



DCYF Child Safety and Permanency Update

Rebecca St. George | Assistant Commissioner, Child Safety and Permanency

Parent Support Outreach Program Reports

Parent Support Outreach Program (PSOP)

Goal: Prevent involvement in child welfare and promote family wellbeing.

Serves:

- Families with children aged 10 or younger at risk for child maltreatment
- Most come from screened-out reports

Description:

- Short-term intervention, including case management and flexible funds

Funding:

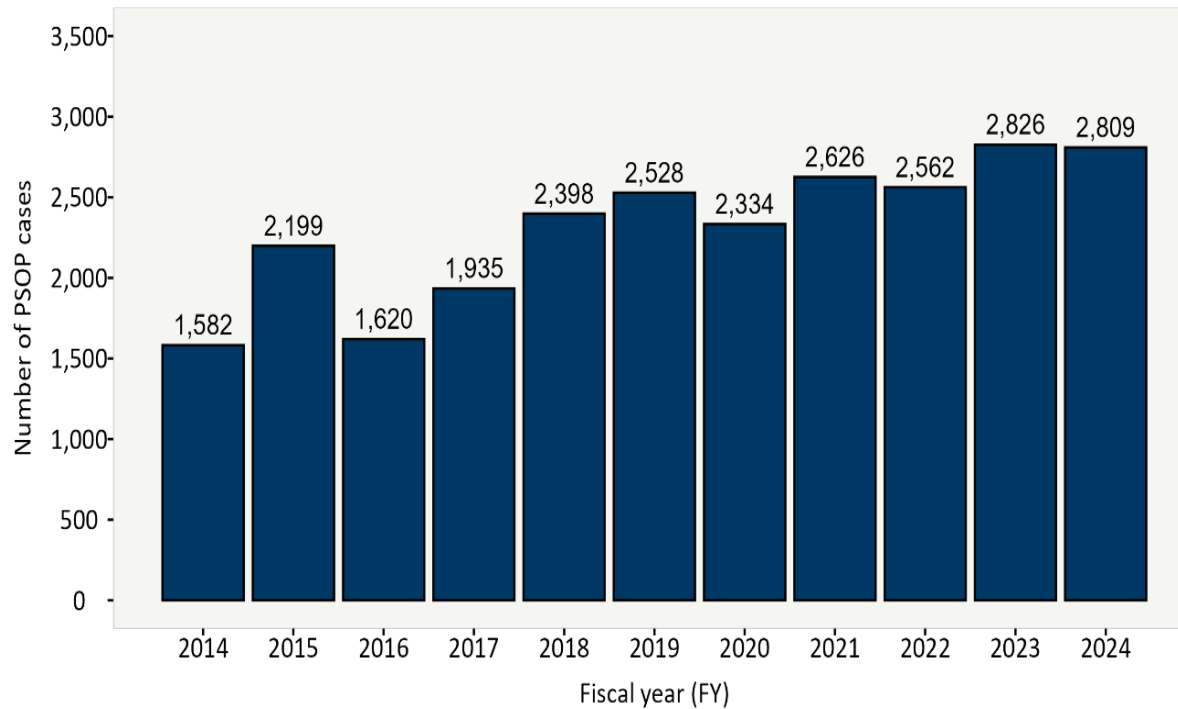
- \$4 million – level since 2013 when program expanded statewide
 - 44% Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)
 - 56% Expansion funds (state)

Implementation:

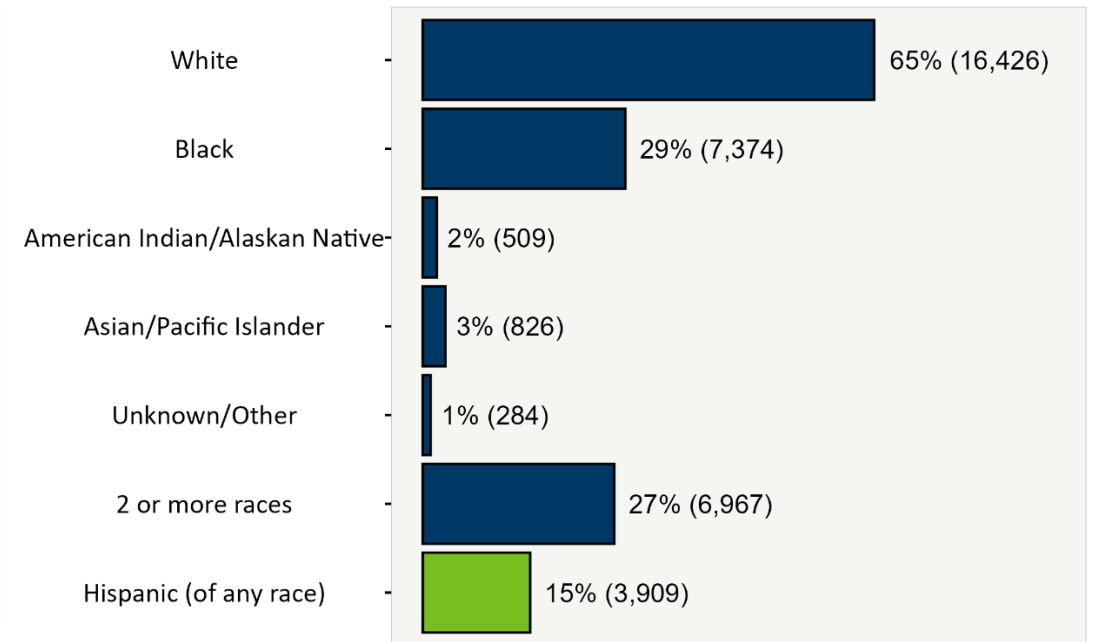
- Varies across 87 counties and 2 Initiative Tribes
 - What services offered
 - How funding is spent
 - Where PSOP is housed

