

HUMAN SERVICES POLICY  
ADVISORS INSTITUTE

# Building and Empowering Impactful Children's Cabinets

February 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2024



# ZOOM HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

## MEETING IS NOT FOR ATTRIBUTION

During this meeting we hope to generate a frank and open dialogue. For that reason, our discussion today is closed door and not for attribution.

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## CHAT IS OPEN AND ENCOURAGED

Please leverage the chat functionality to share materials, ask questions, provide feedback, etc.

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## CONTACT EKAAN FOR TECHNICAL HELP

For technical issues, please chat or email Ekaan Ahmad – [eahmad@nga.org](mailto:eahmad@nga.org)

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## PLEASE INCLUDE STATE IN NAME

Please re-name yourself to include your name and state (John, DE) by clicking the three dots in the corner of your picture



NATIONAL  
**GOVERNORS**  
ASSOCIATION

# AGENDA



Welcome and Overview



State Breakout Discussion



Presentations



State Callouts and Q&A



Closing & NGA Updates

# Building and Empowering Impactful Children's Cabinets



# Breakout Discussion





# Breakout Room Questions

- Does your state have a children's cabinet? If so, where does it live in your state system?
- If you have a children's cabinet, do you feel like it's reaching its full potential? If not, is there an issue that you think a children's cabinet could solve?
- If you have a children's cabinet, who are the members? If you don't, who do you think in your state would need to be included?



