

# EXECUTIVE ORDER & NEXT STEPS

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**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON  
DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION**

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# Intro & Overview

Part 1 – Work w/ DHSS & Gov’s Office	DHSS/GCDSE Collaboration prior to EO
	GCDSE Hedge Language
	GCDSE Budget Hold Harmless Pledge
Part 2 – Executive Order (EO) 121	Intent & Purpose
	Planning for DHSS Separation
	GCDSE Advocacy & Support
Part 3 – What Happens Next	Planning for DOH Transition
	GCDSE Future State Planning
	Reengage with Administration & Legislature

- Work with DHSS pre-EO
- GCDSE Hedge Language
- GCDSE Budget Hold Harmless Pledge

## Part 1 – Discussions with DHSS & Governor's Office

# Work with DHSS (pre-EO)



**GCDSE Consulted with ACL, NACDD ITACC, DD Councils in other states, and Department of Law Attorneys working on behalf of DHSS**



**Discussed recommended adjustments to EO including approach to add “hedge language” providing for future adjustment to DSA**



**Multiple meetings with DHSS Commissioner and Leadership**

December 16, 2021  
December 17, 2021  
January 3, 2022  
January 17, 2022



**DHSS & Governor’s Office pledge to support GCDSE throughout transition**

GCDSE hold harmless  
Hedge wording  
Budget intent language

# GCDSE EO Hedge Language

- “This Executive Order shall have no effect on the substantive work of the Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education, established under Alaska Statute 47.80.030-095. This Executive Order is intended to facilitate the uninterrupted continuation of the Council’s efforts despite the reorganization of DHSS into the Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Family and Community Services (DFCS). To that end, GCDSE is proposed to be located within the new Department of Health. This placement is intended to be a continuation of the state service agency in place under 42 USC15025(d)(2)(B). If this continued designation status is not accepted by the federal government, the GCDSE will be designated to another Executive Branch department by the Governor as authorized by federal law.”



# GCDSE Budget Hold Harmless Pledge

- DHSS and the Office of the Governor have committed to protecting the budget and work of GCDSE throughout the transition.
- Inserting Hedge language which was pulled from the EO into the FY23 budget as intent language.

- Intent & Purpose
- Planning for DHSS Separation
- GCDSE Legislative Advocacy & Support

## Part 2 – Executive Order Summary

# Intent & Purpose

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The EO will change DHSS into two Depts:

Dept. of Family and Community Services

and

Department of Health

Creating the Department of Family and Community Services with a focus on the 24-hour health services facilities, can make meaningful interventions for those Alaskans who are experiencing crises or are supporting their loved ones.

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The focus of the Department of Health on delivery of health care, providing robust health statistics and analysis, and focusing on responsible management of healthcare costs, Alaskans can be healthier, hospitals and providers can be stable and supported, and policymakers can have the information they need to make critical decisions.

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The sharpened focus of these two departments means there will be better delivery of essential services to Alaska. For example, the proposed Department of Health would have a new unit dedicated specifically to Health Analytics, Data, and Information Systems, using cutting edge technology to get the very best care in the best time to Alaskans.

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# Planning for DHSS Separation

If not rejected by Legislature, EO goes into Law  
March 19, 2022 (60 Days Later).

New department structure & operations intended to  
become effective July 1<sup>st</sup> , 2022 (FY23).

FY23 Budget Intent Language Amendment, Deadline  
30 days into Leg session to submit.

