



Métis Commission for Children and Families of B.C.

August 21, 2012

Issues of Concern re: Revisions to Court Plan of Care (CPOC) Template

At the July 30, 2012 meeting of the Aboriginal Integrated Policy Table, MCFD discussed their plans to revise the Court Plan of Care (CPOC) document template, and to create a more standardized form that would, in theory, address low rates of compliance and inadequate completion of CPOC documents among social workers. At the meeting, concerns were raised over the ability of a more generic template to account for the diversity that exists within the population of children and youth in care. MCCF is equally worried about the possible detrimental effects that the introduction of a new, more generic, document may have for Métis children, youth and families. MCFD welcomed feedback on how to develop a template that accounts for the above-noted issues. The following points were brought forth by MCCF staff with regard to these upcoming changes:

- A primary concern is whether there is a justified need for a new template for CPOC. Will a new template address issues of low compliance and poor quality of work? Perhaps the need is for more training for social workers on how to use the document and the importance of the cultural planning that is covered in CPOC;
- Additionally, we feel the need for more information on the outcomes of consultations with social workers and youth in care, completed by the office of the Rep. for Children and Youth. Why is compliance re: completion of CPOC so low? Does developing a new template really address the root cause of low compliance? Perhaps a more efficient/effective use of Ministry resources would entail, as noted above, training social workers on how to use CPOC and reiterating the importance of CPOC.
- MCCF is also wondering why cultural communities were not consulted with regards to CPOC. How will a new template incorporate the cultural needs of children and youth in care when their communities were not consulted?
- The intention to develop a document that will work within the Integrated Case Management (ICM) system is troubling, as there are well-documented concerns over the (in)effectiveness of this system. Why are efforts being made to tailor documents for a faulty case management system?

The above-noted matters were brought to the attention of MCFD staff leading the CPOC redesign project.