

Assisted Living Small Provider Workgroup Kick Off Meeting

10/29/2026

Agenda

- ✓ Welcome / Agenda Review
- ✓ Introductory Remarks
- ✓ Review Small AL Provider Statute Language
- ✓ Workgroup Member Introductions (up to 1 min per person)
  - Name, organization, title/background, what aspect of this effort is most important to you
- ✓ Review Workgroup Goals and Ground Rules
- ✓ Review Roadmap (timing and key milestones for the effort)
- ✓ Review Draft Charter (Homework due by 11/5 meeting: Charter feedback, questions, suggestions)
- ✓ Wrap-Up/Adjourn

Introductory Remarks

Carol Backstrom – Assistant Commissioner, MDH, Health Systems Bureau

Statute Language: Small AL Providers

Chapter 121 - MN Laws

Sec. 8. **DIRECTION TO COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH; SMALL ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY LICENSURE.**

(a) The commissioner of health must convene a group of interested parties to examine the licensing requirements under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 144G, for assisted living facilities with a licensed resident capacity of five residents or fewer. The group must develop a new licensing category applicable to such facilities to account for health and safety requirements and practical realities of operating small assisted living facilities that predominantly serve individuals receiving customized living services under the federally approved brain injury, community access for disability inclusion, and elderly waiver plans.

(b) The commissioner must develop draft legislative language to establish a new assisted living license category for facilities with a licensed resident capacity of five residents or fewer.

(c) The commissioner must submit the draft legislation to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over health and human services policy and finance by January 1, 2028

Workgroup Member Introductions (p. 1 of 6)

- Nicole Mattson, representing Care Providers
- Shelli Bakken, representing Leading Age
- Jon Sondegaard, representing Residential Providers Association of Minnesota (RPAMN)
- Nebiha Mohammed, Small Assisted Living Provider
- Careese Coleman, Small Assisted Living Provider

Workgroup Member Introductions (p. 2 of 6)

- Thomas Elness, representing American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)
- Molly Carmody, representing Alzheimer's Association
- Suzanne Scheller, representing Elder Voice Advocates
- Kathleen Otto, representing Elder Justice Center
- Ron Elwood, representing Mid-MN Legal Aid
- Marcus Schmit, representing National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

Workgroup Member Introductions (p. 3 of 6)

- Parichay Rudina, representing Office of Ombudsman for Long-Term Care (OOLTC)
- Lisa Harrison-Hadler, representing Office of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (OMHDD)
- Rebecca Bollig, representing Board of Examiners of Long-Term Services and Supports (BELTSS)
- Caren Gaytko, representing Board of Nursing (BON)

Workgroup Member Introductions (p. 4 of 6)

- Mike Nelson, representing Minnesota Fire Association Coalition
- Morgan Althaus, representing Crow Wing County
- Colleen Fricke, representing the City of Brooklyn Park
- Scott Schulte, representing the City of Champlin

Workgroup Member Introductions (p. 5 of 6)

- Rachel Shands, Aging and Adult Services
- Darci Buttke, Aging and Adult Services
- Leigh Ann Ahmad, Disability Services
- Christala Culhane, Office of Inspector General
- Matt Knutson, Office of Inspector General

Workgroup Member Introductions (p. 6 of 6)

- Carol Backstrom, MDH Assistant Commissioner
- Lisa Thimjon – MDH Legislative Director
- Sarah Grebenc, HRD Division Director
- Lindsey Krueger, HRD Assistant Division Director
- Matt Heffron, HRD Assistant Division Director
- Daphne Ponds, HRD Executive Regional Operations Manager – State Team
- Rick Michals, HRD Executive Regional Operations Manager – LCR
- Matthew Collie, HRD Agency Policy Specialist
- Catherine Lloyd, HRD Planning & Partnership Manager
- Tim Hanna, HRD Engineering Supervisor
- Jeff Smith, More Insight, Project Support
- Blaine Taylor, More Insight, Project Support

* Additional members may be added at a later time

Workgroup Goals

- Bring together a representation of those interested in Small Assisted Living provider licensure
- To provide input to MDH to inform proposed small assisted living provider licensing requirements
- Understand where there is alignment and where there are differences of opinion
- Support the development of relationships across providers, advocates and others

