

MNCHOICES

WHAT IS MNChoices:

MnCHOICES is a process of creating and implementing a single, comprehensive and integrated assessment and support planning application for long-term services and supports in Minnesota. MnCHOICES embraces a person-centered approach to ensure services meet the individual's strengths, goals, preferences and assessed needs.

MnCHOICES is for individuals of all ages and with any type of disability or other long-term care needs. The new MnCHOICES assessment will replace 4 assessments that are currently utilized in the long-term care consultation (LTCC) processes including:

- Developmental disability screening
- Long-term care consultation assessment
- Personal care assistance assessment
- Private duty nursing assessment, included in future enhancement

DHS began work on the MNChoices project in 2004 to develop an automated process to:

- Assess individuals in need of long-term services and support
- Determine eligibility for publicly funded programs
- Develop individualized support plans

The new MNChoices application was designed to:

- Be accessible through the web
- Be automated
- Collect additional data to evaluate outcomes and enhance quality assurance functions
- Improve consistency and equity in accessing home and community-based waiver programs and services
- Integrate Medical Assistance long-term care programs with other community-based service options
- Simplify and standardize multiple assessments
- Streamline support plan development

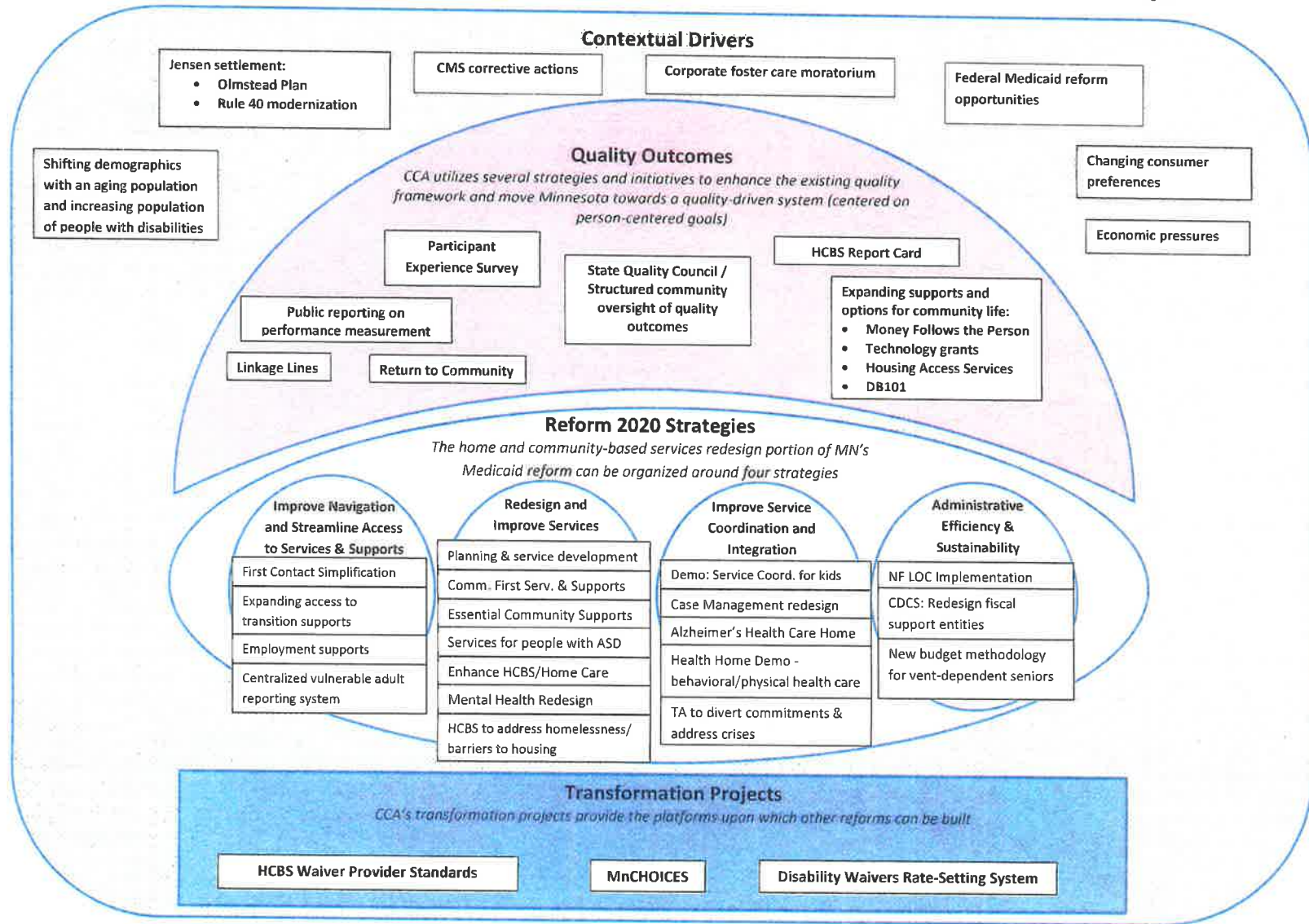
In 2007, DHS completed the framework for the new MNChoices assessment and 2009 Minnesota Legislature approved funding to complete the development and implementation of the MnChoices assessment application.