# The Forum for Youth Investment

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**Meghan McCann, JD**

*Vice President, State Policy*

*The Forum for Youth Investment*





the  
**forum**  
FOR YOUTH INVESTMENT

# Children's Cabinet Network Overview

*Feb. 28, 2024*



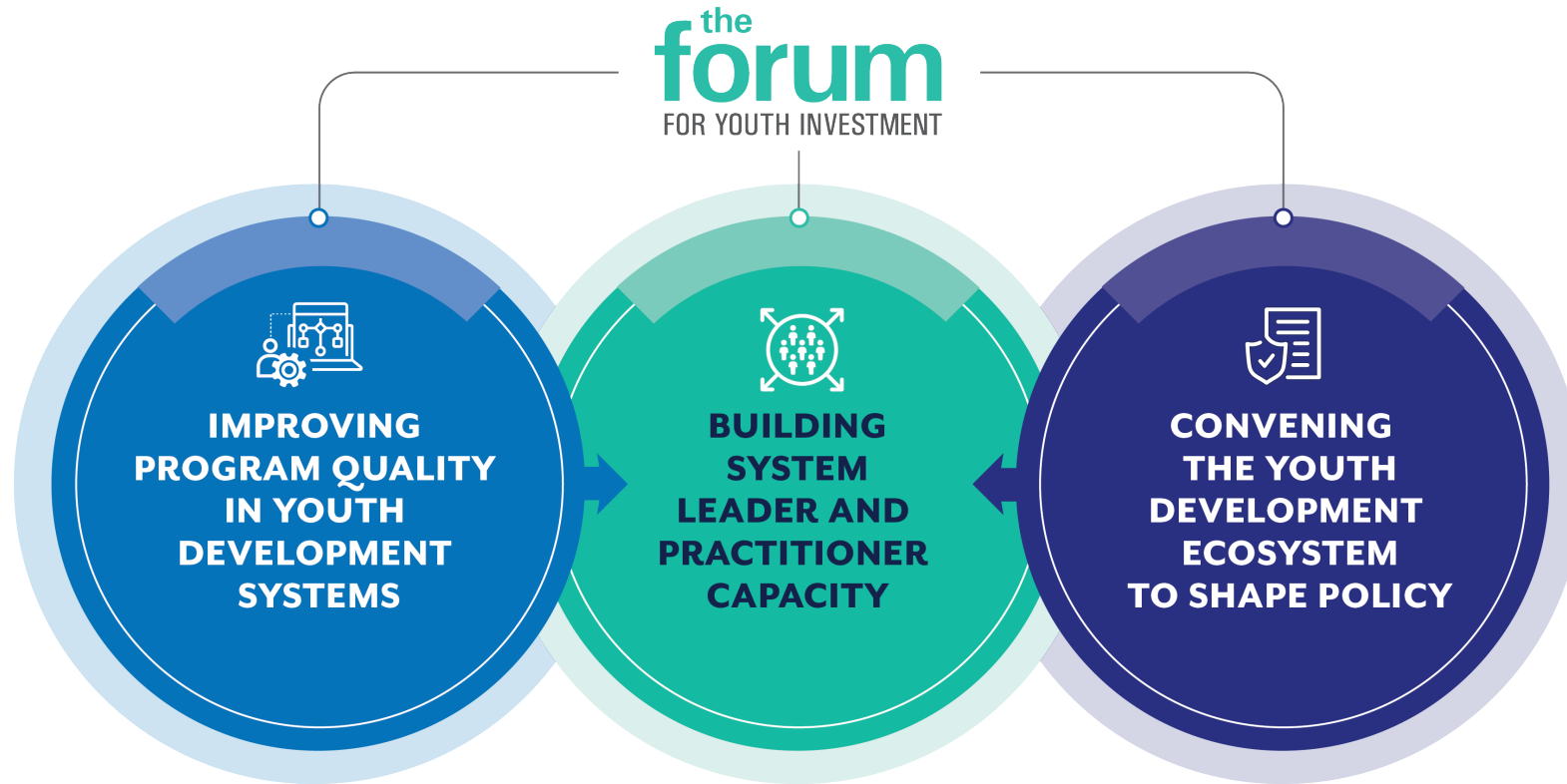
## Our Vision

All young people reach their fullest potential – in education, work, and life.

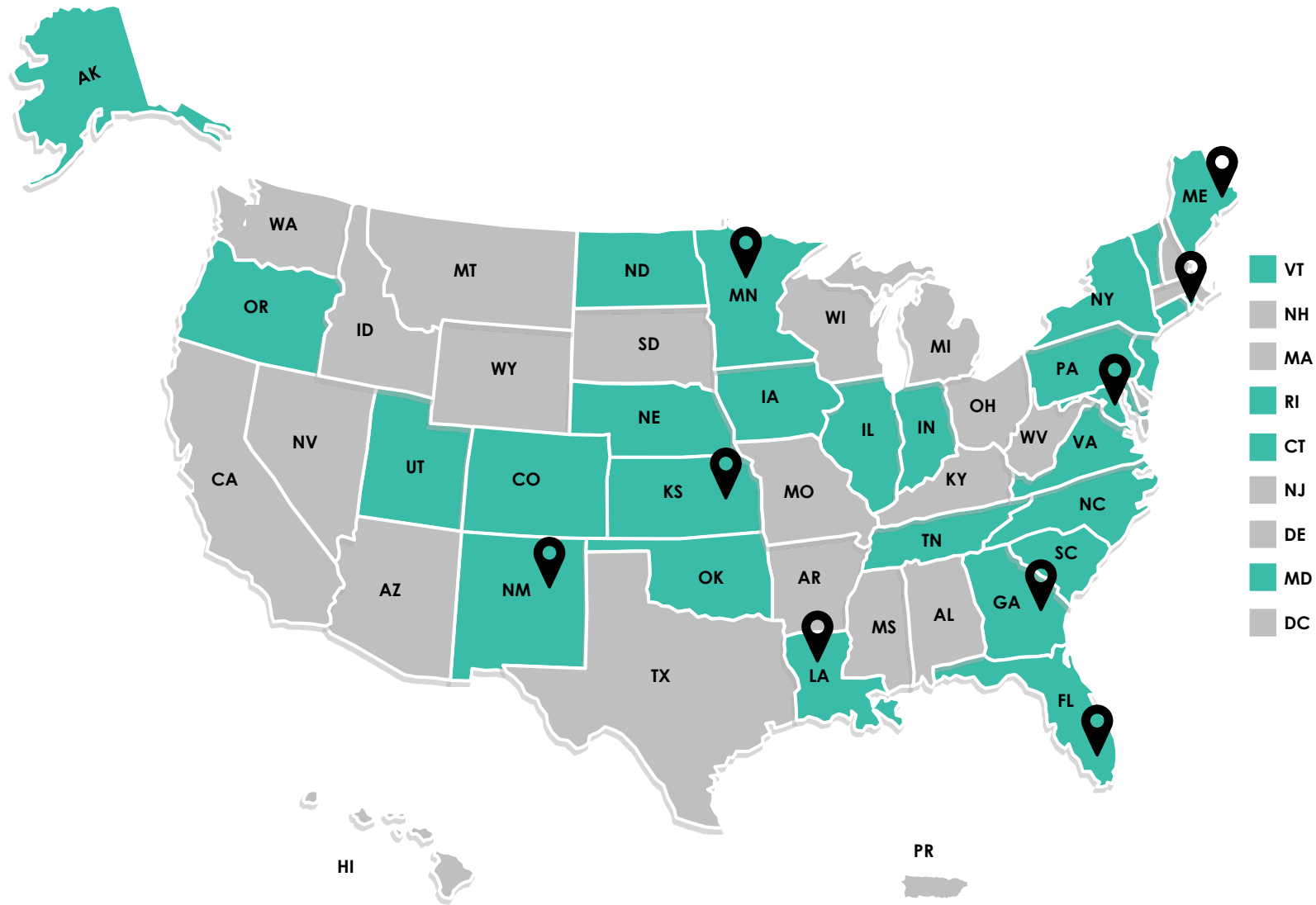
## Our Mission

Advance equitable youth opportunities and outcomes through quality capacity building and policy action across systems and sectors.