# GCDSE Leg Advocacy & Support



Position Papers



Formal Letter of Support



Future Legislative Testimony

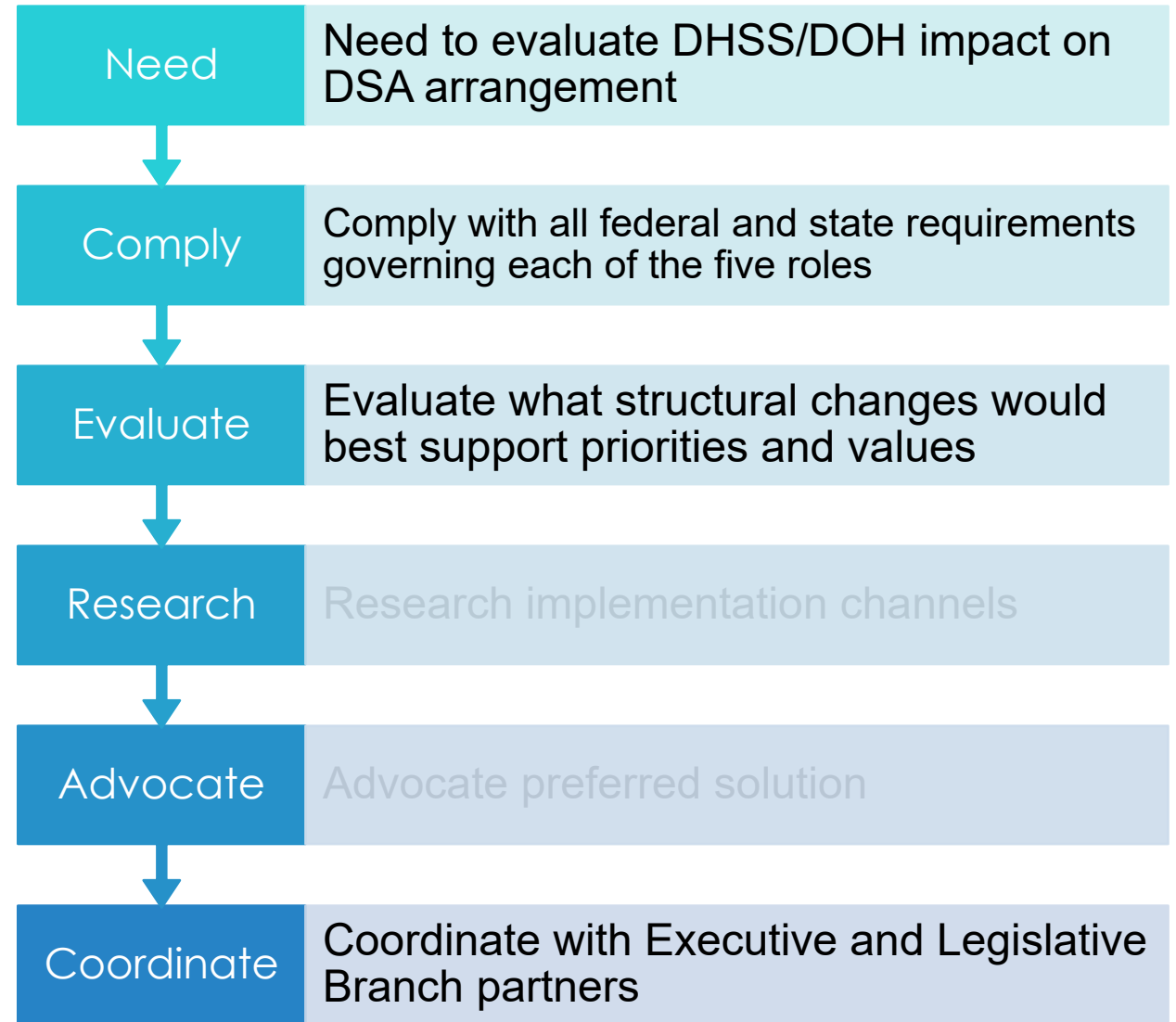
- Planning for DOH Transition
- GCDSE Future State Planning
- Reengage with Administration

## Part 3 – What Happens Next?

# Planning for DOH Transition

- Work to Optimize GCDSE Operations & Structure
  - Recruit and fill vacant staffing positions
  - Align budget funding and expense reporting processes
  - Rebalance staff workload and assignments
  - Update GCDSE Website and Online Information
  - Engage with Federal Partners on upcoming changes and compliance
  - Complete 2020 and 2021 Plan Progress Report (PPR) writing and submittal
  - Work with ACL to make any updates to new Five-Year-Plan and secure final approval
  - Learn and utilize new staff performance evaluation & management system
- Continue to research and evaluate compliance and legal provisions and work with GCDSE legal counsel on mitigating risks and improving long term outlook

# GCDSE Future State Planning





# REENGAGE WITH ADMINISTRATION FOLLOWING PASSAGE OF EO 121



# QUESTIONS?

# References/ Citations

- Executive Committee Minutes 11.05.2021
- Executive Committee Minutes 01.03.2022
- Legal Memorandum 12.15.2021
- Executive Order 122