

Initiative to Strengthen Primary Health Care

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OASH | Office of the
Assistant Secretary
for Health

Why We Need to Strengthen Primary Health Care



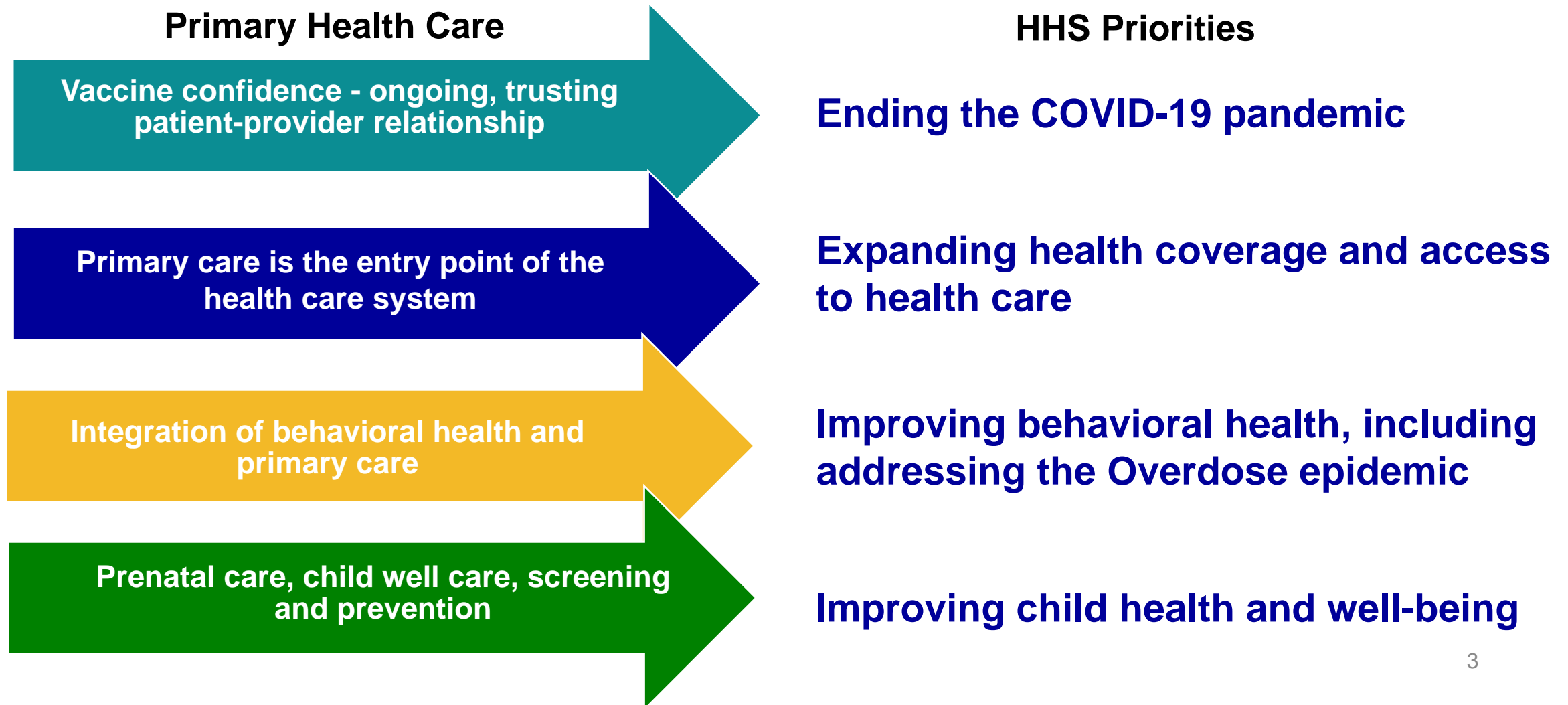
- Primary care is the foundation of and entry to our health care system
- It is the only part of the health care system that results in longer lives and more equity^{1,2}
- The primary care foundation is weakening

Strengthening primary health care is essential to achieving HHS priorities and goals

[1. Shi, Scientifica 2012](#)

[2. Basu et al. Jama Int Med 2020](#)

Strengthening Primary Health Care Advances HHS Priorities



The Primary Care Foundation is Crumbling

- Primary care is inaccessible for large portions of the population
- Primary care in the US is financially under-resourced
- Visits to primary care are in decline
- The primary care workforce is shrinking
- COVID 19 pandemic resulted in financial pressures on practices and practice closures



Initiative to Strengthen Primary Health Care: Overview

- Launched by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) in September 2021
- **Aim:**
 - Provide a federal foundation to strengthen primary health care for our nation that will ensure high quality primary health care for all, improve health outcomes, and advance health equity
- **Initial Task:** Develop HHS Plan to Strengthen Primary Health Care
 - Submit to Secretary Becerra - target delivery date, June 2022
 - HHS role in steering, coordinating, and overseeing implementation of a plan to strengthen primary health care
 - Specific actions to be taken by HHS and across HHS agencies
 - Deliverables with timeline

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health



Vision

HEALTH
FOR ALL

Assure that everybody has a fair and realistic opportunity to optimize their health.