Who PSOP Serves

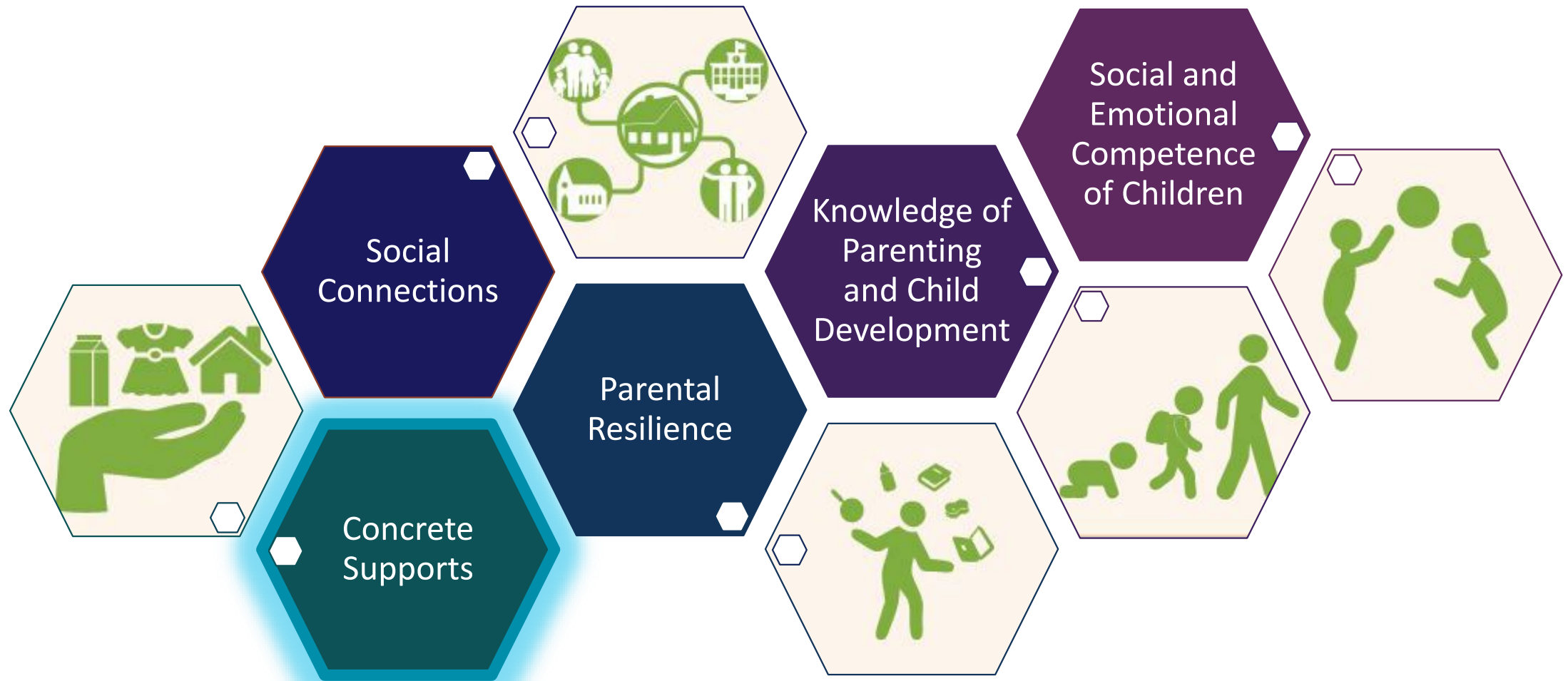
Annual PSOP cases by family, FY 2014-2024



Race and ethnicity of PSOP cases, FY 2014-2024



Protective Factors Framework



PSOP Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Report and Descriptive Report

CQI Report

Goal: Determine what areas of PSOP can be improved to better support families and children.