At this time there remain many unanswered questions related to MNChoices. However, here is what we do know:

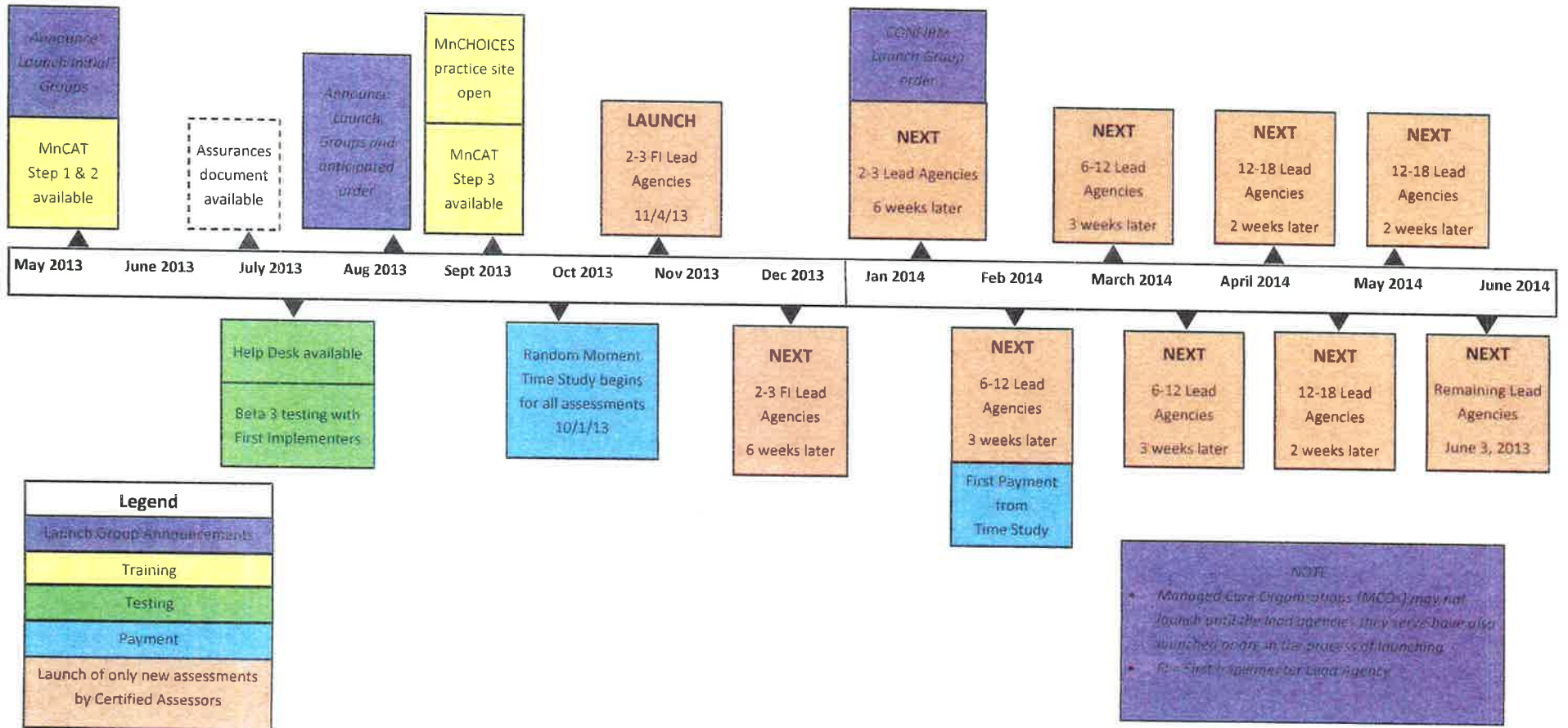
- There will be a separation of duties for Case Management and Assessment
- Those who conduct the MNChoices assessment will need to meet DHS qualifications and be certified as an assessor.
- The training for certification will be provided by DHS through webinars and will take an estimated 16 – 29 hours for the 3 modules. This does not include practice time.
- The assessment will initially take more time to complete than the current assessments and the beta group results show approximately 12 assessments per month can be completed by a single full time assessor.
- The responsibility for assessments will be in the county of residence. Assessment numbers may increase, decrease, or stay the same.

