

Establishing the Department of Children, Youth, and Families TNEC – 2/21/2024

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Here to share information, and continue the conversation

- The goal of this conversation is to provide an update on the work of the Implementation Office for the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, ask for specific engagement, and exchange information on how MIAC would like to be informed and involved as the planning phase moves forward.
- Agenda
 - Review of legislation to create Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF)
 - Consultation and Engagement thus far
 - Tribal Office, Indian Policy Office
 - Next Step opportunities

Vision – Placing Children at the Center of Government

- Our state depends on the success of Minnesota children, youth, and families.
- The Department of Children, Youth, and Families puts children at the center of state government -- a permanent state agency and commissioner focused on elevating children and families in policy and budget decisions.
- This is a bold plan to realign state government to better coordinate and resource our systems serving children and youth, focused on equity so that all children can thrive.
- The creation of a new DCYF will:
 - Align outcomes and policy and pursue equity for children, youth, and families across state government.
 - Elevate the priorities and funding needs of children, youth, and families.
 - Focus local partners on improving the front door for services, with a goal to ease access and navigation for families and improve service.
 - Sharpen the focus of state agencies to best address issues central to the people they serve.

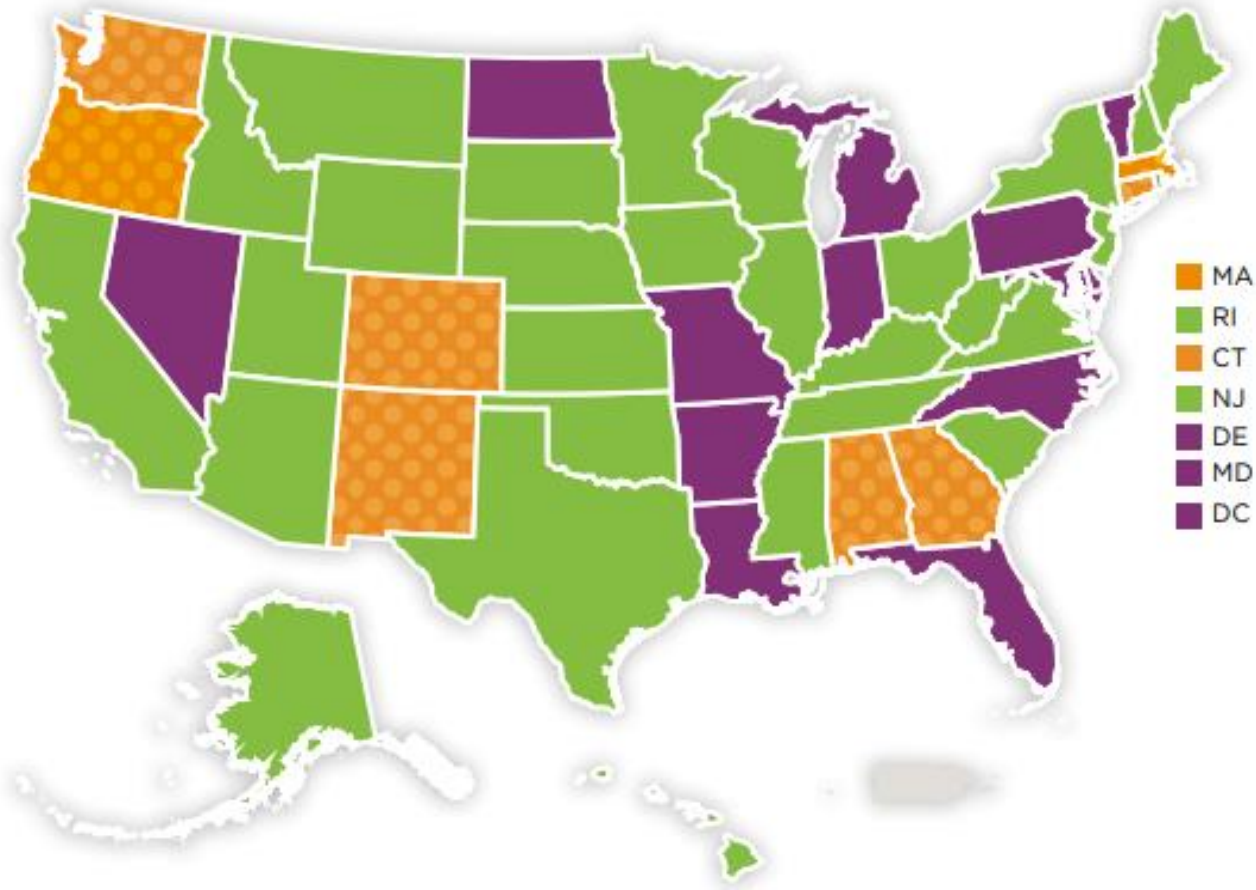
How We Got Here

Practicing Child-Centered Government

- Families and those who work with them are asking for coordination, engagement, and culturally and individually responsive programs that meet their children's needs throughout their development.