Qualitative review conducted through interviews

MMB Descriptive Report

Goal: Describe how PSOP is implemented and what outcomes families experience

Descriptive analysis using administrative data – not estimate of cause-and-effect

Key Takeaways

- PSOP meeting goal of preventing involvement, or further involvement, in child welfare
- In counties where PSOP services were contracted out, fewer cases were subsequently involved in child welfare reporting and investigation
- Changes to implementation may improve service delivery for families
- State expansion funding has not increased since initially funded in 2013, though there has been growth in population and the number of families served

2025 Legislation

2025 Legislative Highlights

- Mandated reporter training modifications
- Fentanyl added to MN §152.137
- Modifies definition of “neglect” in Chapter 260E to exclude children remaining in emergency care setting
- Modifies Chapter 142B to provide expanded definitions of related individuals and relative foster care licensing requirements
- Allows appeals under Chapter 256.045 to be filed for alleged maltreatment that occurred in another state or country

2025 Legislative Highlights, continued

- Modifications to ICWA Grant reporting and award limits
- Prevention response to educational neglect reports
- Court reviews for children aging out of foster care
- Expansion of PPC to allow provision of services related to kinship
- Child welfare IT modernization

2024 Legislation Implementation

Child Welfare IT Modernization

The Journey to Today



1999: SSIS Implemented



Functionality added
over time: One of only
13 SACWIS Certified
Applications

2018: Declared
"Transitional" CCWIS
(AKA "Remodel the
House")

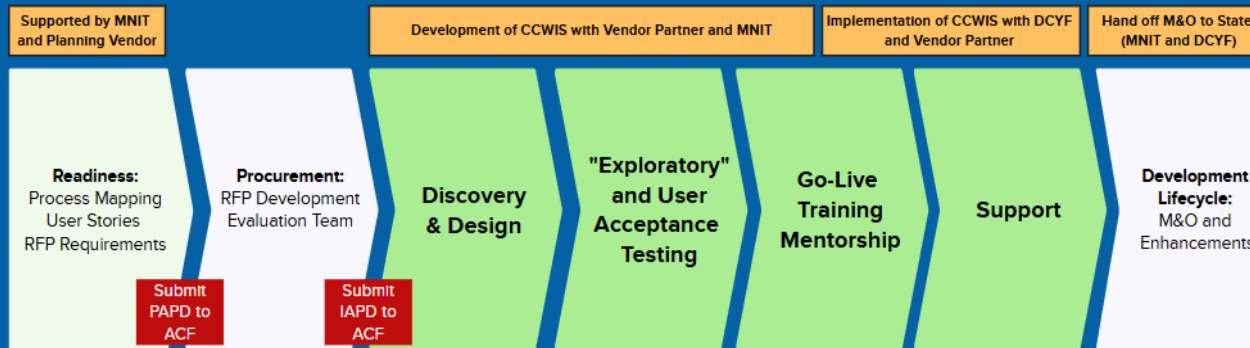


**2024-2025: Legislature passes
significant investment in CCWIS
= New House Planning**

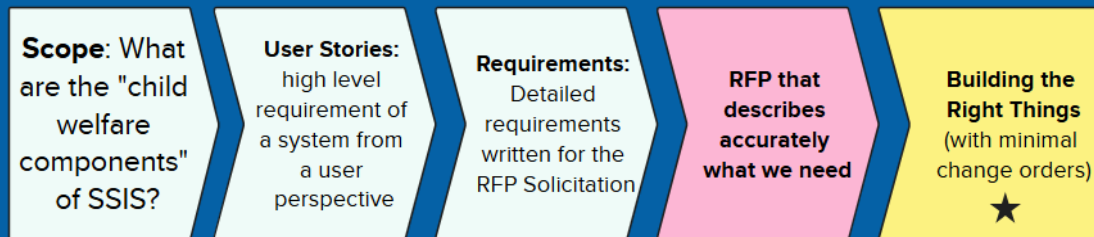
"The commissioner of children, youth, and families must acquire, implement, and configure a data-driven comprehensive child welfare information system that complies with federal and state laws and regulations." [Sec 8](#)

Child Welfare IT Modernization

Objective: "Nothing About Us, Without Us"
Partner Voice/Engagement Needs in the work ahead



Planning for a New Purpose
Stepping Stones to Success



Planning Phase to set a project up for success (highly encouraged by ACF)

Planning Activities In Progress:

- Readiness Vendor Selection
- Scope Definition for CCWIS
- Business Process Mapping Coordination
- Pre-work for IAPD and RFP Development
- Engagement with Partners (early Change Management work)

