

Establishing the Department of Children, Youth, and Families

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Here to share information, and continue the conversation

- The goal of this conversation is to provide an update on the statute that establishes the new Department of Children, Youth, and Families and an implementation office, ask for specific engagement, and exchange information on your organization would like to be informed and involved as the planning phase moves forward.
- Agenda
 - Overview of legislation to create Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF)
 - Engagement and process thus far
 - Discussion and engagement 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.



Children's Cabinet – Cross-Agency Connection

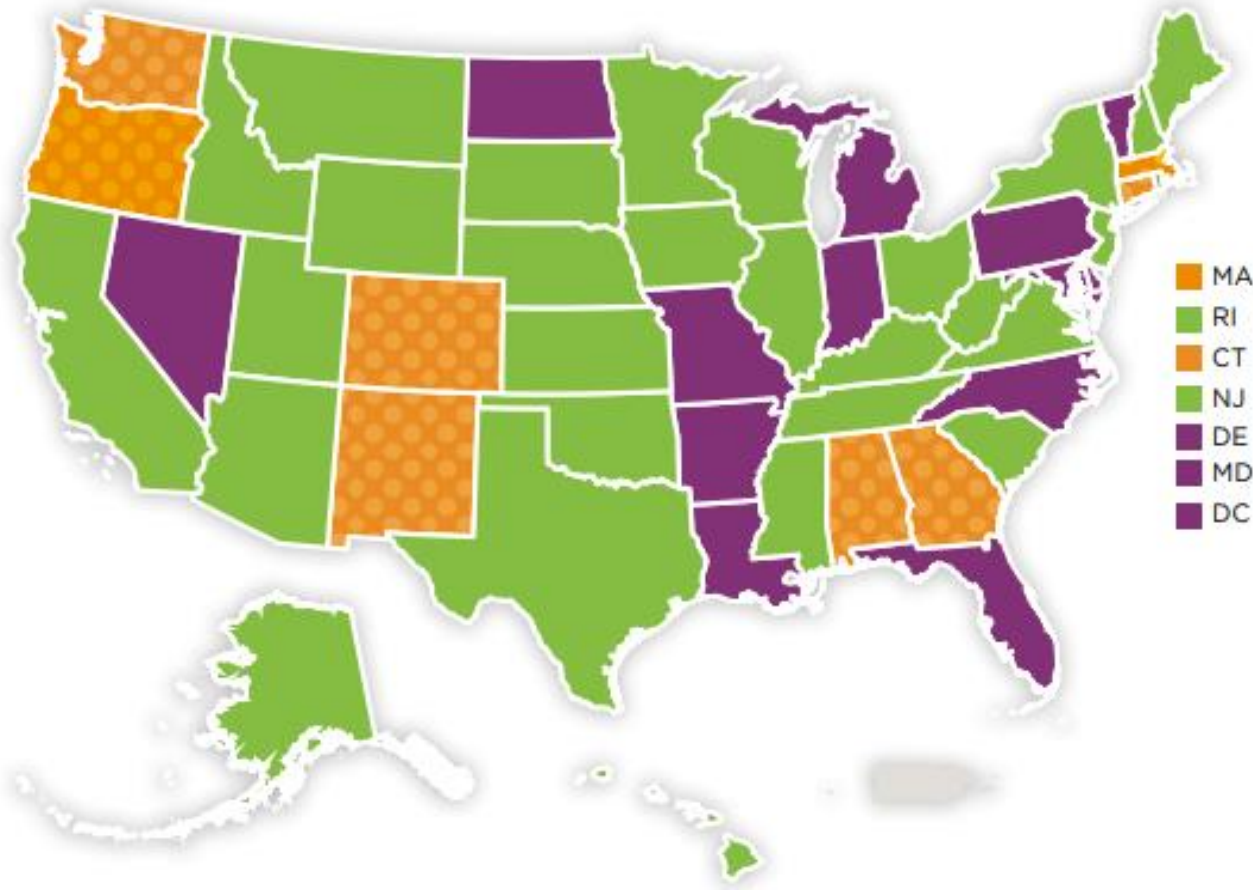
- Children's Cabinet Shared Governance
 - Children's Cabinet
 - Senior Leadership Team – assistant and deputy level commissioners
 - Interagency leadership team
 - Cross-agency action teams in following areas have launched between 2019-2023:
 - Mental Health
 - Child Care & Early Learning
 - Educational Opportunity
 - Housing
 - Youth Justice Transformation
 - Children's Cabinet Advisory Council and Council on Early Childhood Education and Care
 - County and tribal representation



