencies and outdated information was removed to reflect current information. The CYSD is working with Department of Families Web Services to ensure that standards comply with Accessibility

Standards under The Accessibility for Manitobans Act and are being prepared for posting on the Province of Manitoba website.

Phase 3 is the Modernization of Standards, which includes a re-envisioning and potential new structure. The overall goal will be to reflect current practice, the role of the province, the role of the Authorities and encourage the development of culturally appropriate Authority Standards. Discussion occurred on the engagement and collaboration moving forward during this phase, which could include engagement sessions with each agency to seek feedback on how Standards are used and if there any challenges. Further engagement and framework development will continue in 2023/24.

vii. **Supports to Young Adults** – Discussions occurred at Standing Committee regarding the supports for youth transitioning out of care that were extended during the COVID-19 pandemic. These supports were continued through the Supports to Young Adults Grant through 2022/23. Through the grant, CFS agencies are able to continue supporting young adults through provision of supports and services (financial assistance, housing and mental health services) for a successful transition to adulthood. The grant expires on March 31, 2023. The CFS Branch and the Authorities will continue to work collaboratively to explore options for programming.

COVID-19 Pandemic Supports and Planning

As of March 15, 2022, the Government of Manitoba lifted all COVID-19 related public health orders and restrictions in the province. As a result, COVID-19 restrictions that previously applied to the CFS system were lifted. Service providers may choose to implement their own policies and requirements related to masking and other personal protective equipment, as there are no public health orders in place. The development of future policies will depend on future risks and provincial public health orders.

In 2022/23, there were two COVID-19 specific CFS Branch Communications issued in order to support the CFS systems' essential service delivery and understood the overall practice implications based on

Public Health orders and advice. These were with regards to COVID-19 Vaccinations for children in care under 5 and Personal Protective Equipment Reminder to Community Care Providers on how to order equipment.

Training – Joint Training Team (JTT)

Standing Committee’s key objective for training is to provide relevant, modernized training for the diverse workforce in the child and family services system that supports a trained work force, and which is consistent with the core areas of responsibility of Standing Committee. Training is a shared responsibility addressed by Authorities, Provincial Training and by the Joint Training Team (JTT), a sub-committee of Standing Committee.

JTT is responsible for key joint training initiatives in developing, coordinating, implementing, and evaluating education and training activities for CFS staff and caregivers. During 2022/23, JTT met monthly to coordinate training efforts across the CFS system and share information related to curriculum updates, development and to support the collaboratively developed training priorities that would be funded and supported by the Provincial Training Program.

In addition to the JTT, each Authority continues to provide a significant amount of practice training for their agencies. For more detailed training statistics, please refer to the Annual Reports of each of the four Child and Family Services Authorities.

Standing Committee endorsed partnerships that has fostered modernized approaches to training with up to date curriculum that is responsive to identified gaps in training. CFS Authorities through JTT continue to evaluate training needs and outcomes of the newly implemented training platforms and curriculums.

Abuse Investigation Training - A three round cohort pilot was initiated with a robust evaluation to be completed to determine future state. The training includes four core child abuse investigation modules as well as additional minimum information sessions on specialized topics.

Clinical Supervision Training Update - JTT presented three different training model options to create new Clinical Supervisor training. The Authorities agreed to use a Hybrid model which is an online component to a standardized Clinical Supervision module (baseline of information) – Module 1; and the Authorities roll out the in-person component that be altered to meet the needs of the Authority delivering the training.

In November 2022, the Standing Committee hybrid model was completed by the CFS Branch and a communication bulletin to the CFS Authorities announcing the completion of Manitoba’s new Clinical Supervision training module was disseminated to the CFS sector. The NEW Manitoba Child and Family Services Learning Portal houses the Clinical Supervision module. The module brings together elements of competency-based, trauma-informed, and strengths-based approaches to clinical supervision. This supports a shared understanding of clinical supervision across all CFS agencies and was co-created with Authority input. The Clinical Supervision module is an introductory training to supervision, with Authorities building out additional training specific to their agencies.

Child and Family Services Applications (CFSA) Training - In response to updates to the CFS Application to support Indigenous Governing Bodies, to strengthen security compliance knowledge and awareness a standardized orientation video was created. The CFS Branch provided a presentation on the new CFSA training and procedures that included a CFSA Orientation Video called “CFS Application Orientation” created to provide for Onboarding information to new users that will be a pre-requisite prior to full profile access.

Online Standards Training - The Branch has advised that the case management standards are being reviewed at this time and the standards training will be put on hold until the standards are completed. On going legislative amendments have altered timelines of this project.

Child and Family Services Learning Portal – In November 2022, as part of the shared commitment to evolve training including access to the Child and Family Services E-Learning Portal was launched, with the support of Standing Committee. The portal will host all of the online CFS Branch training offerings and recorded webinars for convenient viewing and will allow the participant to print a certificate of completion when a course is completed. This will also be able track Authority-specific training data.

Strategic Goals for 2023-2024

The key goals of Standing Committee for the 2023-2024 fiscal year include:

- Continue to work in collaboration with the Department of Families on shared priorities based on the pillars of Manitoba's Child Welfare Reform and the current changes whereby Indigenous Governing Bodies as per An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families are creating their own laws, based on their inherent rights to provide services.
- Continue to define, direct and support the work that ensures a continuum of services that prevents entry to care and reduces days care for children and maintains their connection and belonging with family and community and which aligns with Indigenous laws that come into effect.
- Collaborate on best practices for high and complex needs children and youth including addressing resource challenges, barriers and improved transitions to Community Living and Disability Support programs where applicable.
- Support further devolution of Child and Family Services that aligns with coordination of service delivery with Indigenous Governing Bodies and Indigenous Service Providers, while supporting and collaborating with the Child and Family Service agencies and Authorities on creation of the provincial future state.
- Continue to develop and implement provincial policies, procedures and practices related and aligned to the Federal Act, An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families; including but not limited to case transfers, sharing of information and coordination of services.
- Continue to implement and evaluate Provincial Training pilots and ensure all training provided is meeting the needs of the system.
- Continue to prioritize the Standards Modernization Project to ensure it is reflective of foundational best practices, attainable and relevant, and supplemented by Authority specific standards that reflect culturally appropriate standards.

Conclusion

The Child and Family Services Standing Committee is pivotal in promoting cooperation and collaboration with other governmental systems including: education, justice, health, employment, and housing. Members of Standing Committee are in a position to develop approaches in working with these other systems that ensure jointly developed protocols and procedures are adhered to by their respective Authority and service agencies. Additionally, the CFS Standing Committee promotes continued, collaborative working relationships between the four CFS Authorities and CFS Branch. Having this coordinated approach to decision making helps to streamline service provision and facilitate best practice in working with children and families coming into contact with child and family services offices in the province of Manitoba.