

Child Welfare Council

December 4, 2024



State of California
Child Welfare Council



Housekeeping items

- ***Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act:***
Per the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, CWC Members who are participating remotely must be visible on camera during the open portion of the meeting, unless it is technologically impracticable to do so. If you are unable to be on camera, please indicate so in the Zoom chat.
- *Council Members attending via Zoom – Please **rename** yourself as follows:
First Last – Member (i.e., Jane Smith – Member)*
- *Please **remain on mute** when not presenting or planning to speak.*

Options for Member Comments

1. If virtual, “Raise Hand”

2. If in person, seek recognition of the Co-Chairs by raising your hand and wait for the microphone before speaking

Options for Public Comment

1. Members of the public participating **in person** may seek to make comments during the Public Comment portion of the meeting by letting one of the meeting staff know
2. Members of the public **participating virtually** should raise their hand in Zoom if they want to make a comment during the Public Comment portion of the meeting

CA Child Welfare Council

December 4, 2024



State of California
Child Welfare Council



Call to Order

Justice Laurie Earl, Co-Chair
Sect. Kim Johnson, Co-Chair



State of California
Child Welfare Council



CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS & ROLL CALL



State of California
Child Welfare Council



PUBLIC COMMENT



State of California
Child Welfare Council



Options for Public Comment (b)

1. Members of the public participating **in person** may seek to make comments during the Public Comment portion of the meeting by letting one of the meeting staff know
2. Members of the public **participating virtually** should raise their hand in Zoom if they want to make a comment during the Public Comment portion of the meeting

INFORMATION ITEM

Judicial Council Report Tool - CA Children and Youth in Child Welfare

Safia Belayadi, Senior Analyst
Judicial Council of California
Center for Families, Children & the Courts



State of California
Child Welfare Council



INFORMATION ITEM

Update on the MRCS Recommendation Implementation

Jen Troia, Director, CA Department of Social Services

Kathryn Icenhower, CEO, SHIELDS for Families

David Swanson Hollinger, Deputy Director, Children and Family Services Agency, County of
Ventura



State of California
Child Welfare Council





**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting
Task Force**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

Implementation Planning to Advance the Mandated Reporting Reform Recommendations

UPDATE by: CalHHS, CDSS, and the PEI Committee

December 4, 2024

The Motion Approved by the CWC on 9/4/24

Approval of this motion advanced the 14 recommendations and final report of the Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting (MRAC) Task Force to implementation planning and concluded the work of the Task Force.

That the Secretary of Cal HHS and the Director of CDSS, alongside other associated Cal HHS departments, work together to craft a strategy to move toward a system shift from a focus on mandatory reporting to community supporting, considering the MRCS Task Force recommendations as advanced in this report.

This strategy should address areas of policy that must be advanced, trainings that must be created or implemented, data reporting that must be enhanced, and program structures that must be altered or augmented.

The director of CDSS should work with the PEI Committee and the MRCS Task Force, including the lived experience subcommittee, and be prepared to provide the CWC a quarterly update, during each of its meetings, on progress in creating this comprehensive strategy to consider each of the MRCS recommendations and ultimately move toward a system shift from a focus on mandatory reporting to community supporting.

Cal HHS and CDSS will then bring the strategy back to the Council for consideration.