- Governance reports, cross-agency work, OLA reports, and learnings from other states have built the case for additional alignment.
- It's time for Minnesota to create an agency centered on children, similar to governance structures in more than half of states.



National Trends & Governance Evolution



- **8 states** have **created** a new entity to oversee early care and education components.
- **13 states plus D.C.** have **consolidated** several agencies or programs into an existing entity that oversees multiple components.
- **29 states** have agencies that provide programs and services that require a **coordinated** approach between agencies.

Adapted from:

Education Commission of the States, "Early Care and Education Governance," updated July 30, 2021, <https://www.ecs.org/early-care-and-education-governance/> (download PDF infographic);

Placing Children at the Center of Government

- Our state depends on the success of Minnesota children, youth, and families. The creation of a new DCYF can achieve:
 - A clear front-door and a recognizable public face;
 - Improved communication outlets focused on children and families;
 - Coordinated and maximized funding;
 - Aligned outcomes for children and families; and
 - Improved access to services.



Department of Children, Youth, and Families

Focus for the Department of Children, Youth and Families

- **Principles:**

- Whole family focus
- Focus on a child throughout their life, from intentional prevention to downstream services
- Consolidation of early childhood programs
- Services are easy to access / navigate (“front door”)
- Cross-agency coordination will still be needed (one agency can’t do everything)
- Improved and more equitable outcomes achieved for all races, incomes, economic statuses and places of being

Core programs proposed to move into the new agency:

- ❖ Child care and early learning programs
- ❖ Child Support, Child Safety and Permanency, and other family-focused community programs
- ❖ Economic support and food assistance programs
- ❖ Youth opportunity and older youth investments

