



CALIFORNIA



CHILD WELFARE

COUNCIL

The next **Child Welfare Council Annual Report** covering the period **from July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025**, 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 no later than **February 13, 2026**.

Members of the Legislature and the public 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 2024 through June 2025 Activities and Accomplishments: Please briefly list major activities and accomplishments for FY 2024-25.

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.

2025 – 2026 Goals & Objectives: Indicate your committee’s goals and objectives for the coming year.

Committee/ Task Force Name	Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Committee
Purpose	Based on the PEI Committee Charter , approved by the Committee in August 2020, the Purpose of the Committee is as follows: 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>To accomplish this objective the Committee will use the following strategies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 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.
<p>July 2024 through June 2025 Activities and Accomplishments</p>	<p>In alignment with the Goals and Objectives stated in the previous 2023–2024 CWC Annual Report, the PEI Committee undertook the following activities during this reporting period to advance the creation of Child & Family Well-Being, and to support implementation of the Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting (MRCS) Task Force Recommendations. Additional activities that further advanced the Committee's purpose are also included.</p> <p>July 2024 - June 2025 Activities and Accomplishments: During this period the PEI Committee undertook significant activities, and had numerous accomplishments, relating to the advancement of Child and Family Well-Being. Key activities focused on the implementation and dissemination of the Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting (MRCS) Task Force, as well as emerging activities related to developing a framework and potential set of recommendations to concretize Child and Family Well-Being within child serving systems across California.</p> <p>Advancing the Creation of Child & Family Well-Being Developed Well-Being Framework Components that included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Drafted an initial Child & Family Well-Being Framework to spark discussion and advance a shared vision. ● Researched and summarized national and state-level data to inform framework development.

- Framed and facilitated quarterly PEI Committee discussions to surface additional ideas for approaching the development of recommendations to the Child Welfare Council to advance Child & Family Well-Being in California.

These activities laid the groundwork for developing a shared definition and formal framework to guide future recommendations.

Advancing Implementation of the MRCS Task Force Recommendations

With the oversight of the PEI Committee Co-Chairs, and support and guidance of the full Committee, the MRCS Task Force recommendations were presented and approved to advance implementation according to the following activities:

- In July and August 2024, the PEI Co-Chairs in partnership with the MRCS Task Force Advisory Team, Subcommittee Co-Chairs, and the Lived Experience Group, outlined, drafted, revised, and designed the 50+ page [MRCS Task Force Final Report](#).
- The PEI Committee Co-Chairs led the effort to ensure that the report:
 1. Provided comprehensive context and supporting data.
 2. Served as a guide for other jurisdictions advancing mandated reporting reform.
- Following the successful presentation of the MRCS Task Force recommendations at the June 2024 CWC meeting, the PEI Committee Co-Chairs, in partnership with the Task Force Co-Chairs, presented the Final Report to the CWC in September 2024 for consideration and vote. A significant accomplishment during this period was the CWC's decision to advance the MRCS Task Force recommendation into implementation.

Statewide Dissemination and Education

- Following the official completion of the work of the MRCS Task Force in June 2024, a Dissemination Team was created to increase awareness and support statewide momentum for the shift from reporting families to safely supporting families in the communities where they can thrive.
- Between July–December 2024 the MRCS Task Force Recommendations were presented at more than 25 significant

statewide and county convenings to build awareness and support.

National Leadership and Visibility

- The PEI Committee submitted and secured acceptance of a speaking proposal for the Children’s Bureau National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect (April 2025, Washington, D.C.). Unfortunately, the Conference was later cancelled due to Federal administration changes.
- One of the PEI Committee Co-Chairs secured national media engagement with a [Letter to the Editor in *The New York Times*](#) responding to U.S. Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy, elevating the PEI Committee’s work nationally.