HEALTH
BY ALL

Distribute and democratize health care knowledge, capabilities, and delivery.

HEALTH
IN ALL

Prioritize health considerations in all sectors and policy areas.

- **Provide trusted data and information**
to serve HHS, the federal government, states and localities, and the general public
- **Convene partners**
federal agencies, state and local, professional societies, NGOs, academia, civil society, commercial partners, patient advocates
- **Develop novel initiatives**
gain situational awareness, identify gaps, build teams, set a common agenda, support infrastructure, transition to Operational Divisions
- **Organize and lead national initiatives**

Initiative to Strengthen Primary Health Care: Status Update

- **Federal Leadership Advisory Group**
 - Provides consultation and forum for inter-agency collaboration at leadership level
- **Landscape analysis**
 - Meeting with federal partners and external stakeholders
 - Identifying successful models, priorities, and initiatives
 - Leveraging the NASEM Primary Care Report
 - Agency assessment of activities aligned with NASEM Primary Care Report goal states
- **Agency Action Planning**
 - Begins March, 2022
 - Cross agency convenings focused on NASEM report domains
 - Webinar listening session series with external stakeholders/SMEs for federal staff leads

Initiative to Strengthen Primary Health Care Has The Support of HHS Leaders At The Highest Levels

- Weekly meetings with OASH Executive Leadership
- Monthly updates with ADM Levine, Assistant Secretary for Health, and HHS agency administrators
- Routine briefings for Secretary Becerra and Secretary's Counselors
- Monthly Primary Care Initiative HHS Leadership Advisory Group meetings
- Working with White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Domestic Policy Council and other federal executive departments

NASEM Report: *Implementing High Quality Primary Care*



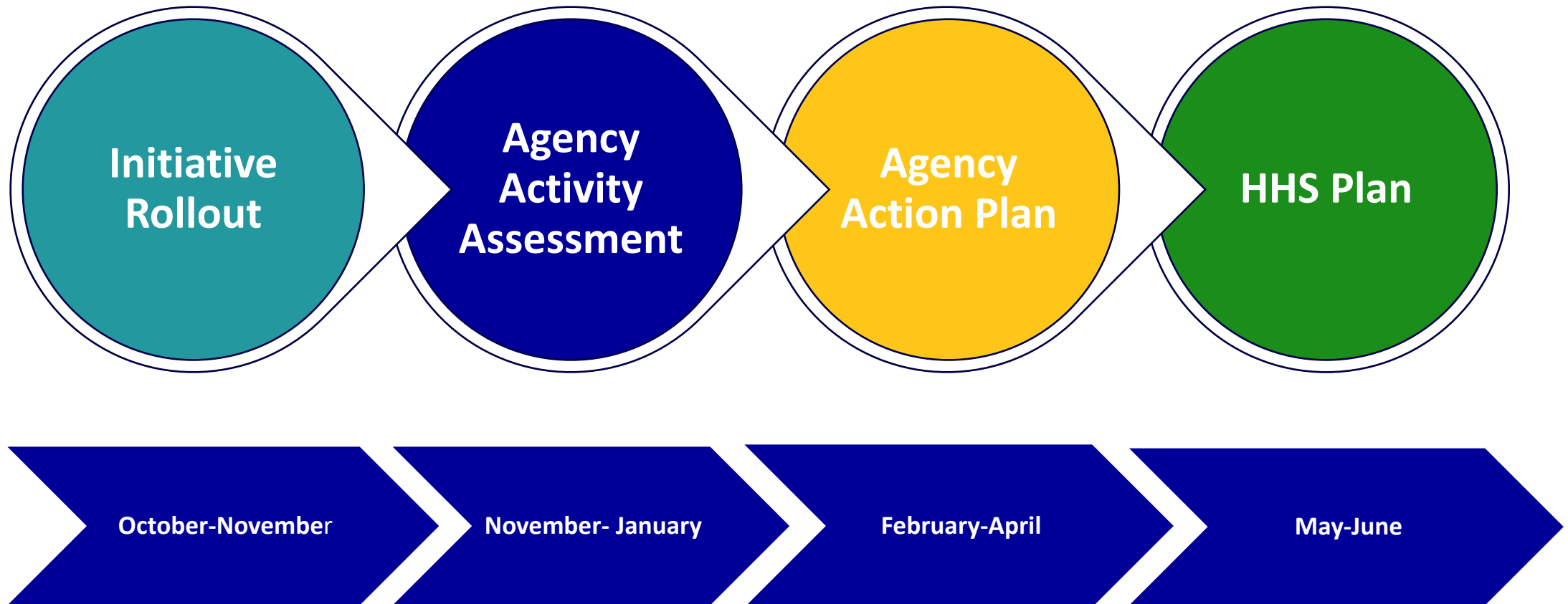
[NASEM May 2021](#)