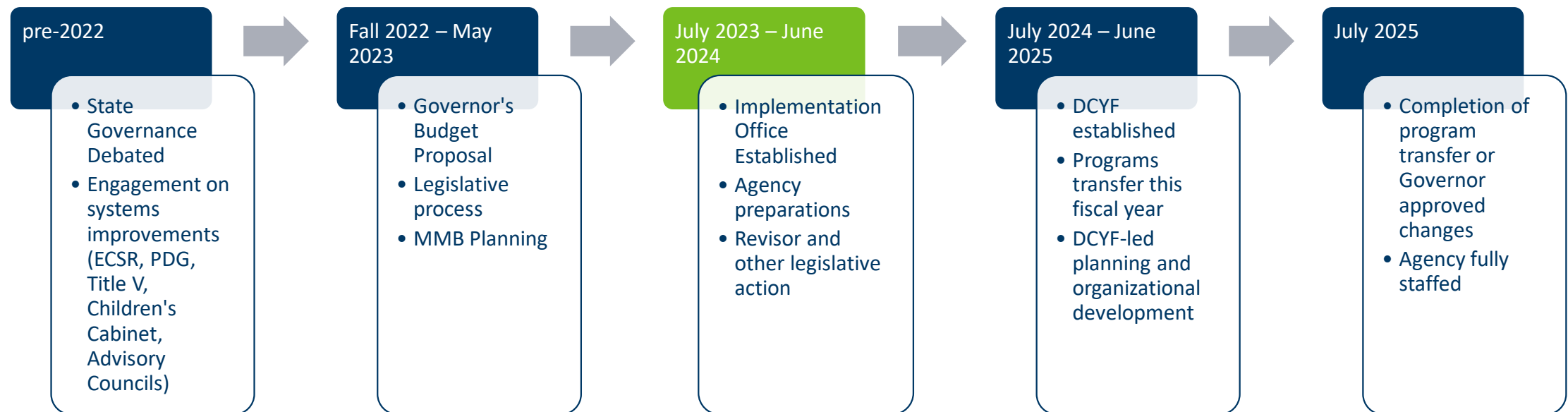
Legislation Background

- Legislation was authored by **Chair Dave Pinto** and **Chair Melissa Wiklund**; passed within HHS Omnibus
 - **\$20,341,000 in FY 2024-25 and \$7,042,000 in FY 2026-27**
- The statute funds:
 - Two-year planning process, including required engagement, through an implementation office and transition appropriation
 - The executive team of the new agency
 - An upgrade of the cost allocation plan to leverage federal resources and execute knowledge transfer

2023 Minnesota Session Law – Chapter 70 & Chapter 142A

- The DCYF establishing statute obtained authority and resources to support creation, alignment, and launch of a two-year process of moving core child, youth, and family support programs to the new agency to be established in July 2024. The law:
 - Creates an implementation office and transition fund;
 - Establishes the Department effective July 1, 2024 with a Commissioner appointed on the same day;
 - Adds the Department to existing authorities and establishing administrative controls of the Commissioner;
 - Directs the transfer of core programs between July 1, 2024 and July 1, 2025;
 - Provides employee protections;
 - Requires engagement;
 - Requires a report to the legislature in March 2024 on a series of deliverables;
 - Requires quarterly reports regarding status of transfers during the transfer period;
 - To the extent not prohibited by law and until July 1, 2027, allows data sharing from programs named to be transferred between the affected agencies for the purposes of coordination of services and transfer of programs;
 - Creates a systems account (modeled after existing DHS system account) to enhance computer systems necessary for the efficient operation of the programs; and
 - Provides instructions to the revisor.
- Chapter 142A, The Department of Children Youth and Families, has the Definitions, Commissioner duties, State and County Systems, and Rulemaking provisions of the establishing legislation. Chapter 142A-K has been reserved for DCYF and is where certain statutes will be proposed to transfer through the Revisor Bill.

DCYF: Phases



System transformation

Interagency partnerships

Engagement and partnership – cross-sector

Programs Identified to Transfer

Children and Family Services at the Department of Human Services:

- Management Operations and Business Integration
- Child Care Services
- Child Safety and Permanency
- Child Support
- Economic Assistance and Employment Supports Division
- Office of Economic Opportunity

Office of Inspector General & Department of Human Services Operations

- Licensing functions for family child care, child care centers, certificated child care centers, and child foster care.
- Program integrity units for related Child and Family Service (CFS) programs
- DHS Central Operations functions - Human Resources, Finance, General Counsel, Compliance, and Management Services, etc.

Programs from the Office of Teaching and Learning at the Department of Education

- Early Learning Services division (except Part B 619)
- After-School Community Learning Grant Program

Programs from the Department of Public Safety:

- Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee
- Youth Intervention Program grant
- Youth Justice Office
- Office of Restorative Practices

Program from the Child and Family Health Division at Minnesota Department of Health:

- Help Me Connect

DHS Programs Identified to Transfer – Full List

- **Business Integration Division**

- **Child Care Services Division**

- Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
- Child Care Aware Grants
- Child Care Access Grants
- Child Care Provider Technology Grants
- Child Care Workforce Development Grant
- Child Care Wayfinder
- Develop: Minnesota's Quality Improvement & Registry Tool
- Early Childhood Apprenticeship Program
- Early Childhood and School-Age Professional Development System
- Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion Prevention
- Facility Improvement Loans and Grants
- Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Grant Program

- Great Start Compensation Support Payment Program
- Migrant Child Care Services
- Minnesota Tribal Resources for Early Childhood Care (MNTRECC)
- Parent Aware Quality Rating and Improvement System
- Preschool Development Grant (in partnership with MDE and MDH)
- School Age Care Continuous Improvement and Accreditation Program
- Family Child Care Shared Services Grants
- TEACH Scholarships
- REETAIN Wage Bonuses
- Whole Family Systems Grant Program (in partnership with EAESD & CSP)