Establishment and Launch of the Mandated Reporting Advisory Committee (MRAC)

Consistent with Recommendation #1 and the September 2024 CWC motion, the PEI Co-Chairs, with guidance from the Committee, report the following activities and accomplishments:

Infrastructure & Governance Development

- Proposed an approach and timeline for standing up the MRAC and establishing its implementation structure.
- Developed criteria and a process for selecting MRAC Tri-Chairs, managed a lengthy recruitment process, and gained approval of an expert group of Tri-Chairs whose experience and expertise exceeded the requirements stated in Recommendation 1 of the Task Force recommendation.
- Established and implemented the selection process for MRAC membership, again in accordance with Recommendation 1 (February–April 2025).
- Transitioned the MRAC Planning Team into the formal MRAC Steering Committee.

Strategic Planning & Launch

- Officially launched the MRAC in May 2025.
- The PEI Co-Chairs planned and implemented a strategic planning session with the Task Force Co-Chairs, members of the former

	<p>Task Force, and members of the PEI Committee to further structure strategic implementation planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the guidance of the PEI Co-Chairs, planning spreadsheets and standardized templates were developed to guide the MRAC Workgroups in their implementation planning process. <p><u>Ongoing Oversight & Advancement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Per the September 2024 CWC vote, the MRAC is required to provide an update on its work at each quarterly CWC meeting. The PEI Co-Chairs guided and delivered the first required MRAC report-outs to the CWC in December 2024, and March and June 2025.
<p>Concerns or Challenges</p>	<p>Building Broader Child & Family Well-Being Requires Structural Investment</p> <p>The early Well-Being Framework has surfaced a key reality: reorienting toward Child & Family Well-Being is not solely a policy exercise, it requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defined system components and shared definitions, • Sustainable financing strategies, • Alignment with CalAIM transformation efforts that take prevention further upstream, and • Clear accountability measures beyond child protection metrics. <p>Without dedicated time, resources, and cross-sector commitment, the Well-Being vision risks remaining conceptual rather than operational.</p> <p>Where the CWC can assist:</p> <p>Clarifying expectations for the development of the Well-Being Framework, identifying state partners to co-lead components, and exploring funding alignment opportunities would materially accelerate progress.</p> <p>Sustaining Cross-Agency Alignment as Mandated Reporting Implementation Accelerates</p> <p>As the MRAC transitions from formation to active implementation planning, the complexity of coordinating across departments, counties, and community-based organizations is increasing. The recommendations intersect with child welfare, behavioral health, education, Medi-Cal, and community-based service delivery systems.</p> <p>Where the CWC can assist:</p> <p>While SB119—which puts the MRAC in statute—is a significant supporting fact, it is also vital to have continued visible endorsement of the MRAC</p>

	<p>from the CWC to help prevent drift and reinforce shared ownership of implementation.</p> <p>Advancing a Public Narrative Shift While Maintaining Trust in Child Safety</p> <p>The shift from mandated reporting to more intentionally balancing safety with community-based support requires a significant narrative change. While there is strong momentum among engaged stakeholders, broader public understanding of this shift is still developing.</p> <p>The PEI Committee knows that there is still potential for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Attacks that frame reform efforts as weakening child protection, ● Confusion among mandated reporters about their responsibilities, ● Media that focuses on isolated cases to sensationalize issues that do not relate to the “before the front door” work of the MRAC. <p>Where the CWC can assist:</p> <p>Clear, consistent messaging from ALL MEMBERS of the CWC that affirms both child safety and community support as complementary—not competing—priorities will be essential.</p>
<p>2025 - 2026 Goals/Objectives</p>	<p>The PEI Committee has two significant bodies of work underway and/or planned for July 2025 - June 2026:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Continue to advance the creation of Child & Family Well-Being by</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Advancing and gaining approval for a shared definition of a Child & Family Well-Being System b. Research and synthesize national best-practices that have created measured and sustained Child & Family Well-Being in other jurisdictions and present these learnings as the basis for a set of recommendations. c. Developing a set of recommendations by December 2026 that will begin to transform California’s traditional structure of child-serving systems into ones that create Child & Family Well-Being. 2. <u>Continue to deliver on the profound and unique mandate for the MRAC that was set out in SB 119 and put the body in statute and stated its work as follows:</u> <p><i>The MRAC is not simply a committee tasked with carrying out recommendations. It is a statutorily mandated body with a clear charge: ensure California’s shift from mandated reporting to community supporting moves forward, and that it drives the measurable elimination of disparities in the child welfare system.</i></p>