Learning from MN History and Governance

- **1995** – Legislation passed to replace the Department of Education with the more broadly focused Department of Children, Families, and Learning
- **2003** – Programs distributed back to MDE, MDH, and DHS by Governor Pawlenty
- **2010** – Minnesota's Early Childhood Advisory Council task force recommended freestanding, cabinet level office of early learning; Office of Early Learning created in 2011
- **2019** – Preschool Development Grant strategic plan calls on need for enhanced and coordinated early childhood systems, program access, and funding.
- **2022** – Early Childhood Governance Report created roadmap and steps to consider.
- **2023** – Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan propose a transition process with dedicated time and people to better center children, youth, and families in state governance.

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);

What Minnesota Needs for Successful Governance Change

- **Start with key challenges** (*in this case, feedback from families, communities, and agency staff and programs*)
- **Plan for governance change, using dedicated time, staff, resources** (*provided through the Implementation Office*)
- **Engage with leaders and secure buy-in** (*ongoing, and an underpinning of the Implementation Office*)
- **Figure out the nuts and bolts of business systems** (*funded through the transition process*)
- **Factor in and sort out the implications of a governance change for local service providers and state-local roles** (*funded through the transition process*)
- **Determine the funding and resources needed to advance the state's childhood efforts** (*ongoing*)