DHS Programs Identified to Transfer – Full List

- **Child Safety and Permanency Division**

- Adolescent Services
- Adoption Assistance
- African American Well Being Unit
- American Indian Child Welfare Initiative
- American Indian Well Being Unit
- Case Review Unit
- Change Management Unit
- Child Welfare
- Child Protection
- Child Protection Grants
- Child Protection Opioid Allocation
- Children in Voluntary Foster Care for Treatment
- Community Based Child Abuse Prevention
- Community Resource Centers
- Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV)
- Extended Foster Care
- Family First Prevention and Early Intervention Allocation Program

- Family First Prevention Services Act Kinship Navigator Program
- Family Foster Home Recruitment
- Federal Title IV-E and related programs
- Foster Care and Permanency Planning
- Guardianship of Children in Foster Care
- Indian Child Welfare Grants
- Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children
- Juvenile Safety and Placement
- Minnesota Child Welfare Training Academy
- Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act (MIFPA) and ICWA Compliance
- Minor Parent Services
- Northstar Care for Children (Foster Care, Adoption, Kinship Care)
- Parent Support Outreach Program (PSOP)
- Permanency Quality Assurance
- Post Adoption Search

- Post Permanency Support Services Grants
- Public Private Adoption Initiative (PPAI)
- Qualified Individual Program Grant
- Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) Assessment Grant
- Quality Parenting Initiative Grant Program
- Relative Custody Assistance
- Reporting of Maltreatment of Minors
- Research and Evaluation Unit
- Safe Place for Newborns
- Successful Transitions to Adulthood for Youth (STAY in the Community)
- Tribal Child Welfare, including Prevention and Early Services Grants

DHS Programs Identified to Transfer – Full List

- **Child Support Division**

- Advancing Equity Grant
- Child Support Payment Center
- County and Public Help Desk
- Division Operations and Grant Management
- Paths to Parenthood Grant
- Performance Analysis and Systems
- Policy and Planning
- Program Support
- SAVES Grant
- System Modernization and Strategic Planning
- Training

- **Economic Assistance and Employment Supports Division**

- Diversionary Work Program (DWP)
(Legislation signed into law repealed this program effective March 1, 2026)

- Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT)
- Emergency Assistance (EA)
- Minnesota Food Assistance Program (MFAP)
- Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)
- Minnesota Whole Family Systems Initiative
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - SNAP Employment and Training (E&T)
 - Summer EBT
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Call Center
- Local Agency Support
- MFIP Policy
- Research and Operations
- SNAP Quality Assurance

- SNAP Policy
- SNAP E&T
- Tribal Affairs

- **Equity and Inclusion Office**

- DHS Equity Policy
- Employee Support and Resources
- Equity Committee and Division Equity Teams
- Inclusive Development
- Strategy and Consultation

DHS Programs Identified to Transfer – Full List

- **Management Operations Division**

- Communications
- Data/Compliance
- Finance
- Legislative Affairs
- Legislative and Budget

- **Office of Economic Opportunity Division**

- American Indian Food Sovereignty Funding Program
- Capital for Emergency Food Distribution Facilities
- Community Action Programs
- Diaper Distribution Grant Program
- Early Childhood Learning and Child Protection Facilities
- Emergency Services Program
- Emergency Shelter Facilities Grants
- Emergency Solutions Grant
- Family Assets for Independence (FAIM)

- Grants for Prepared Meals Food Relief
- Homeless Youth Act
- Homeless Youth Cash Stipend Pilot
- Minnesota Food Shelf Program
- Minnesota Transitional Housing Programs
- Safe Harbor Housing
- Shelter-Linked Youth Mental Health Program
- SNAP Education
- SNAP Outreach
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

DHS Office of Inspector General

The licensing functions and program integrity and fraud prevention units for related Children and Family Services programs and unit, including:

- Certified Child Care Programs

- Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
- Child Care Centers
- Child Foster Care
- Family Child Care
- Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Programs Identified to Transfer – MDE, DPS, MDH

Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) Department of Public Safety (DPS)

Office of Teaching and Learning

- Early Learning Services division (all programs except Part B 619)
 - Children's Savings Account Startup program
 - Early Childhood Curriculum Grants
 - Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) program
 - Early Childhood Health and Developmental Screening program
 - Early Learning Scholarships
 - Executive Function Across Generations program
 - Great Start Scholarship program
 - Grow Your Own Program
 - Head Start and Early Head Start Programs
 - Parent Aware Public Program Support
 - Parent Child Plus program
 - Part C Early Intervention Services
 - Preschool Development Grant (PDG)
 - School Readiness
 - Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) and School Readiness Plus programs (SRP)
- After-School Community Learning Grant Program

Programs within Office of Justice Programs

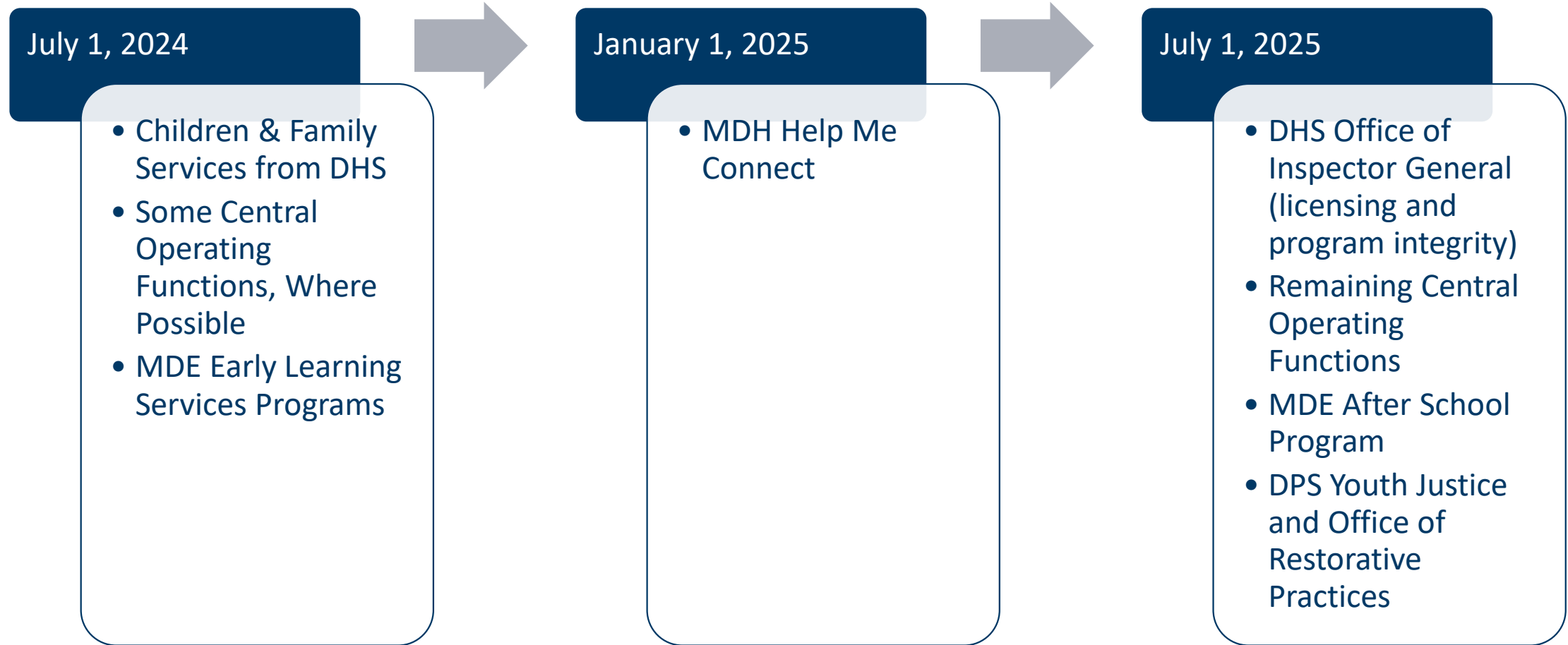
- Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee
- Youth Justice Office
- Youth Intervention Program grant
- Office of Restorative Practices

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)

Program from Child and Family Health Division

- Help Me Connect

Planning Timeline for Program Transfer



Planned program transfers may be delayed or cancelled to prevent service disruption or ensure adequate infrastructure is in place for program success.