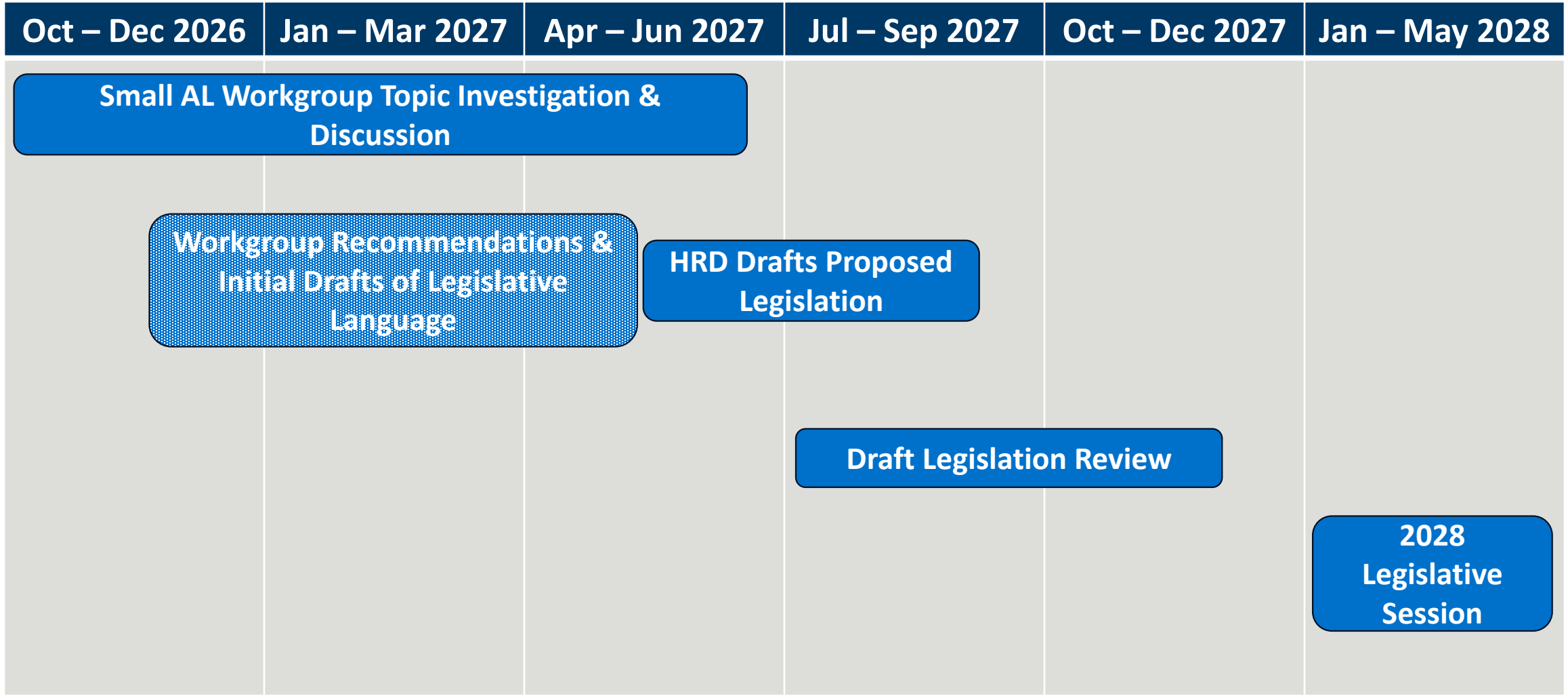
Workgroup Member Ground Rules

- Please come prepared when there is homework or advance preparation needed.
- We want to engage with each other through the honest and concise sharing of thoughts in a respectful manner.
- We are here to address ideas and issues, not people or motives.
- Listen with an open mind.
- It is OK to disagree, when you don't understand a position, ask for the why and examples.
- We all have the responsibility to ensure broad participation and sharing among the group.
- To meet our goals and timeline there may be times when we need to end a conversation and move on to a new topic.
- Minimize multitasking and stay present.
- Workgroup meetings are open to the public.