Department of Children, Youth, and Families

Focus for the Department of Children, Youth and Families

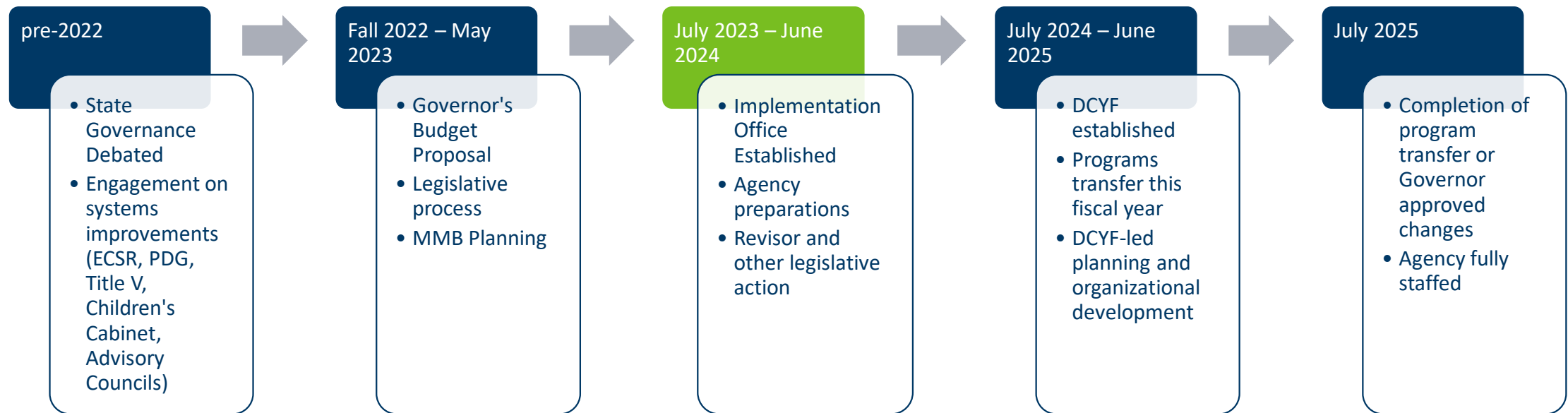
- **Principles:**

- 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

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

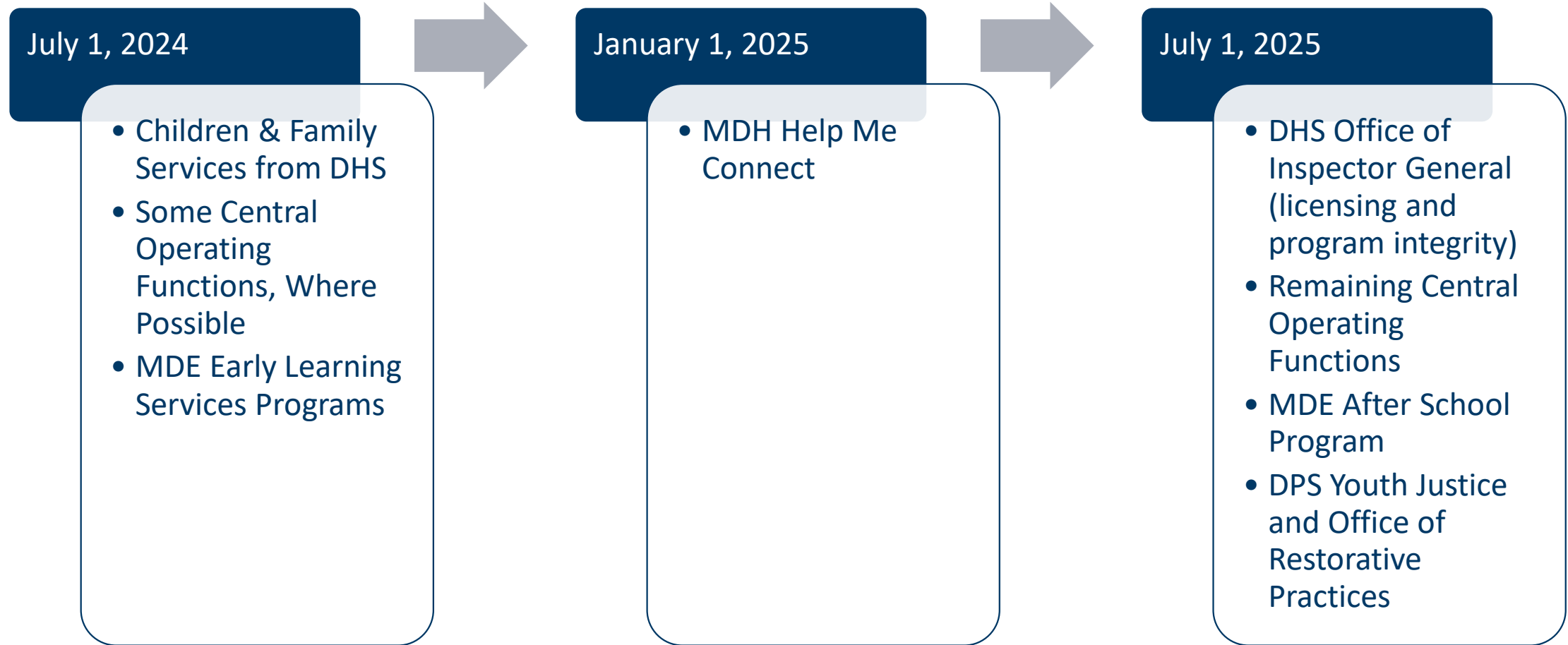
- Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee
- Youth Justice Office
- Youth Intervention Program grant
- Office of Restorative Practices

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)