CONCEPTUAL DIAGRAM OF HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES REDESIGN

Minnesota has been working on HCBS redesign for several years. The initiatives that are packaged in the November 2012 CMS waiver request submittal and/or in the DHS 2013 legislative package are referred to, collectively, as Reform 2020. Those, and other initiatives, are shown here. Some are proposals, others are in early planning stages, and others are at more advanced stages.



MnCHOICES Launch Timeline—version 1.0 (4/26/2013)*



*See Discussion Points version 1.0 (4/26/2013) document for additional detail.



DISCUSSION POINTS: Launch Timeline - version 1.0*

Presented to County-State Work Group (CSWG) members on April 26, 2013

*See Launch Timeline illustration document-version 1.0 (04-26-2013)

1. MnCHOICES Launch Strategy

- a. A stepped roll-out
 - i. Launch begins 11/4/2013
 - ii. Subsequent phases at 6 week, 3 week and 2 week intervals
 - iii. Complete by June 2014
- b. Assessments
 - i. New assessments only, no reassessments
 1. Exception to "new only" rule = if a new assessment is completed in MnCHOICES and then the individual needs to a reassessment
 - ii. "New Assessment" definition = A New Assessment is used to determine eligibility; used if person is not on a program or receiving services.
 - iii. Reassessments
 1. Launched separately will continue to work with lead agencies on how and when to begin reassessments
 2. "Reassessment" definition = A Reassessment is used to re-determine eligibility; used if person is currently on a program or receiving services.
 3. Other considerations specific to reassessment launch
 - County of Location vs. County of Financial Responsibility
 - Transition of 65+ from fee-for-service to managed care
- c. How Determine Who Goes When (*see LAUNCH table on backside of page*)
 - i. Who and Number by launch group
 1. At Start – 2-3 first implementer (FI) lead agencies
 2. Stagger FIs with non-FI lead agencies as launch progresses
 3. With each launch group, number of lead agencies will increase
 4. Number of lead agencies in each launch group will vary depending on how well all systems and supports are responding
 5. Initially, lead agencies in launch groups may be staggered ; for example, bring up 1 lead agency on 11/4/2013, another 2 weeks later, another 4 weeks later
 - ii. Other considerations
 1. CSWG members feedback regarding *MnCHOICES Launch Working Document* presented and discussed at 3/22/2013 CSWG meeting
 2. How bring up large counties so best able to assess the successes and problems
 3. Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) may not launch until the lead agencies served have also launched or are in process of launching; will bring up county based purchasing and their county groups together or sequentially

