



# CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL

The next **Child Welfare Council Annual Report** covering the period **from July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023**, 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 **November 17, 2023**.

*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 2022 through June 2023 Activities and Accomplishments:** Please briefly list major activities and accomplishments for FY 2022-23.

**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.

**2023 – 2024 Goals & Objectives:** Indicate your committee’s goals and objectives for the coming year.

<b>Committee/ Task Force Name</b>	Prevention & Early Intervention (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> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <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> <li>3. Make data-driven advisory recommendations for policy and practice changes as needed.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>5. Promote cooperation and collaboration across systems 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.</li> </ol>
<p><b>July 2022 through June 2023 Activities and Accomplishments</b></p>	<p>July 2022 through June 2023 was a period of tremendous action and leadership by the PEI Committee. Membership continued to expand—from 45 to 60 members since the previous annual report period—reflecting the heightened interest in prevention and the work the Committee has been moving forward.</p> <p>In close partnership with the state and other partners, and with PEI Co-Chairs at the helm of the State’s Family First Prevention Services (FFPS) Advisory Committee, the PEI Committee continued to develop and gain support for a <a href="#">set of recommendations</a> to advance California’s vision for Child, Family and Community Well-Being. Centered on equity and social justice and respect for tribal sovereignty and supported through the Family First Prevention Services and other resources, the Child, Family and Community Well-Being movement requires an approach that is dependent upon having a robust Community Pathway available for families to access culturally derived, appropriate, relevant and responsive services and supports, available in their community from organizations and providers they know and trust.</p> <p>Specifically, the PEI Committee—in alignment with the <a href="#">recommendations of the California Citizen Review Panel</a> and the Safe &amp; Sound issue brief (sponsored by OCAP), <a href="#">“A Paradigm Shift from Mandatory Reporting to Community Supporting”</a>—made recommendations at the March 1st CWC meeting to ensure the implementation of a statewide Community Pathway (as included in <a href="#">California’s Five-Year State Prevention Plan</a>) that is available and accessible to all families in California.</p> <p>The full set of seven <a href="#">PEI Community Pathway Recommendations</a> was the product of nearly 6 months of subcommittee meetings to fine-tune</p>

the February 2022 recommendation to more specifically map a course for developing a robust Community Pathway in tandem with the reform of mandated reporting laws and processes.

On March 13, 2023, the Child Welfare Council unanimously approved the full set of Community Pathway Recommendations, including the mandate to implement a statewide Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting Task Force.

From March 13 through June 2023, The PEI Committee performed its oversight and implementation role of the Community Pathway Recommendations in the following ways:

1. Appointed Task Force Co-Chairs who are Child Welfare Council members, serve on the PEI Committee, and include one member with lived expertise and one member with task force experience.
2. Identified Safe & Sound and Casey Family Programs as organizations that have the resources and expertise to support the development and coordination of the Task Force.
3. As part of the initial Task Force Working Group, PEI Co-Chairs and key PEI Committee members actively and fully participated in the development of a Task Force application process that would result in a Task Force with diverse race, ethnicity, experience, expertise, and ideas. PEI Co-Chairs and key committee members also provided input into the expanded outreach for promoting the Task Force application process to ensure broad distribution and awareness of the opportunity.

Although beyond the timing of this annual report, the process developed with the input of the PEI Co-Chairs yielded 215 applicants and an expert Task Force and set of Subcommittees with nearly all members having proximity to the issue of mandated reporting, and almost 25% bringing lived expertise to the reform effort.

Additionally (and slightly beyond the scope of this annual report), the PEI Committee stood up two subcommittees that began meeting in July 2023 to further advance the Community Pathway Recommendations—the Dissemination Subcommittee, and the Financing Subcommittee. The Dissemination Subcommittee has a goal of raising awareness and support of the Community Pathway Recommendation, with a focus on Counties that are taking a leadership role in building Community Pathways, Community-Based Organization that can get engaged in the

	<p>developed of Community Pathways, and legislative leaders who can address barriers in sustaining Community Pathways.</p> <p>In addition to the role of oversight of the Task Force (Recommendation 1), the PEI Committee will continue to advance the awareness and implementation of Recommendations 2 - 6 to support efforts to build a statewide Community Pathway network.</p>
<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. Relating to the Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting (MRCS) Task Force, the significant and complex work of reforming mandated reporting structures in California may require more than 15 months for the Task Force and its subcommittees to produce a full set of recommendations. The Task Force is looking at short-term, as well as more robust and bold long-term recommendations to safely narrow the front door of child welfare.</li> <li>2. 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> </ol>
<p><b>2023 - 2024 Goals/Objectives</b></p>	<p>July 2023 through June 2024 represents a crucial timeframe for the PEI Committee as we support the work and recommendation of the Task Force and continue to play a leadership role in building the Community Pathway.</p> <p>More specifically, the primary goals of the PEI Committee during the July 2023 through June 2024 timing include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Support, oversee, and approve Task Force recommendations to be advanced for review and approval during the June 2024 Child Welfare Council meeting.</li> <li>● In partnership with the FFPS Advisory Committee, continue to promote Recommendations 2 - 7 to advance development of the Community Pathway.</li> </ul>