Program from Child and Family Health Division

- Help Me Connect

Planning Timeline for Program Transfer

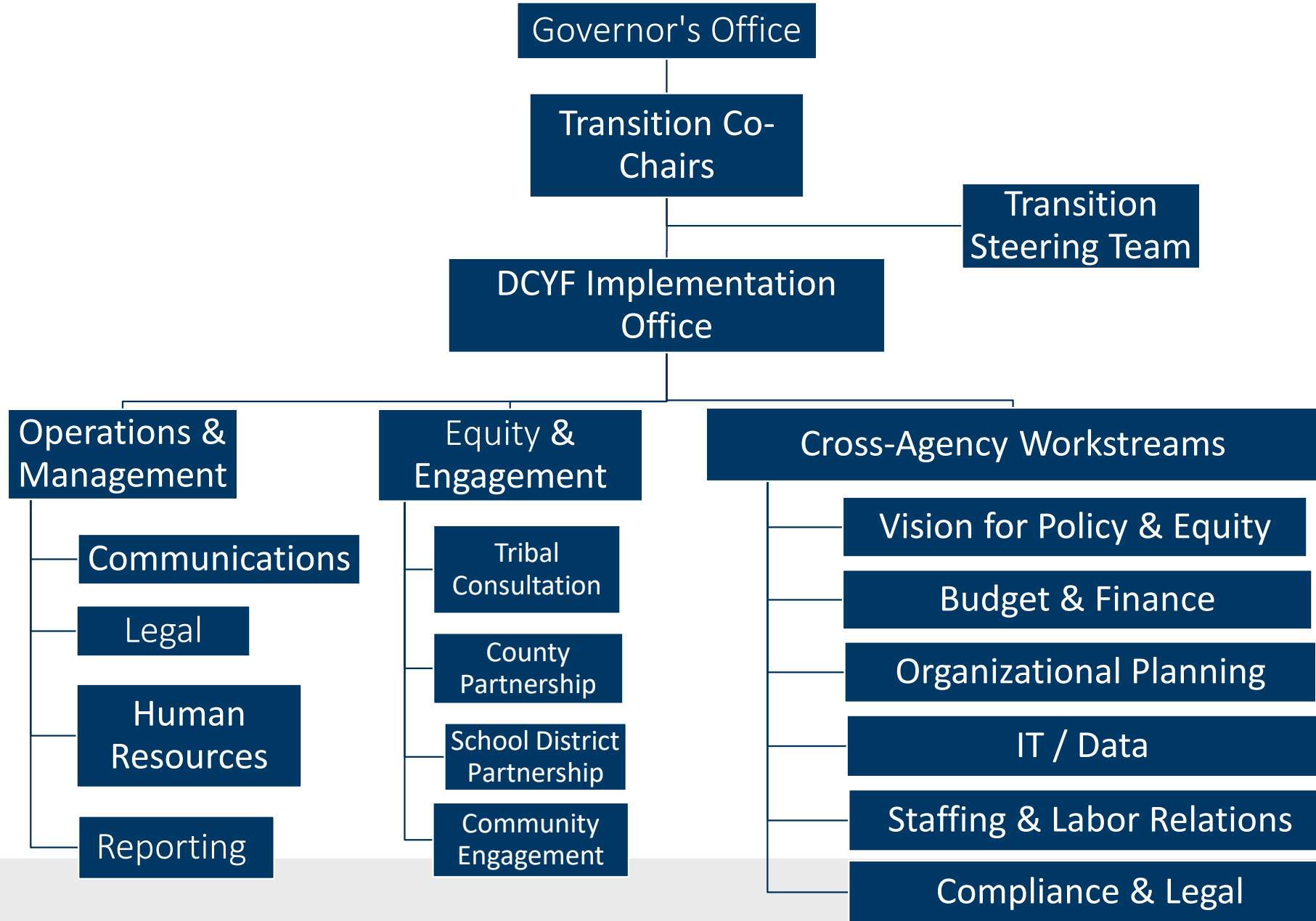


Planned program transfers may be delayed or cancelled to prevent service disruption or ensure adequate infrastructure is in place for program success.

Implementation Office & Transition Fund

An implementation office was established on July 1, 2023, and:

- Consists of a team at Minnesota Management and Budget.
- Is responsible for leading the establishment of DCYF and planning for the transition of programs to it, including elements related budget, finance, legal, human resources, IT, policy, public engagement, and project management.
- Will leverage the transition account funding for the purposes of building the framework of the new agency, including staff, space, IT, equipment, etc. and supporting existing agencies with one-time transition costs.



MMB Implementation Office Organization

A transition report was submitted to the state legislature on March 1, 2024, that addressed:

- The work related to the transfer of programs and the development of interagency agreements, you can find this report here:
- Engagement efforts with leaders and staff of affected agencies and governments (including county and tribal governments and school districts).
- Recommendations (developed in coordination with county and tribal governments) for how DCYF should coordinate and partner with county and tribal governments, including through the use of a governing authority, such as an intergovernmental advisory committee.
- Input from stakeholders and recommendations for improving service coordination and delivery for families with children who have disabilities, including coordination across state agencies in the areas of child protection, early education, mental health, disability services and other areas relevant to families with children who have disabilities.

Once the new agency is established in July 2024, the DCYF commissioner must provide four quarterly reports to relevant legislative committees about the status of the transfers.

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.

Recent Developments

Recent Developments

- These jobs have been posted and have closed. Interviews will be schedule shortly, for these:
 - **Working Title: Tribal Relations Director**
 - **Job ID #: [74886](#)**
 - **Agency: Minnesota Management & Budget**
Location: St. Paul, MN
Closing Date: 04/02/2024
 -
 - **Job Title: Agency Chief Financial Officer**
 - **Working Title: Chief Financial Officer**
 - **Job ID #: [74872](#)**
 - **Agency: Minnesota Management & Budget**
Location: St. Paul, MN
Closing Date: 04/02/2024
 -
 - **Job Title: Government Relations Director**
 - **Job ID #: [74878](#)**
 - **Agency: Minnesota Management & Budget**
Location: St. Paul, MN
Closing Date: 04/02/2024

No leadership positions have been filled yet. The executive team comprised of 18 positions will be filled no later than July 1, 2024

The best place to get up to date information is the DCYF web page at:
[Mn.gov/mmb/dcyf-implementation](https://mn.gov/mmb/dcyf-implementation)

Or just search for MN DCYF and it will pop up

Anitra Fineday, Implementation Team