



Recommendations for the AIU

Sec.2:1

It is recommended that a streamlined and strengthened abuse referral criteria be developed for all referrals of cases for abuse investigations by the AIU.

Reports from AIU workers and an examination of data maintained by the AIU show a clear disconnect between referrals and abuse conclusions raising questions about the appropriateness of the existing criteria for abuse referrals. Large numbers of abuse referrals result in findings that abuse did not occur. As a result, there is reason to be concerned that the referrals were not suitable for an abuse investigation, and could have been investigated by an Intake worker. The criteria for referring a case for an abuse investigation needs to be examined, probably narrowed and strengthened in keeping with similar expectations for decision-making by the Intake Screening and Assessment Unit.

Sec.2:2

It is recommended that criteria such as decision-making trees be used to guide Intake screeners through the decision-making process with respect to which cases require Intake or which require abuse investigations.

Sec.2:3

It is recommended that a committee be established to review the 978 abuse only cases assigned to Intake Supervisors with the task of closing all inactive cases and acquiring up to date information on the status of the cases still active with the AIU.

AIU workers are limited to a specific investigation function in abuse cases. They are not case managers. If a new case is referred to the AIU, it is also assigned to an Intake worker. When there are no other child protection issues, the practice has been to assign the case to an Intake supervisor to reduce the workload of Intake workers. In May/2009, there were 74 abuse cases assigned to Intake workers and 978 cases assigned to Intake supervisors. No active services are provided when a case is assigned to an Intake supervisor. Some Intake supervisors have had no contact around these assigned cases for months. This is a concerning practice as the potential for negative implications is high and needs to be re-examined for other feasible alternatives.

Sec.2:4

It is recommended that this committee make recommendations on feasible alternatives for case management in circumstances where there are no other child protection concerns, but an abuse investigation is in progress.

Sec.2:5

It is recommended that this committee develop policies and practice standards for service responsibilities, information sharing and record management when a case is referred for an abuse investigation.