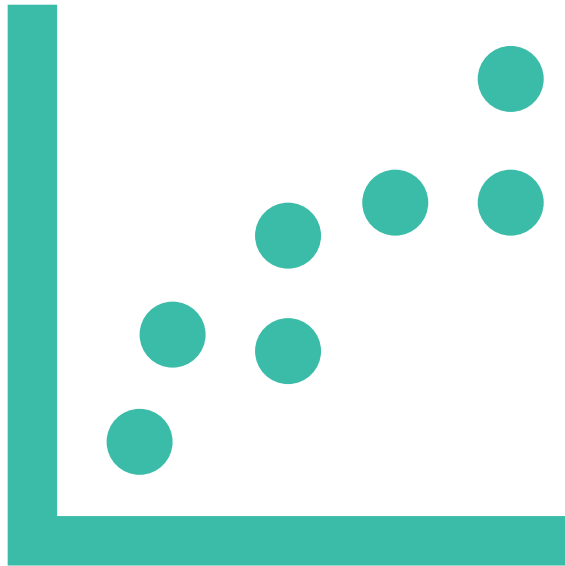
# Stronger Systems, Stronger Youth: 2023-2028



# Children's Cabinet Network



# Themes



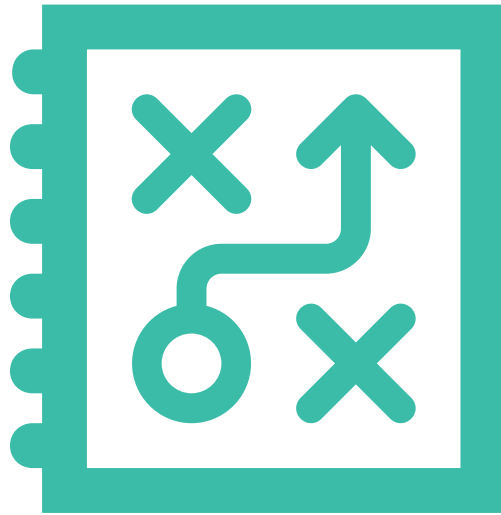
- Funding
- Strategic Planning
- Purpose
- Topic Focus
- Governance Structures
- Membership and Staffing

# Funding

- In most states there are legislated appropriations for the staffing and operation of the children's cabinet:
  - As part of the Governor's executive budget,
  - A special fund established for the purpose of administering the cabinet; or
  - To an agency as the fiscal agent for the cabinet.
- Examples:
  - Louisiana
  - New Mexico