Child Maltreatment Reporting Study

Child Maltreatment Reporting Study Legislation

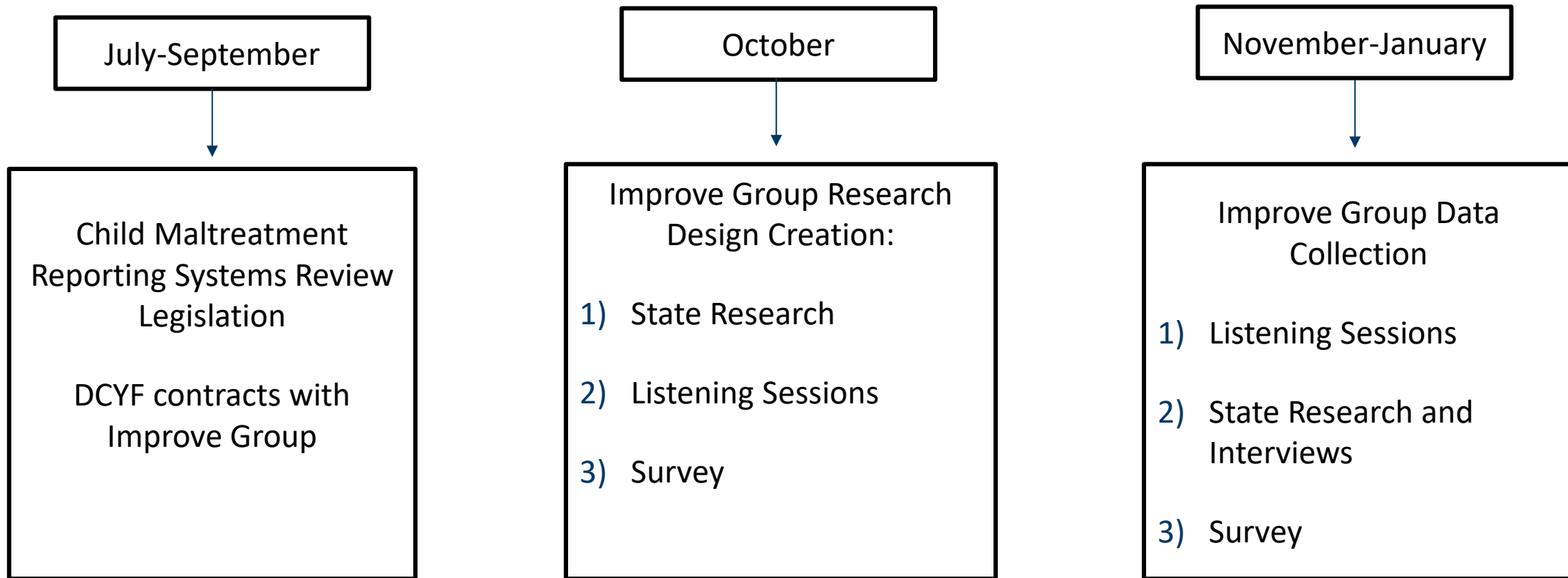
DIRECTION TO COMMISSIONER; CHILD MALTREATMENT REPORTING SYSTEMS REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

The commissioner of children, youth, and families must review current child maltreatment reporting processes and systems in various states and evaluate the costs and benefits of each reviewed state's system. In consultation with stakeholders, including but not limited to counties, Tribes, and organizations with expertise in child maltreatment prevention and child protection, the commissioner must develop recommendations on implementing a statewide child abuse and neglect reporting system in Minnesota and outline the benefits, challenges, and costs of such a transition. By June 1, 2025, the commissioner must submit a report detailing the commissioner's recommendations to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over child protection. The commissioner must also publish the report on the department's website.

Laws of Minnesota 2024, Chapter 115, Article 12, Section 31

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2024/0/Session+Law/Chapter/115/>

Timeline



Child Maltreatment Reporting Study Design

DCYF contracted with The Improve Group to support and complete the study design by February 2025. The study consisted of the following elements:

1) Reporter Survey:

- a) Online survey to previous and potential reporters
- b) Focused on their experience and the benefits, challenges and resources to a statewide system

