



# CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL



The next **Child Welfare Council Annual Report** covering the period from **July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024**, will feature highlights on the work of the Council and its committees. Please use this template to write your committee report and submit it to [Sarah.Saria@jud.ca.gov](mailto:Sarah.Saria@jud.ca.gov) no later than **October 3, 2024**.

*Readers may not be familiar with acronyms and abbreviations. Please fully write out acronyms and abbreviations the first time you use them and be consistent in using the same acronym or abbreviation throughout the rest of the report.*

*Readers may not be familiar with policies, organizations, or programs that are well known to your committee. Please consider including brief explanations so readers can better understand your report.*

**July 2023 through June 2024 Activities and Accomplishments:** Please briefly list major activities and accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2023-24.

**Concerns or Challenges:** Describe any issues that you feel need the Council’s attention in order to maximize opportunities to address barriers to the work of the Council.

**2024 – 2025 Goals & Objectives:** Indicate your committee’s goals and objectives for the coming year.

<b>Committee/ Task Force Name</b>	Prevention and Early Intervention (acronym PEI) Committee
<b>Purpose</b>	<p>Based on the <a href="#">PEI Committee Charter</a>, approved by the Committee in August 2020, the Purpose of the Committee is as follows:</p> <p>The primary objective of the statewide PEI Committee is to advocate for needed resources, policies and practices to achieve the promotion of child, parent and family well-being and the prevention of child abuse and neglect.</p> <p>To accomplish this objective the Committee will use the following strategies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Actively identify and advocate for the most robust data points to evaluate what is/isn’t working in the Child and Family Well-Being System.</li> <li>2. Analyze trends from data available and pending in state and county agencies and provide feedback on what is and what is not working within the Child and Family Well-Being System.</li> </ol>

- 3. Make data-driven advisory recommendations for policy and practice changes as needed.
- 4. Increase community understanding, ownership and investment in prevention and early intervention as a critical component of the child, parent and family well-being continuum of services.
- 5. Promote cooperation and collaboration across systems in order to promote and leverage resources and supports for prevention and early intervention services to prevent child welfare system entry or reentry, and reduce underlying causes and effects of child maltreatment.

**Introduction:** July 2023 through June 2024 was a period of tremendous action and leadership by the PEI Committee as implementation of the [Community Pathway Recommendations](#)—unanimously approved by the Child Welfare Council (acronym CWC) in March 2023—moved forward, in addition to several other actions by the Committee. During this time period membership remained consistent at 62 members representing diverse sectors of work, demographics, and perspectives.

**Background:** The PEI Committee—in alignment with the [recommendations of the California Citizen Review Panel](#) and the Safe & Sound issue brief (sponsored by the Office of Child Abuse Prevention, acronym OCAP), [“A Paradigm Shift from Mandatory Reporting to Community Supporting”](#)—made recommendations at the March 1st CWC meeting to ensure the implementation of a statewide Community Pathway (as included in [California’s Five-Year State Prevention Plan](#)) that is available and accessible to all families in California. On March 13, 2023, the CWC unanimously approved the full set of Community Pathway Recommendations, including the mandate to implement a statewide Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting (acronym MRCS) Task Force.

**July 2023 - June 2024 Activities and Accomplishments:** During this time period the PEI Committee undertook significant activities, and had numerous accomplishments, relating to the advancement of a Child and Family Well-Being System. Key activities focused on the implementation and dissemination of the Community Pathways Recommendations, and included the following which are detailed below: 1) Oversight of the creation and implementation of the MRCS Task Force to advance Recommendation #1 of the Community Pathway Recommendations; 2) Development of a set of six [Financing Recommendations](#) to advance Recommendation #4 of the Community Pathway Recommendations; and 3) Formation and project management of the PEI Dissemination and Financing Subcommittees to build awareness and action for the

**July 2023  
through June  
2024 Activities  
and  
Accomplishments**

development and funding of Community Pathways in support of a Child and Family Well-Being System.

**Detailed activities and accomplishments include:**

1. Oversight of the creation and implementation of the MRCS Task Force to advance Recommendation #1 of the Community Pathway Recommendations
  - a. Implemented a Task Force application process that yielded 215 diverse applicants (geographically, culturally, professionally, and by sector and proximity to mandated reporting).
  - b. Oversaw a transparent and thorough process for reviewing the applicant pool to select a 32-person Task Force comprised 88 percent of members who had worked in or had personal experience with mandated reporting and the child welfare system, including Child Protective Services (acronym CPS); and, in fact, nearly all (94 percent) of the members were either mandated reporters or had personal experience with mandated reporting laws and practices. Most notably, with 28 percent of the members possessing lived expertise, and 74 percent being people of color, the Task Force upheld its commitment to diversity.
  - c. Oversaw a similar process to establish five subcommittees, and the Lived Experience (acronym LEX) Group. In total this comprised 110 people including the 32 Task Force members. Seventy-nine percent of subcommittee members had personal experience with mandated reporting and the child welfare system, including CPS, with 25 percent of that group having lived expertise with the system. Over 80 percent of members were mandated reporters or had personal experience with mandated reporting laws and/or practices.
  - d. The Task Force structure and process were lauded by former Secretary of California Health and Human Services Agency (acronym CalHHS), Dr. Mark Ghaly, as the model for other California system change efforts to follow.
  - e. The MRCS Task Force met monthly, for 3 to 4 hours, from September 2023 to June 2024, for a total of 10 meetings and 40+ hours, to work towards a set of mandated reporting reform recommendations.