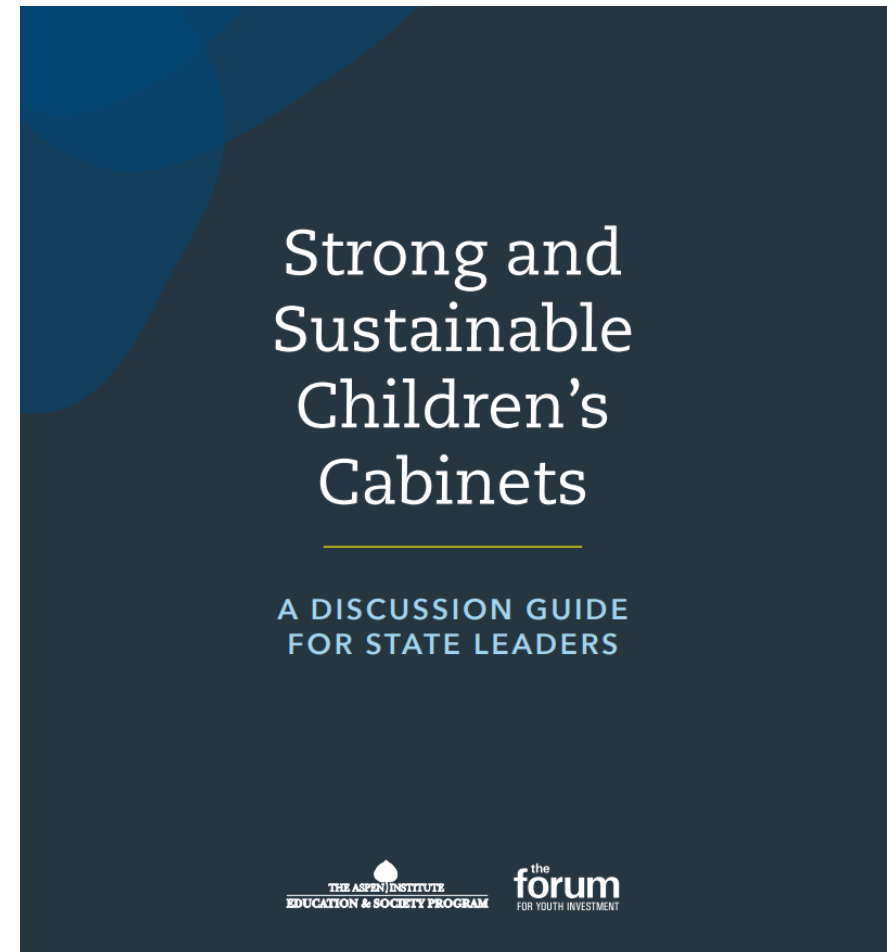
# Strategic Planning



- Most of the Governor's cabinets have a strategic plan.
- Across all coordinating bodies, strategic plans vary in the level of detail and planning.
- Examples:
  - Georgia
  - Maine

# Building Strong & Sustainable Children's Cabinet

- Vision, Mission and Goals
- Structure and Authority
- Management and Communication
- Resources (People, Data, Money)



# Indiana

- **Governance**
  - Three Branches – currently housed in Judiciary
  - Enabling Mechanism: Ind. Code §2-5-36 et.seq.
- **Purpose**
  - Study issues concerning vulnerable youth
  - Review and make recommendations concerning legislation
  - Promote information sharing and best practices.
- **Strategic Plan**

## Commission Actions

State Fiscal Year: July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

### Meetings Held

Commission met in August, October, December, February, April, and June

Executive Committee met in August, September, October, November, December, February, March, and May

### Approved

3 Violence Prevention Models researched and presented by the Juvenile Justice and Cross System Youth Task Force

2023-2025 Commission Strategic plan, operational plan, roles/responsibilities, and Youth Engagement Plan

Hiring of new Executive Director, Mark Fairchild

Selection of two new Youth Representatives

### Recommended


Removal of the CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) 90-day enrollment waiting period for prior coverage

Removal of the 5-year waiting period for lawfully residing immigrant children and pregnant women for Medicaid and CHIP enrollment

To support 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholar program auto-enrollment



# Minnesota



**Created a layered governance across 22 state agencies to center children and equity, and led advancements in cross-agency work in Minnesota priorities.**

### Shared Governance

The Governor's Children's Cabinet, co-chaired by the Governor and Lt. Governor, consists of 10 agencies listed in statute and 12 additional agencies that meet quarterly. Since launching in August 2019, the Children's Cabinet created a new shared governance structure through cross-agency coordination while centering children in our state systems. The Children's Cabinet convened the following groups:

- ▶ The Senior Leadership Team, consisting of deputy and assistant commissioners (quarterly)
- ▶ The Interagency Leadership Team, comprised of division directors and leaders of agency programs (monthly)
- ▶ The State Advisory Council for Early Education and Care (MS 124D.141) and the Children's Cabinet Advisory Council, which joined forces to advise and create community feedback loops

The Children's Cabinet established key priorities covering the full gamut of basic child, youth, and family needs and led the following action teams of agency leaders to drive progress for children in the following areas:

- ▶ **Healthy Beginnings:** ensuring all children get off to a healthy start
- ▶ **Mental Health and Well-being:** fostering children's emotional as well as physical well-being
- ▶ **Child Care and Early Education:** coordinating child care and early education, including expanding child care capacity
- ▶ **Housing Stability:** supporting children, youth, and families with safe, reliable housing
- ▶ **Educational Opportunity:** providing every child access to quality education, no matter their race or zip code
- ▶ **Food security:** strengthening the emergency food system and working to eliminate child hunger
- ▶ **Out-of-School Time:** promoting supports for older youth when not in school
- ▶ **Youth Justice:** supporting children and families who are currently or previously systems involved, creating governance that dismantles the pipelines that lead to youth systems involvement

In 2021, the Children's Cabinet convened the legislatively directed [Great Start for All Minnesota Children Task Force](#), which met monthly and, in February 2023, delivered its final report and implementation timeline for improving Minnesota's early care and education system.

