

**Office of the Child & Youth Advocate
Legislative Review – Public Presentation
Strengthening the OCYA**

PAA is the voice of, & for, psychology in Alberta. Our mission is to advance the science-based profession of psychology & to promote the well-being & potential of all Albertans.

Actionable Recommendations / Solutions

The psychological health & wellness of Albertans can be substantively improved by buffering the impacts of adverse childhood experiences which we know to be detrimental to the development of our citizens. The OCYA plays a valuable role & should be strengthened.

1. The OCYA should remain an independent office of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.
2. The OCYA should, in its scope of practice, advocate for ALL children receiving government services. All children are inherently vulnerable.
3. Outcome-Informed Practice – despite the OCYA not having the authority to require changes, there should be a clear, transparent, & public response to all recommendations in any investigative review in a timely manner (6-12 months)
4. Death reviews are essential & should include a multidisciplinary assessment team including psychologists.

OCYA – an independent office -- Advocacy matters & independent advocates are most able to ‘safeguard’ those who are less able to look out for their own interests. The OCYA plays a significant role in the identification of systemic issues to the benefit of the psychological health & wellness of all Albertans. As these typically require changes to policy, regulation or legislation, they not only require that level of independence, but their voice will help to strengthen ours as a province, government, & society.

The OCYA should, in its scope of practice, advocate for ALL children receiving government services. All children are inherently vulnerable & the act should be expanded to include those youth receiving other fundamental government services.

Outcome-Informed Practice

Despite the OCYA not having the authority to require changes, there should be a clear, transparent, & public response to all recommendations in any OCYA investigative review in a time-limited manner (6-12 months). These reports should never be the end of the inquiry process.

Investigative reviews are essential & should include a multidisciplinary assessment team including psychologists. Psychologists have expertise in both developmental & forensic psychology. Our scientist-practitioner grounding, having research as a significant component of our training & practice, lends a benefit to these reviews.