- f. Additionally, the MRCS Task Force Subcommittees met multiple times per month from October 2023 to June 2024.
- g. The PEI Committee, especially the Co-Chairs, had significant oversight and input into the development of the [MRCS Task Force Recommendations](#).
- h. In May 2024 the MRCS Task Force voted on the Task Force Recommendations, approving to advance them to the PEI Committee for a vote.
- i. Also in May 2024, the PEI Committee reviewed and voted on the Task Force Recommendations, approving them for presentation at the June 2024 CWC meeting.
- j. In June 2024, PEI Co-Chairs, in partnership with the MRCS Task Force Co-Chairs, and members of the Task Force, presented the full set of fourteen MRCS Task Force Recommendations to the CWC for consideration, and in preparation for a vote at the September 2024 CWC meeting.
- k. Although beyond the timing scope of this annual report, in June 2024 the Task Force began work on a [Final Report](#) to accompany, and add context to, the Task Force Recommendations. The Report was finalized in August 2024.

2. Development and approval of a set of six Financing Recommendations to advance Recommendation #4 of the Community Pathway Recommendations. From Fall 2023 through March 2024, the PEI Committee and Financing Subcommittee developed a comprehensive set of recommendations for efficiently and equitably funding the development of Community Pathways to advance a Child and Family Well-Being System. Following the approval of the Community Pathway Recommendations in March 2024 it was apparent that additional support and fiscal guidance was needed, along with innovative State leadership, to assist with eliminating barriers and identifying the resources necessary to sustain successful Community Pathways. Our goal for developing the recommendations was to ensure the efficient and innovative use of myriad funding streams, and to ensure the inclusion of smaller community-based and grassroots organizations, as well as those that serve under-resourced communities and underserved populations, in the development and implementation of Community Pathways.

	<p>The Financing Recommendations were approved by the CWC in March 2024, and a PEI Financing Subcommittee was created to begin moving the recommendations forward.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Formation and project management of the PEI Dissemination, and continuation of the Financing Subcommittee, to build awareness and action for the Community Pathway Recommendations. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Engaged 17 members of the PEI Committee across the two subcommittees.</li> <li>b. The Financing Subcommittee developed the Financing Recommendations to further define and move forward Community Pathway Recommendation #4.</li> <li>c. The Financing Subcommittee helped lead <a href="#">PEI’s written response to the state on the All County Letter (acronym ACL) on Payer of Last Resort (acronym POLR)</a></li> <li>d. The Dissemination Subcommittee raised awareness and support for the Community Pathway Recommendations through twelve speaking engagements from July 2023 through May 2024. Highlights include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Peer Parent Hub</li> <li>ii. Tribal Advisory Council</li> <li>iii. CACFS Conference</li> <li>iv. California Legislative Staff Educational Institute (acronym CLSEI)</li> <li>v. National CRP Conference</li> <li>vi. Child Welfare League of America Conference (known as NATIONAL CONFERENCE)</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<p><b>Concerns or Challenges</b></p>	<p>There are two primary concerns and challenges to highlight at this time:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Relating to Family First Prevention Services (acronym FFPS):</u> There is no sustainable funding for the Community Pathway once the FFPS block grant expires. Significant efforts are underway, including work by the Financing Subcommittee of the PEI Committee, to identify and recommend other funding options primarily based on accessing federal funds through Medi-Cal matching activities.</li> <li>2. <u>Relating to the CWC:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. An undefined voting process has caused confusion concerning which CWC members will vote, and on what topics; as well as who has the right to review and form an</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<p>opinion on voting topics/recommendations in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>b. Seats are being left vacant on the CWC for extended periods of time, leaving important perspectives and support out of the process of advancing systems change.</p>
<p><b>2024 - 2025 Goals/Objectives</b></p>	<p>The PEI Committee has two significant bodies of work planned for July 2024 - June 2025:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Advance the creation of a Child &amp; Family Well-Being System by:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Advancing and gaining approval for a shared definition of a Child &amp; Family Well-Being System</li> <li>b. Developing a Framework of its components and interdependencies</li> <li>c. Developing a set of recommendations by December 2025 for developing the System.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. <u>Advance the implementation of the MRCS Task Force Recommendations. This includes:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Establishing the Mandated Reporting Advisory Committee (acronym MRAC) according to Recommendation #1, and following <a href="#">the motion</a> approved by the CWC.</li> <li>b. Providing oversight and guidance of the MRAC in creating an implementation strategy for the Task Force Recommendations.</li> <li>c. Participating in the implementation of the Task Force Recommendations.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>