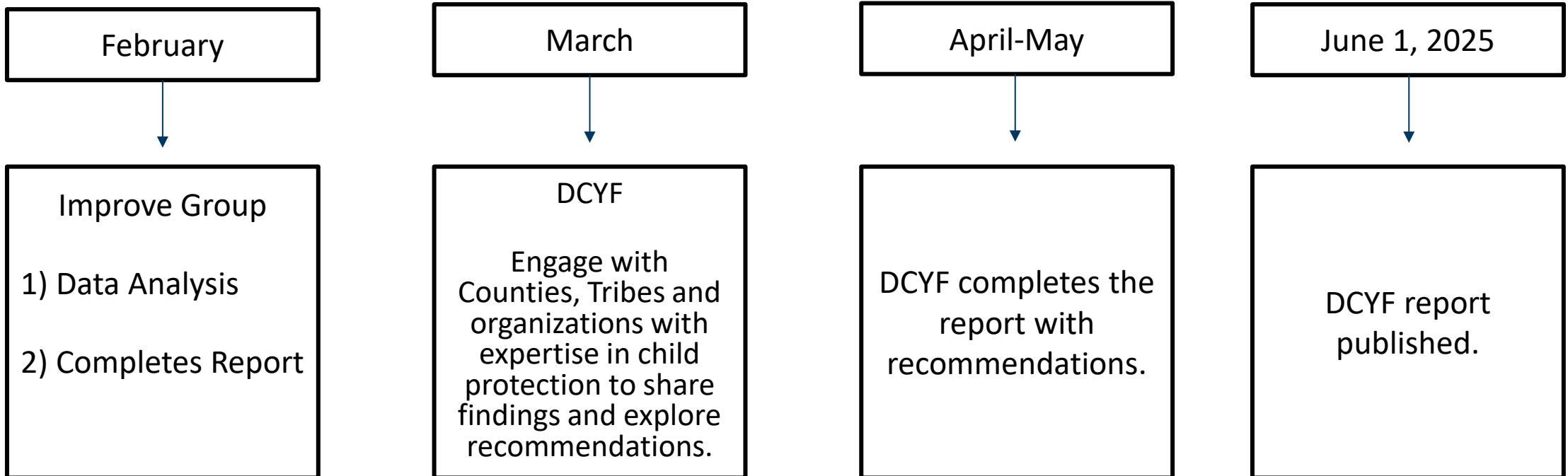
2) Listening Sessions:

- a) Gather in depth information
- b) Tribes, counties, and various stakeholders

3) State Research:

- a) Phase One: Broad research of publicly available information for up to twenty states.
- b) Phase Two: Comprehensive research for up to five states, including interviews.

Timeline



Summary of findings: Improve Group Recommendations to DCYF

- Clarify the problem that needs to be addressed.
- Dedicate more time for meaningful engagement.
- Learn more from counties that do intake and screening well.
- Learn more from Minnesota's adult protection system.
- Continue to engage all groups who would interact with a centralized system throughout its design.

DCYF Engagement Sessions Recommendations

- Awareness of where to report
- Training for Child Welfare Staff
- Multidisciplinary team training
- Mandated Reporter Training enhancements
- Create desk aid for intake questions and engagement
- System Modernization



Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review

Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review

Child Mortality Review Panel (panel)

The Commissioner shall establish a child mortality review panel to review critical incidents attributed to child maltreatment. The purpose of the panel is to identify **systemic changes** to improve **child safety** and **well-being** and recommend modifications in **statute, rule, policy, and procedure**.

Local Mortality Review Teams (local review team)

Each county shall establish a **multidisciplinary local child mortality review team** and shall participate in local critical incident reviews that are based in **safety science principals** to support a **culture of learning**.

Critical Incident: a child fatality or [near fatality](#) in which maltreatment was known or suspected contributing cause

State Child Mortality Review Panel

Governor Appointments

- Medical Examiner
- Child Abuse Specialist Pediatrician
- County Attorney
- Child Protection Supervisors (2)
- Child Welfare Agency Director
- Tribal Child Welfare Agency Supervisor or Director (2)
- County or Tribal Public Health Worker
- Law Enforcement

Commissioner or Designee

- Department of Children Youth and Families
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Health
- Department of Education

Superintendent and Judge

- Superintendent of Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
- Judge appointed by MN Judicial Branch

Local Review Team



Supports local agencies in strengthening collaboration with community partners

Enhances protective measures and response

Fosters a proactive approach to modifying policies, procedures, and practices to improve outcomes for children and families.

DCYF Responsibilities



Provide administrative support to the panel and the chair; including providing the panel with critical incident notices submitted by local child welfare agencies.



