

## FCSS Program Review Report — Government Response

#	Recommendation	Alberta Government Response	Status of implementation
1.	<p>That FCSS programs and CFSAs develop partnership protocol working agreements where such agreements do not currently exist, that respect the local autonomy provisions within the <i>FCSS Act</i> and <i>FCSS Regulation</i>. Agreements should include information sharing processes and formal communication mechanisms and focus on creating connections and strengthening partnerships at the administrative and governance levels of the respective organizations.</p>	<p><b>Accepted</b>                      Department will convene a committee to develop partnership protocol working agreements in those regions that do not currently have protocol agreements in place.</p>	<p>May 1, 2007 –                      December 31, 2007.</p>
2.	<p>That CPEF develop communication strategies to increase knowledge of FCSS and CFSA programming and services at the senior administrative and governance levels. These strategies, at minimum, should increase the understanding of mandate, roles and responsibilities, accountabilities, and new initiatives.</p>	<p><b>Accepted.</b>                      The Department will convene a provincial planning session with CPEF to identify communication strategies that will increase knowledge of FCSS and CFSA programs and services.</p>	<p>May 1, 2007 –                      June 30, 2007.</p>
3.	<p>That FCSS programs and CFSAs identify a consistent staff contact within their respective organizations to act as a primary contact and resource person for programs in the region and to facilitate effective partnerships and communication.</p>	<p><b>Accepted.</b>                      Each Child and Family Services Authority will identify a key contact who will act as the primary contact and resource person for FCSS Programs and initiatives within the CFSA boundary.</p>	<p>May 1, 2007 –                      June 30, 2007.</p>
4.	<p>That the Department work collaboratively with the Program Advisory Team to develop training educational materials related to FCSS and CFSA legislation, mandates and new current initiatives, as a basis for ongoing discussions about potential program and service duplication and overlap. These educational processes will help to facilitate the delivery of a continuum of services, between FCSS and CFSAs, while respecting local autonomy and maintaining fiscal program efficiency and effectiveness.</p>	<p><b>Accepted.</b>                      The Department will work collaboratively with the FCSS Program Advisory Team to develop educational training materials related to FCSS and CFSA legislation.</p>	<p>May 1, 2007 –                      April 30, 2008.</p>
5.	<p>That FCSS programs and CFSAs develop processes, at the local level between CFSA and FCSS administration and governance, to identify and eliminate duplication, preserve complementary services that provide for a continuum of support within the community, and maximize the effective use of resources. Processes should include an annual discussion of funding provided to agencies and contractors by both FCSS programs and CFSAs to ensure that this funding does not duplicate services.</p>	<p><b>Accepted.</b>                      The Department will establish a working group of FCSS directors and CFSA CEOs (or designates) to develop processes to identify and eliminate duplication (e.g. sharing business plans and information about key programs, holding an annual meeting for regional FCSS directors and CFSA administrators).</p>	<p>May 1, 2007 –                      March 31, 2008.</p>

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6.	That FCSS programs identify local priority gap areas within their respective regions and municipal, Métis Settlements and community agency stakeholders to develop possible resolution strategies.	<i>Accepted.</i> The Department will support FCSS Programs in identifying local priority gap areas and developing possible resolution strategies.	May 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008.
7.	That the Department provide information to the program Advisory Team to disseminate to FCSS programs to build awareness of current Ministry and cross-ministry initiatives and resources in areas that have been identified as perceived gaps but where significant activity is taking place. Examples include bullying prevention programs and parent resources.	<i>Accepted.</i> The Department will disseminate information to the FCSS Program Advisory Team to build awareness of Ministry initiatives and resources.	Ongoing.
8.	That the Department initiate a cross-ministry forum to address the transportation issues identified in the report as needing resolution.  Further, that the Department work with the FCSS Association of Alberta, municipalities, Métis Settlements and the Alberta Child Care Network Association to develop program and funding options to support the delivery of school age child care in Alberta.	<i>Under Review</i> The Department will convene a cross-ministry forum to ensure the appropriate Ministry or Ministries have the lead to explore options to address the identified transportation issues.  The Department will engage in consultation, analyze the program and funding options, and make a recommendation about school age child care funding.	May 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008
9.	That the Program Advisory Team develop strategies to address the issues identified in this section of the Review (Program and Service Partnerships), including time constraints to participate in partnership development activities, communication issues, resources for travel, and development of partnership outcome measures.	<i>Accepted.</i> The FCSS Program Advisory Team will develop strategies to address issues related to forming partnerships.	May 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007.
10.	That the Department develops an information package that clarifies Government and Ministry requirements for tendering contracts and grant approvals.	<i>Accepted.</i> The Department will develop a package that clarifies government and Ministry requirements related to tendering contracts and grants.	May 1, 2007 – June 30, 2007.
11.	That a working group of small rural FCSS programs be established, through the Department and the FCSS Program Advisory Team, to explore challenges, identify effective practices and provide suggested solutions to issues raised including staff recruitment, transportation services, funding and population/demographics.	<i>Accepted.</i> The Department and FCSS Program Advisory Team will establish a small rural working group to discuss solutions to funding issues raised in the review. The Ministry budget includes \$1.2 million to address this recommendation.	May 1, 2007 – June 30, 2007.

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12.	That the Department periodically provide information to CFSA staff and boards that clarifies the accountability requirements for FCSS funding to increase the understanding and knowledge of the accountabilities specified within the <i>FCSS Act</i> and <i>Regulation</i> .	<i>Accepted.</i> The Department will communicate the accountability requirements for FCSS funding.	May 1, 2007 – June 30, 2007.
13.	The Department, Program Advisory Team and M.A.D. Steering Committee review the reporting requirements for FCSS programs with the intent of incorporating outcomes-based reporting.	<i>Accepted.</i> The Department, FCSS Program Advisory Team and M.A.D. Steering Committee review reporting requirements for FCSS programs with the intent of incorporating outcomes-based reporting. The Ministry budget includes \$1.2 million (to be expended over three years) to support the implementation of Recommendations 13, 14, and 15.	April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2010
14.	That the Department refer the challenges and barriers to outcome reporting identified in this Review, to the Program Advisory Team, M.A.D. Research Group and Lead Cohort Group to develop strategies to reduce the challenges and barriers and to increase the number of FCSS programs contributing outcome data to at least 85% over the next three years.	<i>Accepted.</i> The Program Advisory Team, M.A.D. Research Group and lead Cohort Group will develop strategies to reduce the challenges and barriers to outcome reporting.	April 1, 2007 – September 30, 2007
15.	That assistance, as required, is provided to FCSS programs to implement the Canadian Outcomes Research Institute database.	<i>Accepted.</i> The Department will assist FCSS programs in implementing the Canadian Outcomes Research Institute database.	April 1, 2007 – December 1, 2007.
16.	FCSS programs should be recognized for their commitment to the communities they serve, as demonstrated by contributions over the required 20% of funding, and their efforts to leverage funds to provide enhanced services to their communities.	<i>Accepted.</i> The Department will publicly recognize those municipalities and Métis Settlements that ‘over contribute’ to their respective FCSS programs. In recognition of the critical impact of effective leadership, the Ministry’s budget includes \$1 million for the FCSS Association of Alberta to establish and administer an educational bursary for executive directors and senior organizational leaders in FCSS programs and Parent Link Centres.	May 1, 2007 – December 30, 2007.