

ADVOCACY: Life After High School

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Introductions and Territorial Acknowledgement



RCY: Purpose

1

To support B.C.'s young people and their families when working with the provincial child and youth welfare system.

To provide oversight to this system and makes recommendations to improve it.

2



To improve outcomes for children, youth and eligible young adults receiving government services in B.C.







RCY: Priorities

Indigenous child and youth well-being

Transitions from government care into healthy adulthood

Complex issues and system response: mental health, substance use, exploitation, intergenerational trauma, persistent lack of connection

Children and youth with special needs

Early intervention



RIGHTS: Informing our Work



Mandate: 0 - 19



Advocacy Pre-19

Transition to adulthood from MCFD/DAA care:

Planning:

- Permanency and stability
- Transition team
- Assessments
- Medical and dental needs
- Daily living skills
- Self care skills
- Relationship and communication skills
- Housing and money management
- Education
- Career planning

Transition of young person in care of their parents to CLBC:

Planning:

- CYSN
- Timeliness
- Assessments
- Communication issues
- Collaboration
- Self determination and choice
- Self Advocacy
- Planning
- Personal support
- Eligibility
- Housing and care needs
- Legal needs and advocacy

Mandate: 19-24



Advocacy Post-19 (to 24)

CLBC AYA PTWP

Planning:

- Self determination and choice
- Self Advocacy
- Personal support
- Eligibility
- Resource Allocation
- Education
- Employment
- Meaningful activity
- Income security / personal finances
- Housing options
- Transportation
- Health
- Behavioural and mental health supports

Planning:

- Lack of information/awareness
- Eligibility issues
- Support
- Communication issues
- Gaps in programs and availability
- Coaching and mentoring
- Practice issues and concerns
- Timeliness issues
- Mental health concerns
- Addictions
- Miscellaneous issues impacting program involvement

 Insufficient information about the program being provided to community.

Eligibility:

- Formerly in any MCFD or DAA Legal Status or MSDPR CIHR program for at least 24 months (SNA, VCA, TCO,
- 19-26 inclusive OR 17 or 18 and no longer in MCFD care
- Studying full or part time at a BC public post secondary institution

Eligible Programs:

- Credit and non-credit programs
- Courses for unclassified years, non-credit trades, continuing education
- Any non-credit courses for life long learning or labour market



RCY ADVOCATES CAN

RCY ADVOCATES CAN'T

- Request
- Review
- Inform/Advise
- Empower/Encourage
- Override
- Remove
- Represent
- Decide

Advocates are not decision-makers or case managers.



Advocacy Process: Adult

Admin

- Parents/FamilyCommunity service providers
- Social Workers

Initial Call

- First point of contact for public
- Obtain basic information
- Assess if in mandate
- Forward information to intake

- 3-5 business day callback
- Obtain and assess detailed information
- Confirm mandate
- Provide information, advice, support and referral

Intake Advocate

Out of mandate

Refer to appropriate service

Encourage or direct individual to engage in self-advocacy.

Advocate

- Determine level of support required
- Advocate for process to address issue
- Address information sharing and confidentiality

Out of mandate

Refer to appropriate service





Website: www.rcybc.ca



BC's Representative for Children and Youth and RCYBC Youth



@rcybc and @rcybcyouth



Rep4Youth



@rcybcyouth

Email: rcy@rcybc.ca

Phone: 1-800-476-3933

Text: 1-778-404-7161