

Family Support for Children with Disabilities Multi-Disciplinary Team Process Improvements

Alberta's Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) Program uses a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) process to help inform decision-making regarding the provision of specialized services for children with severe disabilities.

A review of the MDT process took place in 2009 and all seven recommendations were accepted. The MDT process and the specialized services policy and procedures have been revised to:

- improve information-sharing with families
- streamline access to specialized services
- increase support for parents who participate in the MDT process and
- help ensure the process is consistent province-wide.

Specialized Services

- The revisions to the specialized services policy and procedure clarify the original intent of these services, and support clear and transparent decision making.
- The way that specialized services are identified in FSCD Agreements has also been updated to be more clear and transparent about the nature of the services being provided.
- Families who currently hold an agreement will not be affected, but are encouraged to speak with their FSCD worker prior to their agreement expiring so they understand the decision making process for providing continued specialized services and if a MDT is needed.

MDT Process

- The MDT process is more consistently and clearly described in policy and procedure, including:
 - the intent of specialized services and when they are provided
 - the information that families need to provide
 - the decision making process and steps for providing specialized services
 - when a MDT is needed
 - who makes decisions
 - the purpose of the MDT and how MDT recommendations are used and
 - what happens after a decision is made to provide specialized services.
- MDT recommendations will still be obtained for parents requesting specialized services for the first time.
- In some cases, a recent report from the Glenrose Hospital's Preschool Assessment Service in Edmonton, or the Children's Hospital Early Childhood Development Team (ECDT) in Calgary, may be considered instead.
- Where appropriate, the MDT may do a paper review rather than an in-person meeting.
- An annual MDT regarding the need for continued specialized services will only be required if the FSCD worker, in consultation with their supervisor and the MDT Coordinator, determines it is necessary.

For more information about the FSCD Program visit www.child.alberta.ca/disabilities.