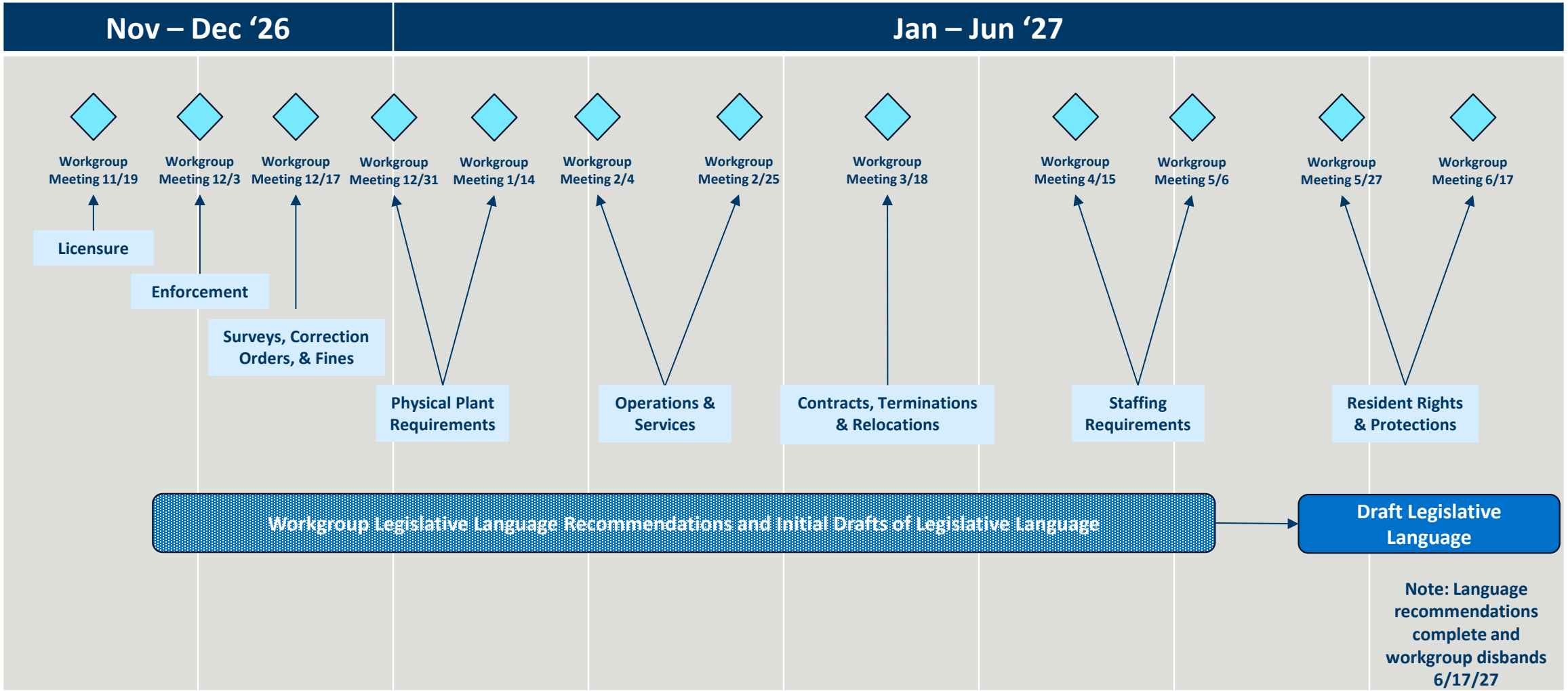
Workgroup Attendee (Non-member) Ground Rules

- All workgroup attendees attending Workgroup meetings will be placed on mute.
- Workgroup meetings are not intended for non-member input.
- A form for public input will be published and submitted comments will be reviewed and considered.

