
Update on Prior Years' Report Items

The Department indicated that the Eastern Residential Support Board, with support from the Department, has recruited and filled all positions in their recently approved organizational chart. The organization has been working with the Department and the Eastern Health Authority to move clients out of this program who no longer require the service. To date, ten persons have moved out or are scheduled to move out to alternate care arrangements. In addition, two residents who require the services have moved to the organization.

The Department indicated that for the last two fiscal years Eastern Residential Support Board has achieved a budgeted surplus and reduced its overall program expenditure as a result of the Board's continued implementation of program review initiatives. In fiscal year 2003-04 the Board reported a surplus of \$56,875. In fiscal 2004-05 the Board reported a surplus of \$266,099. Based on recent financial information received from the Board, for current fiscal year 2005-06 the Board is projecting a surplus of \$93,000. Total program expenditures were reduced from \$9.8 million in 2003-04 to \$8.6 million in 2004-05 with a further reduction projected for 2005-06 to \$8.2 million. The Department anticipates further reductions in program expenditures as the Board continues to place clients in alternate care arrangements.

3.2.12 Residents' Trust Accounts (2002 Annual Report, Part 2.16)

Introduction

In 2002, our office performed a review of the residents' trust accounts held by five of the Province's Health Care Boards. The objective of our review was to determine whether there were adequate procedures and systems in place to manage and control residents' trust accounts.

Conclusions from our 2002 review

As a result of our review, we concluded that the procedures and systems in place to manage and control residents' trust accounts required improvement.

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2004 Update

In our 2004 annual report, we included an update on the Department's progress towards implementing the recommendations contained in our 2002 report item. At that time, the Department indicated that since 2002 Boards have made progress in addressing the deficiencies identified by our Office. Annually the Department has contacted Boards to obtain an update on progress to date. The Department indicated that it will continue to monitor Board progress in the future.

Update

In October 2005, we contacted the Department of Health and Community Services requesting an update as to the progress on the comments and recommendations included in our 2002 report. The Department indicated that the Boards continue to make progress in addressing the deficiencies identified by our Office, and that the Department will continue to monitor Board progress in the future.

3.2.13 Child Care Services (2003 Annual Report, Part 2.18)

Introduction

The *Child Care Services Act* and *Child Care Services Regulations* provide the legislative framework for control over the provision of child care services in the Province. In 2003 we performed a review of child care services.

The objectives of our review were to determine whether there were adequate systems and processes in place to:

- identify all providers of child care services in the Province required to be licensed under the *Child Care Services Act* and *Regulations*;
- ensure that applicants approved for child care licences meet the application requirements of the *Child Care Services Act* and *Regulations*;
- monitor child care facilities to determine whether they are operated in accordance with the *Child Care Services Act* and *Regulations*; and