Compile and synthesize information for the panel



Draft recommendations and reports for the panel's final approval

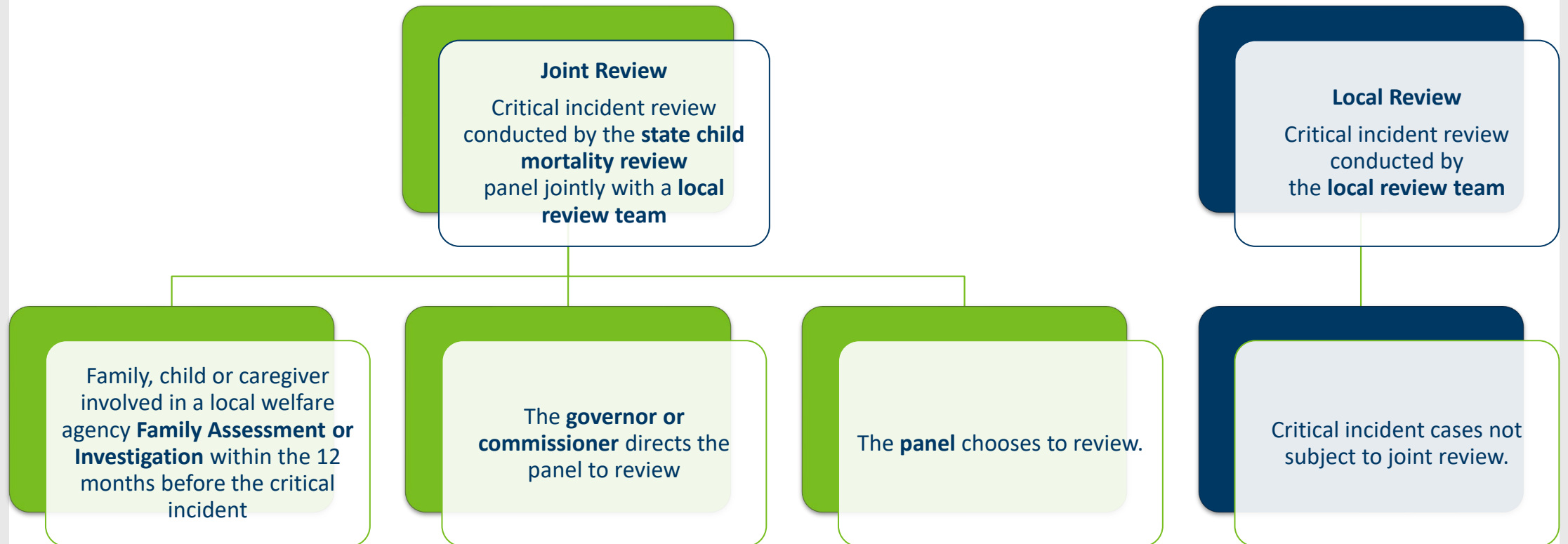


Conduct additional information gathering as requested by the panel or local review team.



Conduct or otherwise direct training and consultation

Joint and Local Review



Roles in a Joint Review



DCYF will coordinate the joint review with the local review team and the state panel.

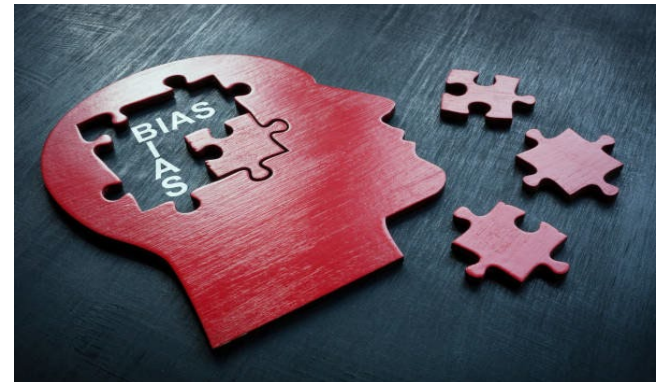
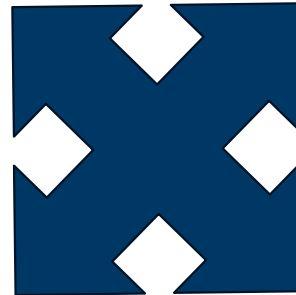


The local agency will be responsible for ensuring representation at the review meeting and will have discretion over who attends.