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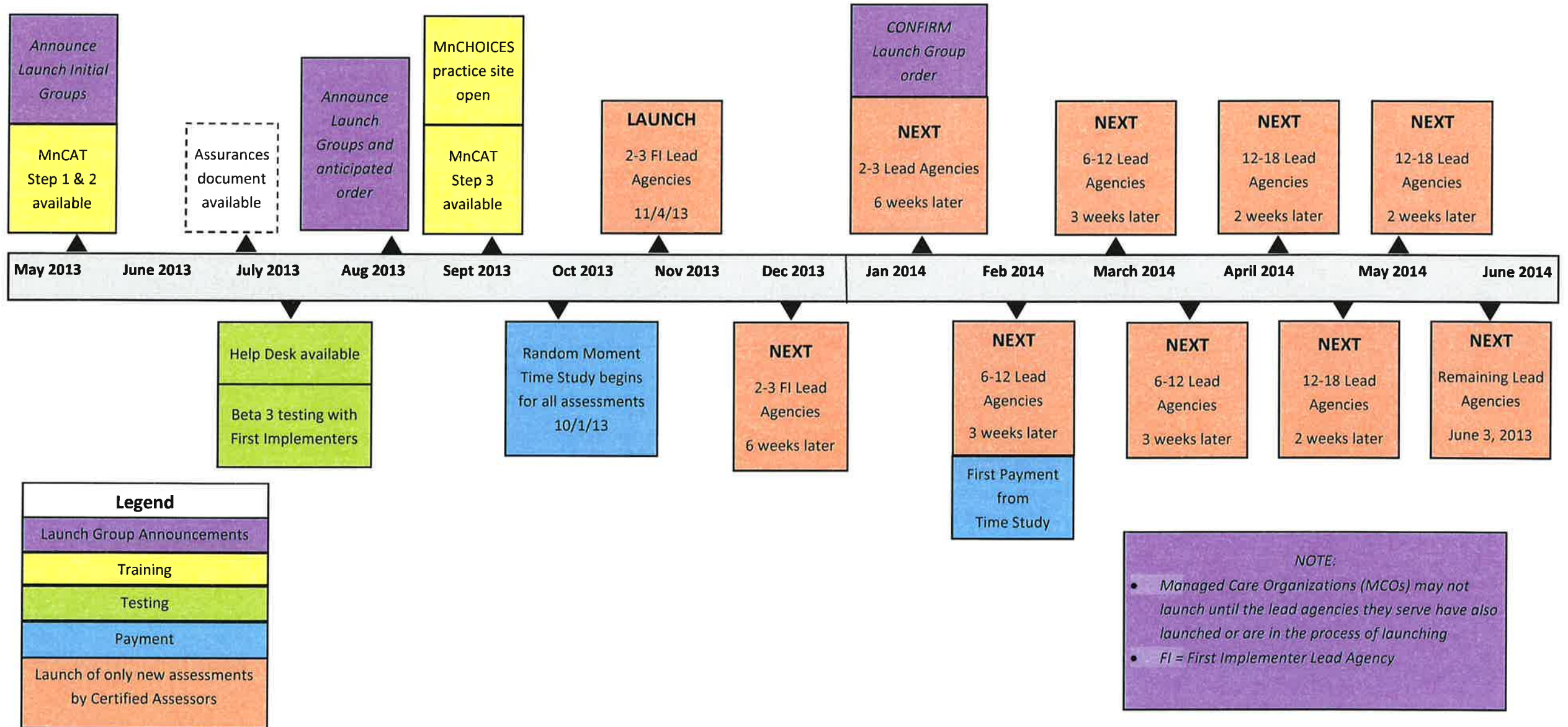
4. What to do about lead agencies that have launched that need to transfer to a lead agency that has not launched
 5. Potential technical problems that lead agencies may encounter; for example, connectivity, software compatibility, local IT traditions, etc.
- d. Announcements of who – when
 - i. May 2013 Announce initial two launch groups
 - ii. August 2013 Announce all launch groups and anticipated order
 - iii. February 2014 (est.) Confirm launch group order
 - e. Other information lead agencies should know
 - i. Beta 3 testing begins in July 2013
 - ii. Help Desk will be tested as part of Beta 3 testing
 - iii. When launched, MnCHOICES will have a Help Desk

LAUNCH	# Lead Agencies Per Launch Group
11/04/2013	2-3 FI
6 weeks later	2-3 FI
6 weeks later	2-3
3 weeks later	6-12
3 weeks later	6-12
3 weeks later	6-12
2 weeks later	12-18
2 weeks later	12-18
2 weeks later	12-18
6/1/2014	Any remaining

2. Next Steps

- a. DHS holds conversations with lead agencies around readiness for launch
- b. DHS invites lead agencies to begin to identify MnCHOICES mentors
 - i. DHS to provide the role and functions description
 - ii. Lead agencies identify
 - iii. DHS to provide training and technical assistance
- c. DHS holds MnCHOICES webinar on the launch strategy
- d. Continue discussions on how and when to begin reassessments

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* May be helpful to view this document alongside memo to lead agency directors dated 05-15-13