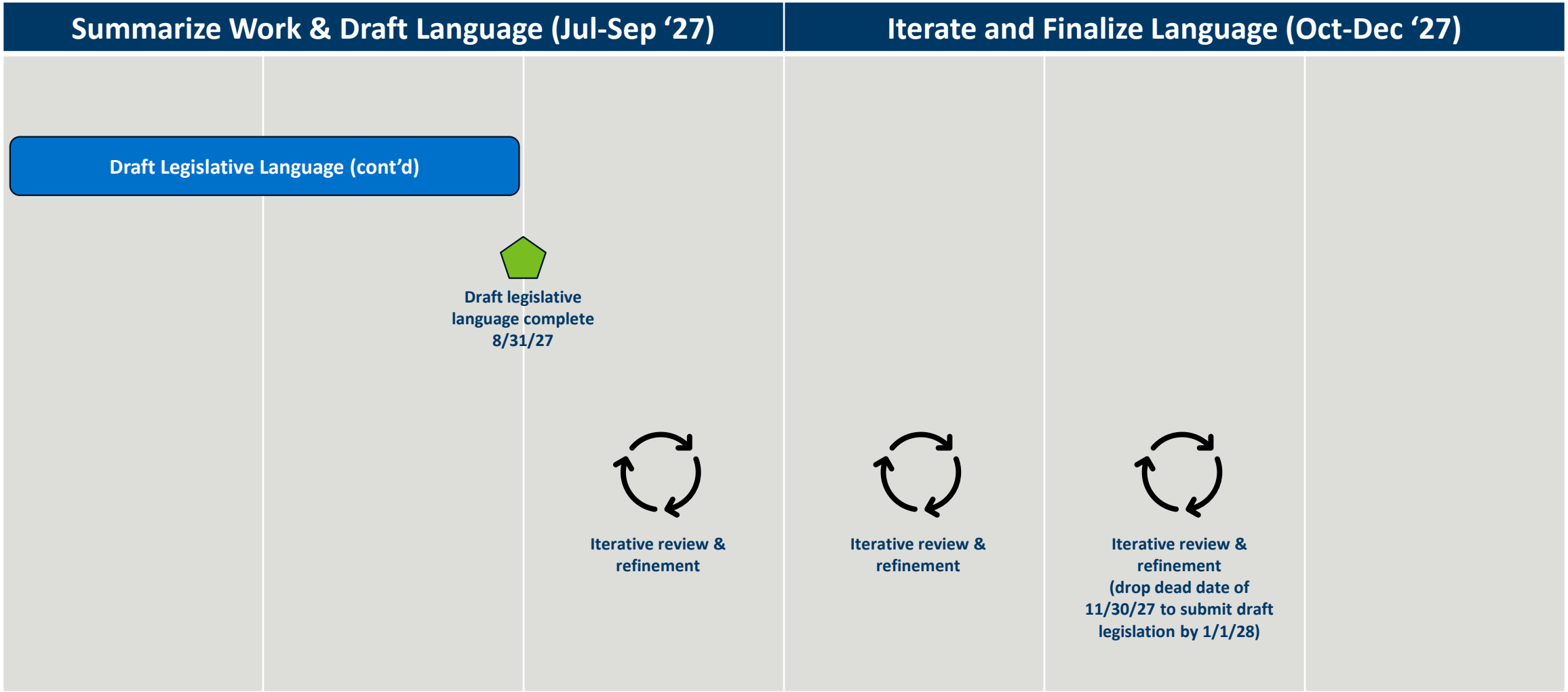
Small ALF Licensure High-level Roadmap



Small ALF Licensure Roadmap (p. 1 of 2)



Small ALF Licensure Roadmap (p. 2 of 2)



Draft Charter

- A draft charter has been created to establish the goals and boundaries of the workgroup.
- If, during the work group we have a conflict about scope, we can return to the charter.
- Please review the draft charter in the coming days and send any feedback to the shared inbox (in process).

Wrap Up/Adjourn

- Review draft agenda for 11/5 workgroup meeting (next slide)
- Future meetings/schedule – Refer to roadmap
- SharePoint site is under development
- Webpage is under development
- Questions/Suggestions/Concerns?

Workgroup Agenda for the 11/5 Meeting

- Welcome / Agenda review
- Quick reminder on workgroup ground rules
- Updates since 10/29 kick off meeting
  - Any additional/new workgroup member introductions
  - Any new information (charter feedback, 10/29 launch meeting questions & resolution)
- Discuss and address any workgroup questions on the proposed topic areas and timeline shared at the 10/29 launch meeting
- Prepare for the 11/19 Workgroup meeting. Initiate work on Topic 1 – Licensure. Discuss & document key issues, identify pre-work required to inform/accelerate the 11/19 meeting.
- Wrap-Up/Adjourn

Contact Information

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MDH Assisted Living Licensure
(www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/regulation/assistedliving/)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Thank You!