### Publications

The Children's Cabinet published and collaborated with partners on many resources for community members and families:

- ▶ Released an enterprise-wide children's [fiscal map](#) of state expenditures on children, trained advocates on how to use the data, and built a process for it to be updated for years to come;
- ▶ In partnership with the Minnesota Business Vitality Council, issued a [report on child care](#), its role in the economy, and the importance of business partnerships;
- ▶ Issued the [Early Childhood Governance Report](#), and continued cross-agency shared governance efforts to better coordinate state systems;
- ▶ Published a quarterly [Parent and Family Resource Guide](#) in multiple languages, containing resources from nearly all of the Children's Cabinet agencies to provide tools to organizations and families during the height of the pandemic;
- ▶ Created a first-ever newsletter to members of the public, sharing cross-agency efforts focused on children and families;
- ▶ Collaborated with the Minnesota Department of Education and the Greater Twin Cities United Way to create the "Stu211" push text messaging campaign to connect students and families to academic, career, health, food, and housing resources in their communities; and
- ▶ Built and maintained multiple online resources, including an [informational website](#) about the work of the Children's Cabinet, child care provider updates during the COVID-19 pandemic, and a [one-stop website](#) with information and in-state resources for child care and early education for providers, families, and communities.

## Highlights

Led cross-agency Governor's budget development process resulting in a historic \$5.1 billion 2022 supplemental budget proposal

Promoted and recruited cross-agency participation in Ripple Effect training.

Received a \$75,000 gift from No Kid Hungry to advance food access for indigenous students in schools, a program the Minnesota Department of Education plans to launch this coming school year

Partnered with Ikea to secure a \$1 million donation to the state to add to the CRF funds available to children's mental health providers

Worked with the Departments of Education (MDE) and Human Services (DHS) to advance Medicaid Direct Certification with school meals, resulting in an estimated 90,000 additional students automatically accessing free meals

### Public Engagement

The Children's Cabinet engaged with community partners and agency partners through many events, including:

- ▶ Inaugural Children's Cabinet convening at Rochester High School, August 2019;
- ▶ Informational calls and visits to child care providers to highlight their needs during the pandemic;
- ▶ Great Start for All Minnesota Children Listening Sessions, quarterly in 2022;
- ▶ In partnership with MDH and DHS hosted a four-day virtual [Children's Summit](#) on Mental Health where over 1,000 members of the public identified barriers and solutions for issues facing the state's behavioral health system for youth, January 2022;
- ▶ Supported the [Black Maternal Health Caucus Roundtable Event](#), April 2022;
- ▶ Launched the [Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights](#) in August 2022, with the goal of increasing access to the outdoors for all children and families;
- ▶ Presented at several Mind, Body, and Soul Convenings, a series of work sessions hosted by several state agencies focused on African Americans in Minnesota, Fall 2022;
- ▶ Together with DHS and MDE, announced a \$3 million investment in children's mental health at [St. David's Center for Child and Family Development](#) in October 2022;
- ▶ Provided keynote remarks at the [NGA's Chair's Initiative on Strengthening Youth Mental Health](#), October 2022; and
- ▶ Represented MN State Government at the [National Governor's Association \(NGA\) Roundtable on COVID-19 and Maternal and Child Health](#), November 2022.

**Learn More:** [mn.gov/childrenscabinet](https://mn.gov/childrenscabinet)

### Proclamations

The Children's Cabinet worked in partnership with agencies around priority proclamations that were issued by Governor Wala, bringing attention to important children and family-related matters:

- ▶ Family Child Care Provider Week including National Provider Appreciation Day
- ▶ I Love to Read Month was celebrated by both a proclamation and a visit from the Governor to a school
- ▶ Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Proclamation
- ▶ Infant Mortality Awareness Week Proclamation
- ▶ Children's Dental Health Month
- ▶ Lights On After School
- ▶ Black Maternal Health Week Proclamation
- ▶ Week of the Young Child
- ▶ Children's Mental Health Week
- ▶ Count all Kids Day

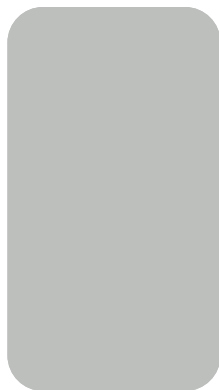
- Governance

- Housed in Governor's Office
  - Enabling Mechanism: Minn. Stat. § 4.045 (1993); Reestablished by Executive Order 19-34 (2019)

- Activities

- Aligning strategies, programs and services
  - Children's Fiscal Mapping
  - Legislative Wins Report

- Strategic Plan



# QUESTIONS?

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# State Q&A

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MONDAY



# Closing and NGA Updates

# The Children and Families team



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