High-quality primary care is the provision of whole-person, integrated, accessible, and equitable health care by interprofessional teams that are accountable for addressing the majority of an individual's health and wellness needs across settings and through sustained relationships with patients, families, and communities.

5 Objectives for Achieving High-Quality Primary Care

- 1 PAYMENT**
Pay for primary care teams to care for people, not doctors to deliver services.
- 2 ACCESS**
Ensure that high-quality primary care is available to every individual and family in every community.
- 3 WORKFORCE**
Train primary care teams where people live and work.
- 4 DIGITAL HEALTH**
Design information technology that serves the patient, family, and interprofessional care team.
- 5 ACCOUNTABILITY**
Ensure that high-quality primary care is implemented in the United States.

Primary Care Initiative Work Plan Overview



Collaborating on a Plan to Strengthen Primary Health Care



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ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

ACL
Administration for Community Living



Office of Science and Technology Policy
Domestic Policy Council



HRSA
Health Resources & Services Administration

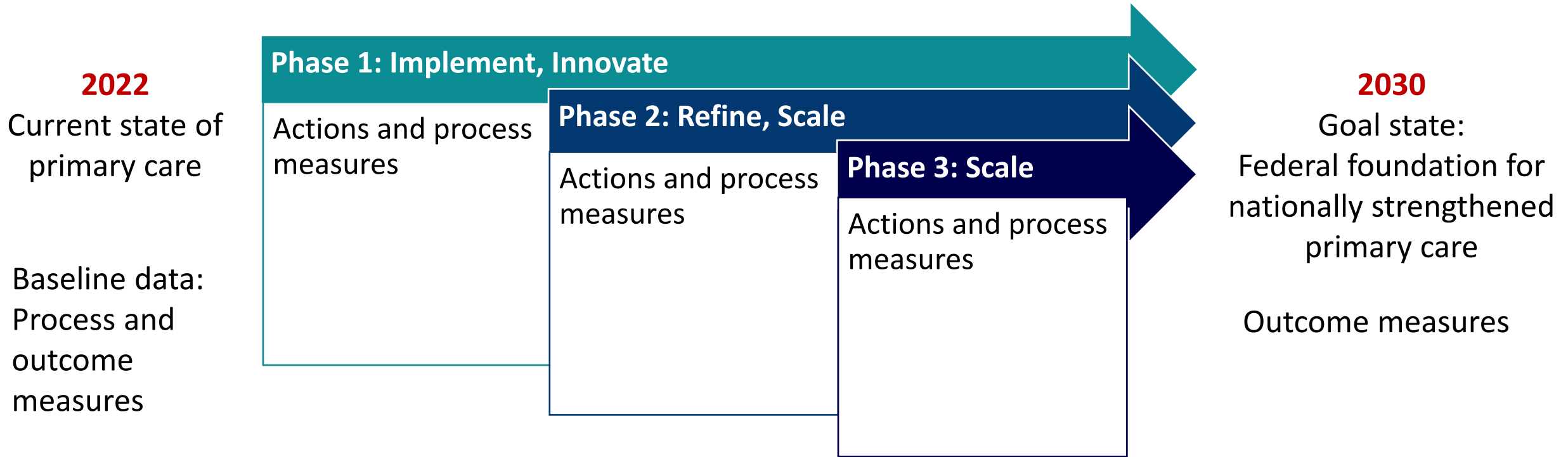


The Office of the National Coordinator for
Health Information Technology

SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration



Agency Action Plan Uses Phased Approach



Listening Sessions

Includes:

- Professional Societies/Trade Organizations
- Centers for Primary Care; Primary care coalitions
- Academia
- Provider organizations
- Foundations
- Care Transformation Programs and Technical Assistance Organizations
- Payers, employer associations
- NASEM
- Advocates for Patients and Families



OASH

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