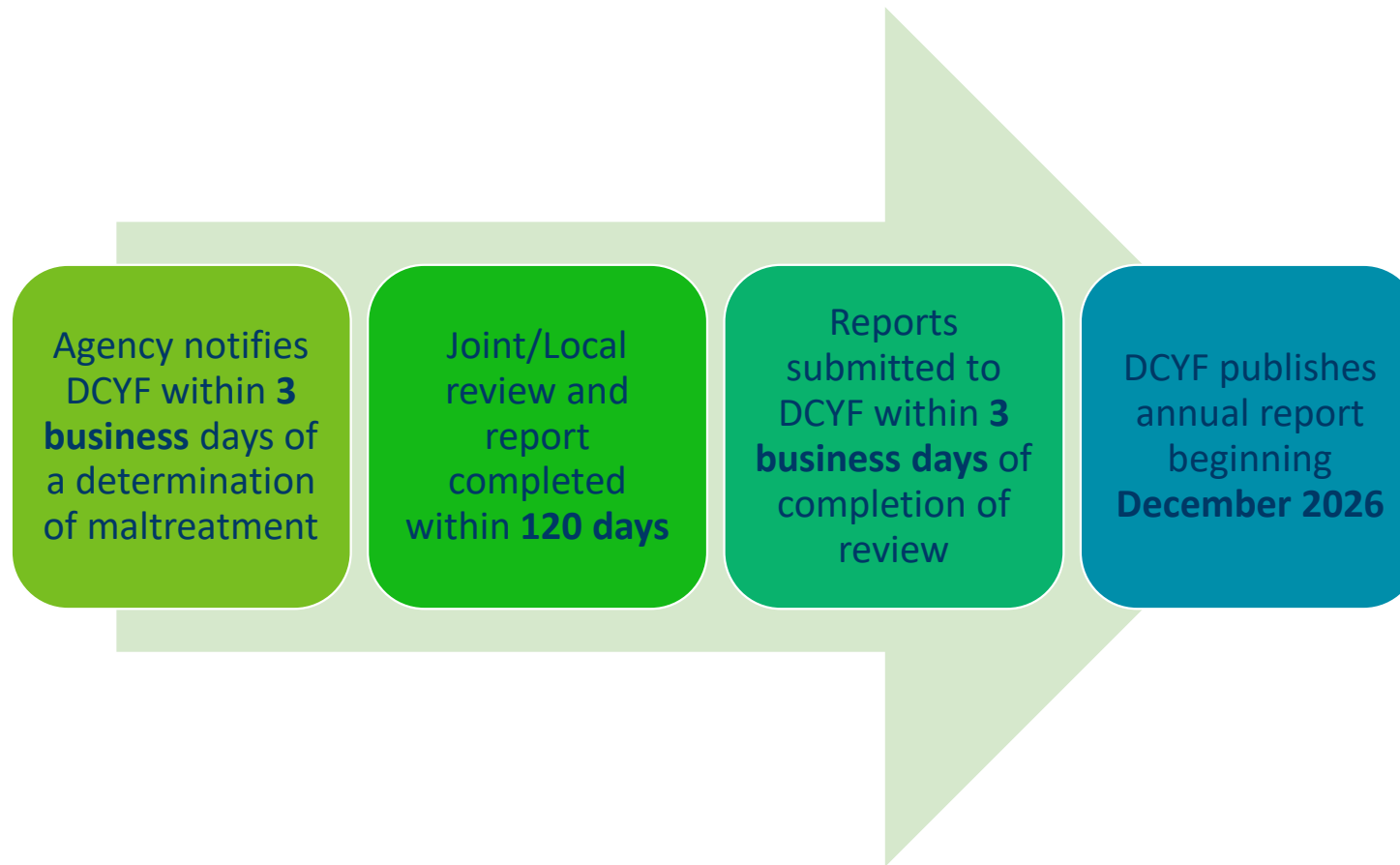


When a worker or supervisor's firsthand experience is needed for the review, DCYF staff will conduct debrief interviews in a constructive and supportive manner, ensuring the process is focused on understanding and improving safety outcomes.

Culture of Learning



Timelines for Joint and Local Reviews



Minnesota's African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act

Created to reduce disparities in child welfare by prioritizing family preservation, promoting transparency, and delivering services that honor cultural values and strengthen families.