MRAC Guiding Principles

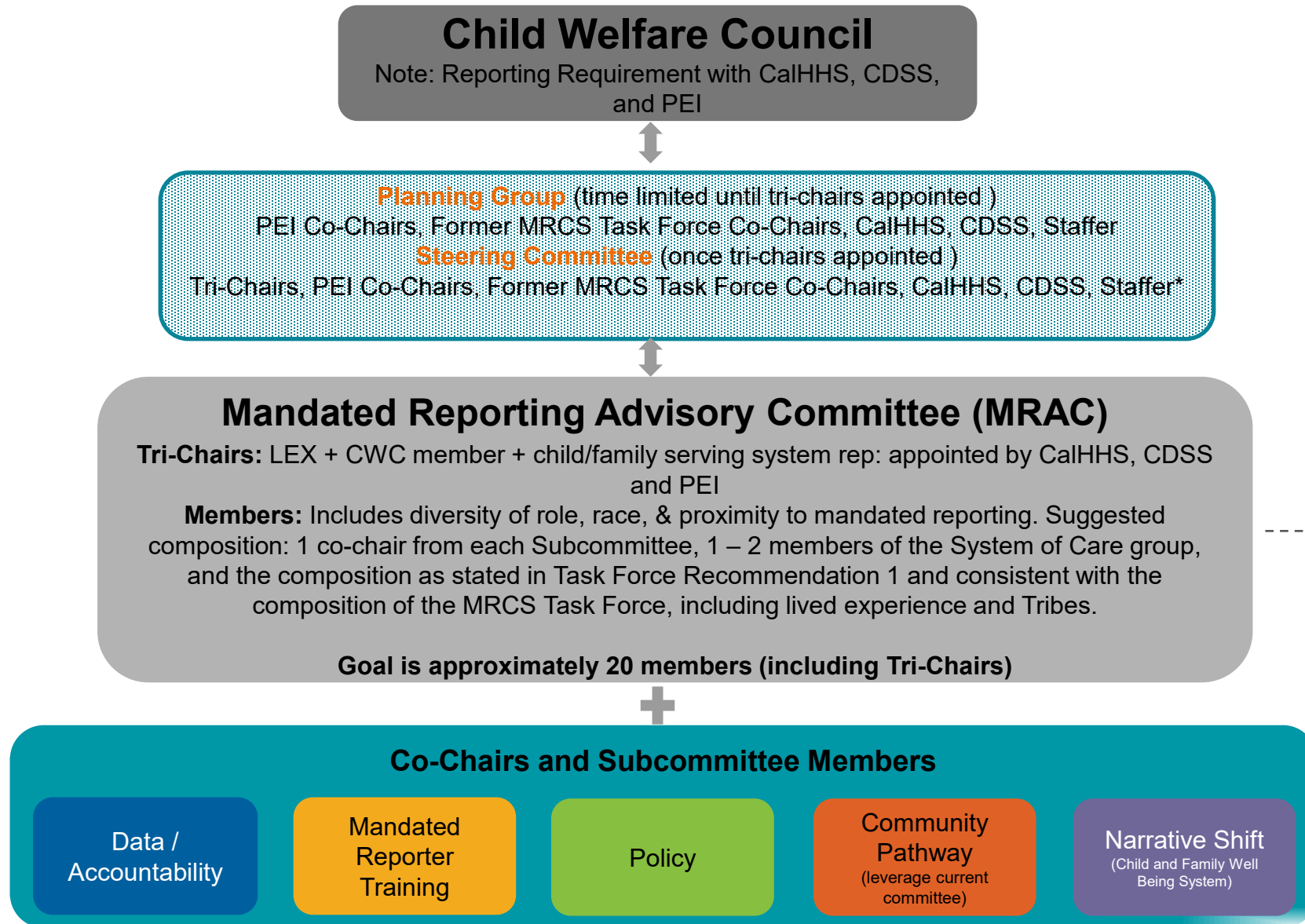
As a continuation of the work of the MRCS Task Force, the MRAC will be established on, and held accountable to, the same set of guiding principles.

- Parents, children, and youth have a fundamental right to safety, well-being, and the ability to thrive—in their communities, and in a way that is culturally meaningful to them.
- Mandated reporter reform must demonstrate the meaningful engagement of communities, parents, and families in the development of culturally appropriate and community driven solutions. The reform must also support the leadership roles of parents and youth with lived experiences, and incorporate the voice of public and private stakeholders, as well as non-traditional community partners.
- Reforming the mandated reporting system must include the essential elements of an integrated continuum of family serving system that supports families in their ability to provide safe, stable, and nurturing environments for their children.
- To achieve equity and social justice across all child and family-serving systems and networks, institutional racism must be recognized and addressed, and approaches implemented that eliminate systemic barriers and eradicate disproportionality and outcome disparities.
- Data and research must be used to inform the development of strategies and supports that address high risk factors associated with child welfare system involvement and incorporate the identification of disparities and disproportionality.

Activities and Successes To-Date

Order of Operations to Advance the Recommendations Per the Motion	Success To-Date
Continue to build awareness and support for the Task Force recommendations	Established a Dissemination Team focused on informing stakeholders with proximity to the issue and solution, with 20+ formal presentations since August and many state and national speaking engagements planned
Establish a time-limited Planning Group to begin working on the development of the Mandated Reporting Advisory Committee (MRAC) and Subcommittees. Secure representatives from CalHHS, CDSS, and the PEI Committee for this team.	Completed , and includes continuity from the MRCS Task Force (Co-Chairs), PEI Co-Chairs, and new members as specified in the motion—CalHHS, and CDSS. This group will become the Steering Committee once the Tri-Chairs are selected/added.
Select MRAC tri-chairs and formalize the Steering Committee to approve and guide the development of the MRAC	Goal: By end of December 2024
Establish a process for selecting members for the MRAC and Subcommittees	Goal: By end of December 2024
Stand-up the MRAC and Subcommittees	Goal: By end of February 2025
Continue to develop state implementation plans (how, timing, metrics), and begin to support implementation at the state and local levels	Goal: March 2024 and ongoing
Provide quarterly updates to the CWC	Ongoing

Proposed Implementation Strategy Structure



MRAC Composition Requirements**

“A minimum of 50% of the MRAC’s membership shall be representative of those who have been impacted by Mandated Reporting or have advocated for changes in the child welfare system. Additionally, the MRAC shall consist of key stakeholders comprising Mandated Reporters, community representatives, and County and State Departments including Child Welfare, Justice, Behavioral Health, Education, Housing and Health Care.”

