

Darlene Bouwsema -Transition Update from Deputy Ministers, Children's Services and Community and Social Services February 24, 2017

As we continue to transition to Children's Services and Community and Social Services, we are pleased to provide you with the following update. In addition, your questions, ideas and concerns about the transition are appreciated through [@AskDavid](#) and [@AskDarlene](#). These will continue to be posted online under [Your Questions](#), along with the weekly updates under [departments' updates intranet page](#).

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

- Minister Larivee had the opportunity to talk to Children's Services child intervention staff from across the province as she hosted a digital meetup on Tuesday. She also met with small groups of staff from all divisions and Shared Services, in Edmonton during several open houses and office visits. She hopes to get out and tour more offices in the near future, as the legislative session allows.

- **Child Intervention**

Regional Executive Directors from Community and Social Services and Children's Services met with ADMs, Susan Taylor and Mark Hattori to discuss the status of transition planning and next steps. In all seven regions, we are 95% of the way towards having Children's Services child intervention staff identified and reporting lines clarified.

Meetings will continue over the upcoming weeks to address additional transitional operational areas requiring clarity including shared services.

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

- **Disabilities, Inclusion and Accessibility**

The competition for the Assistant Deputy Minister, Disabilities, Inclusion and Accessibility is progressing. Specifically, the competition has now closed and interviews are anticipated in the next couple of weeks.

- **Strategic Planning, Policy and Quality Assurance**

Recruitment for the Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy, Planning and Quality Assurance is also underway.

SHARED SERVICES (Corporate Services, Strategic Knowledge and Technology, Legal Services and Human Resources).

- **Corporate Services - Corporate Finance:**

- Year-end Audits: As a result of the restructuring, each Ministry will now have a separate year-end audit conducted by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG). Timelines for completion of the initial draft financial statements for both Ministries will be identical (April 26); however, the audit work by the OAG and sign off of the final financial statements will be staggered. Community and Social Services final financial statement and subsequent sign off will be May 15, while Children's Services will be May 29, 2017.

- Centralized Procurement Office (CPO):

Contract Review Committee (CRC): On February 15, 2017, an email was sent to Children's Services and Community and Social Services Executive Teams to advise of changes to the CRC. These changes were required to respond to the new shared services model. Specifically, this included ensuring the CRC has equal representation from each Ministry, and elevating the CRC from an operational to a strategic level by expanding the scope to include identifying solutions to common and emergent procurement issues within the Ministries.

The CPO is scheduled to present to the joint Executive Team meeting on March 9, 2017. The presentation will provide an opportunity for the CPO to share its charter and areas of focus.

- **Legal Services**

Legal Services, now the Community and Social Services (CSS)/Children's Services (CS) Legal Team, comprising Justice lawyers and CSS/CS staff who work solely for the two ministries. This team provides a full range of legal advice and other legal services to all Divisions of both CSS and CS. Please continue to rely on your previous legal contacts and if you are uncertain of who to contact, please refer to Neil Boyle, Director Legal Services at neil.boyle@gov.ab.ca (phone [780-427-2543](tel:780-427-2543)).

- **Human Resources**

Both Children's Services and Community and Social Services Deputy Ministers met recently with AUPE regarding the Letter of Authorization for staff to present to the Ministerial Panel on Child Intervention. AUPE has committed to providing comments within the week.

We thank you for your continued patience, hard work and commitment to ensuring services to Albertans remain uninterrupted.