Role of DCYF



**OVERSIGHT AND
LEADERSHIP**



**WORKFORCE
EQUITY**

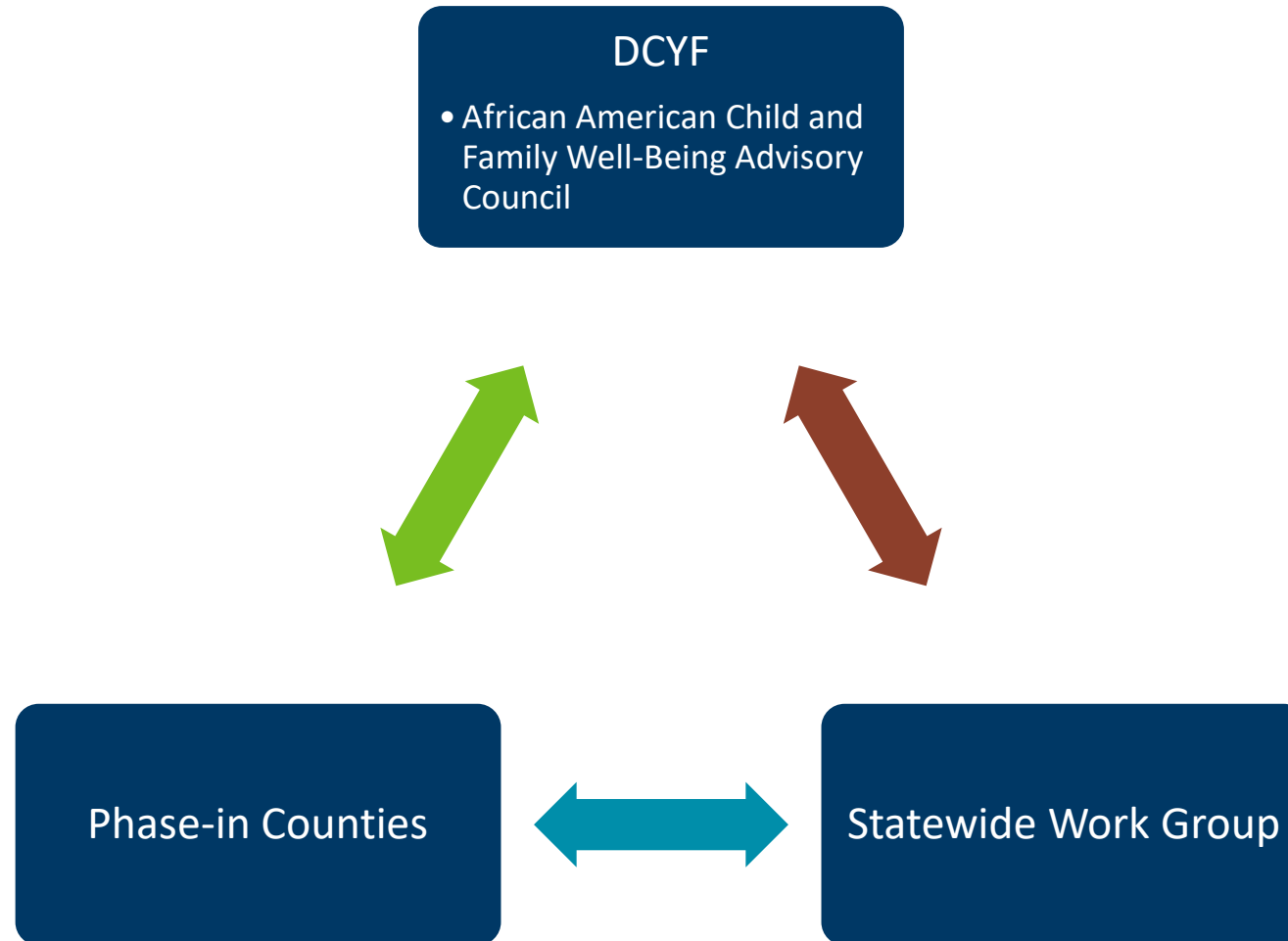


**DATA EQUITY AND
TRANSPARENCY**



**FUNDING AND
SUPPORT**

How we work together



DCYF Committee Structure

African American Child and Family Well-Being Unit

Agency Oversight

Court

Family Preservation

Permanency

Placement

Training

SSIS



**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN,
YOUTH, AND FAMILIES**

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE



MAY 2024

Legislation passed during the 2024 session



JANUARY 2025

Phase-in implementation began with Ramsey and Hennepin Counties



APRIL 2025

Statewide Work Group established and begins meeting monthly



JUNE 2025

Phase-in county contracts signed; \$2.5 million distributed to Ramsey and Hennepin counties



JANUARY 2026

Statewide Work Group Interim Report due to the Legislature



2026

Phase-in county case reports due



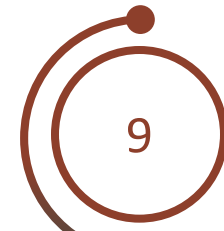
2026

DCYF to propose compliance review system



SEPTEMBER 2026

Statewide Work Group final implementation plan due



JANUARY 2027

Statewide implementation begins



JULY 2027

Phase-in implementation with Ramsey and Hennepin counties ends



NOVEMBER 2028

Commissioner issues guidance on county case reviews



OCTOBER 2029

First formal county case review reports due to the African American Well-Being Advisory Council, the Commissioner, and the legislature

Building blocks for strong statewide launch

Strengthen	Workforce capacity and support
Provide	Clear, consistent policy guidance
Expand	Culturally specific and community services
Streamline	Processes to ease administrative burden
Center	Families and frontline staff in planning
Ensure	Sustainable funding and practical training

Growing interest and shared learning



Strong engagement from counties not part of the phase-in



Weekly updates through MAAFPCWDA newsletter



Quarterly webinars share insights and progress



Potential to expand the pilot to a few more counties



Statewide Work Group progress

Statewide Work Group focus

Members of the Statewide Work group are doing a deep review of assigned sections of the legislation, identifying:

- Statutory recommendations
- Initial implementation needs

The group is also broken down into four smaller Action Teams, which focus on:

- Data
- Legislative changes
- Compliance review
- Phase-in Program

KEY DATES

- **Aug. 15:** Draft recommendations complete
- **Aug. 18:** Final Statewide Work Group review of recommendations
- **Sept. 1:** Interim report submitted to DCYF

Thank You!

For additional questions, please contact

Sarah Florman, Legislative Director for Child Safety and Permanency

Sarah.florman@state.mn.us

952-529-2995