Consultation and Engagement thus far

DCYF Tribal Consultation & Engagement

- Beginning with Tribal Summit in December 2022 with Governor and Lt. Governor
- Tribal Consultations
 - Included in 2023 agency consultations with DPS, MDE, DPS and DHS (37)
 - Implementation Office joined DHS for: Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Red Lake
 - Implementation Office joined MDE for: Prairie Island, Leech Lake
- Ongoing updates on Tribal Leader Calls beginning with legislation in January 2022, and through implementation (5+)
- Presentations at:
 - MN Indian Affairs Council (all 2023 meetings)
 - ICWA Advisory Council (5)
 - Metro Urban Indian Directors (4)
 - Tribal Nations Education Committee (5)
 - Tribal Summit 2023
 - Other - Saint Paul Indians in Action, Human Services Leadership Forum, Indian Behavioral Health, First Children's Finance, individual tribal programs and tribal leader meetings

DCYF Tribal Consultation & Engagement Themes

- Indigenous children and families must be a priority
- Establishment of an Office of Indian Policy within DCYF to ensure that tribal consultations are maintained and consistent.
- Concerns about ICWA compliance and how this can and should change with DCYF:
 - There are too many Native children removed from their homes by counties and ICWA compliance remains low
- Tribal staff have many grants/contacts/programs to manage, DCYF creates an opportunity to organize around tribal relationships and contacts vs. expecting tribal programs to navigate
- Tribes are struggling with workforce shortages, and DCYF planning and implementation needs to take this into account
- There are often long distances to travel to access services
- More support is needed for families navigating services
- Fentanyl has had a devastating impact in many Tribal communities

Organizational Structure Engagement Themes

- **Importance of a structure that allows for collaboration and coordination:**
 - Structuring departments and divisions in a way that allows for cross-cutting sharing of information, best practices and ways of doing work, and relationship building.
 - Breaking down silos, allowing for cross-division collaboration and coordination, including through the creation of intentional spaces for cross-functional teams and sharing, integration, and shared learning.
- **Importance of taking advantage of this historic opportunity to improve how services are delivered and received:**
 - User experience for partners (counties, Tribes, schools, community) and families should be considered throughout design.
 - Focus on prevention services.
- **Interest in an office of innovation, centralized research and data:**
 - Need explicit attention to research, data, evidence-based practices and policy.
- **DCYF needs visible leadership and coordination of:**
 - Mental health services across state agencies to elevate and align priorities.
 - Systems and services across state agencies for children who have disabilities and their families.
 - Work to close disparities, with specific focus on the most significant disparities for Black and Indigenous children, across early learning, health and well-being, and youth justice.
 - Navigation for families, community partners, and service providers.
 - Equity strategies, leadership with equity office.
 - Indian policy, tribal office.
- **Youth voice and priorities should be elevated.**
- **Desire for visionary leadership.**

- Tribal Policy Office – Director and Liaison functions
 - Office focused on improving outcomes for American Indian populations throughout the state, representing tribal nations and indigenous peoples
- Visible role at agency represents DCYF in American Indian policy-related matters, coordinates Indian policy work across DCYF and with other agencies, coordinates and/or chairs committees, task forces, or advisory groups, provides expert consultation to executive staff, and oversees and accounts for DCYF activities relating to Minnesota's tribal governments to ensure recognition of tribal authorities, interests, and agreements.
- Director role: Provide leadership on agency-wide efforts related to American Indian tribes and urban Indians; Serve as a liaison between DCYF, American Indian tribes, and urban Indians as well as other agencies and key partners; Serve as a member of the agency's senior strategy team.

Thank you & Discussion!

Connect with us

Website: [DCYF Implementation / Minnesota Management and Budget \(MMB\) \(mn.gov\)](https://mn.gov/dcyf-implementation/)

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