**As defined in MRCS Task Force Recommendation 1

* Note: There may be overlap depending on appointed Tri-Chairs

COMPONENTS OF A CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING SYSTEM

DRAFT Updated: November 2024

Child Welfare Council (CWC)

Planning Group (time limited until tri-chairs appointed)
PEI Co-Chairs, Former MRCS Task Force Co-Chairs, CDSS, HHS, Staffer

Steering Committee (once tri-chairs appointed)
Tri-Chairs, PEI Co-Chairs, Former MRCS Task Force Co-Chairs, CDSS, CalHHS, Staffer*

Mandated Reporting Advisory Committee (MRAC)

Tri-Chairs: LEX + CWC member + child/family serving system rep: appointed by CalHHS, CDSS, and PEI

Members: Includes diversity of role, race, & proximity to mandated reporting. Suggested composition: 1 co-chair from each Subcommittee, 1 – 2 members of the System of Care group, and the composition as stated in Task Force Recommendation 1 and consistent with the composition of the MRCS Task Force, including lived experience and Tribes.

Goal is approximately 20 members (including Tri-Chairs)

Data / Accountability

Mandated Reporter Training

Policy

Community Pathway
(leverage current committee)

Narrative Shift
(Child and Family Well Being System)

California Department of Social Services (CDSS)

FFPS Advisory Committee*

Community Pathway Advisory Subcommittee*

IV-E Advisory Subcommittee

Training & TA Subcommittee*

CQI Subcommittee*

* Includes individuals with lived expertise

- Includes (or will) individuals with lived expertise
- Alignment with existing structures will be prioritized

Next Steps

- Identify and confirm participation of child and family-serving agencies beyond CDSS, as well as individuals with Lived Experience, and Tribal representatives, across the Steering Committee, MRAC, and the Subcommittees
- Resources that we are working to secure:
 - Funding for Lived Experience
 - Funding for communications – website, narrative shift
 - Project management team

DISCUSSION AND VOTE ITEM

Behavioral Health Outcome Recommendations

Chris Stoner Mertz, CEO
California Alliance of Children and Family Services

Karen Larsen, LMFT, CEO
Steinberg Institute



State of California
Child Welfare Council





Child Welfare Council - Behavioral Health Committee Recommendations 2024

Karen Larsen LMFT, CEO Steinberg Institute,
Co-Chair Chris Stoner-Mertz, CEO, California Alliance
of Child & Family Services

California Child Welfare Council

Established by the Child Welfare Leadership and
Accountability Act of 2006

Responsible for improving cross-system
collaboration to meet the needs of children and
youth involved with child welfare and juvenile
probation

Advises California Health and Human Services
Agency and the California State Legislature

Co-Chaired by the Secretary of CHHS, Dr. Mark
Ghaly, and the designee of the Chief Justice of
the California Supreme Court, Justice Vance Ray

2021 Policy Recommendations

01

**Strengthen Access to Necessary
Behavioral Health Services for Youth
Defining a Full Continuum of Behavioral**

02

**Health Services and Supportive
Placements- Universal Array document
approved by council December 2021**

03

**System Performance Data &
Strengthened Accountability-
focus of committee for past two years**



System Performance Data and Strengthened Accountability



Behavioral Health Committee Meetings 2022-2024



2022 Meeting Highlights

Lishaun Francis, Children Now shared available behavioral health metrics

Melissa Stafford-Jones, CHHS planned CYBHI metrics

Alex Briscoe, CCT shared existing financial and claims data

Patrick Gardner, Young Minds Advocacy shared other state's mechanisms for tracking outcomes.

CDSS, DHCS and HHS all joined our committee meetings throughout this time frame.

Behavioral Health Committee Meetings 2022-2024



2023 Meeting Highlights

California Child Welfare Indicators
Project sharing and discussion
surrounding CANS

Dr. Lyons joined our committee to discuss
current California work and ways to utilize
CANS data to improve systems

The Data linkages & information Sharing
committee joined our meeting for
purposes of partnership and collaboration

Behavioral Health Committee Meetings 2022-2024



2024 Meeting Highlights

DHCS and CDSS shared their work between systems surrounding the CANS

Presentations from County/Provider cohort as to benefits of CANS at systems level (Pacific Clinics)

Data linkages & information sharing committee joined our meeting

Behavioral Health Committee reviewed recommendations

Behavioral Health Committee Recommendations

1. Integrate data systems and provide timely access to data
2. Implement only one CANS for each youth
3. Utilize CANS to track needs and strengths over time at the systems level
4. Provide training and ongoing technical assistance to ensure fidelity to CANS



ACTION ITEMS

1. Accept the Child Welfare Council Behavioral Health Committee paper
2. Adopt recommendations on Behavioral Health System Accountability and Performance Improvement



Questions?

**Your feedback is valuable to us, so
please share your thoughts**

COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE UPDATES

- **Prevention and Early Intervention Committee:** *Kathryn Icenhower, David Swanson Hollinger*
- **Permanency Committee:** *Bob Friend & Hon. Leonard Edwards (Ret.)*
- **Data Linkage and Information Sharing Committee:** *Dr. Daniel Webster*
- **Youth Justice Committee:** *Hon. Katherine Lucero (Ret.)*
- **Behavioral Health Committee:** *Karen Larsen & Chris Stoner-Mertz*
- **CSEC Action Team:** *Leslie Heimov & Kate Walker Brown*
- **Empowerment Committee:** *Jevon Wilkes & Janay Eustace*



State of California
Child Welfare Council



FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CLOSING



State of California
Child Welfare Council

