



Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting Task Force

Communities Keeping Children Safe and Families Together

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Statewide Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting (MRCS) Task Force and Subcommittees

The following is a message from Dana Blackwell and Roger De Leon, Co-Chairs of the statewide Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting (MRCS) Task Force.

The following includes: 1) application completion details, 2) a link to the application, 3) MRCS Task Force member expectations and commitments, and 4) background materials to familiarize yourself with the MRCS Task Force history and goals.

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the statewide Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting (MRCS) Task Force. Please complete this application if you would like to be considered for membership on the MRCS Task Force or one (or more) of the [subcommittees](#).

Application Details

- **Key Dates**
 - **August 9, 2023, 5:00pm PT:** Submission deadline.
 - **August 25, 2023:** Date by when MRCS Task Force members will be publicly announced.
 - The subcommittee members will be announced at a later date.
- **Process**
 - Submissions will be reviewed by members of the [MRCS Task Force Working Group](#) which has been in place since March 2023 to begin the initial work of convening the Task Force. Working Group members are not automatically members of the Task Force, with the exception of the Task Force Co-Chairs who were appointed by the Prevention & Early Intervention (PEI) Committee Co-Chairs. Working Group members interested in being considered for the Task Force will complete the same application, and they will be excused from the application review process.
 - Our goal is to convene a diverse Task Force with individuals who have proximity to the mandated reporting system through their personal and/or professional experience and expertise-especially individuals with lived experience of the child welfare system. [Learn more](#) about the planned categories and numbers of Task Force members.
- **Completing the Application**
 - This application should take no more than one hour to complete.
 - All ten questions can be reviewed prior to providing responses. You can save your responses and complete the application at a later time.



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- **Support**
 - [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
 - For additional questions or support please email info@mrcstaskforce.org for a response within 24 hours.

Application

[Access the application in English or Spanish.](#)

MRCS Task Force Member Expectations and Commitments

- This is an active working group and your full participation will be expected.
- The Task Force is responsible for submitting a final report by June 30, 2024.
- The estimated monthly commitment is 5 - 7 hours.
- The MRCS Task Force members will meet in person quarterly (travel costs will be covered for Task Force members), and by Zoom every month, and possibly more frequently as needed. Meetings may be held during regular working hours.
- The commitment includes meeting attendance; preparation for meetings; actively engaging in the research, analysis, and recommendation development of mandated reporting reform policy and practice; and publicly representing the MRCS Task Force as needed.
- We want to help address barriers to participating on the MRCS Task Force. If you have financial or other personal concerns, accommodations will be considered, including compensation for individuals with lived expertise.

For more information about the history and goals of the MRCS Task Force please see the [July 2023 update message](#).

MRCS Task Force History and Goals

Evidence shows that a large number of reports to child protection hotlines each year ultimately end up being screened out, unsubstantiated, or included as allegations of general neglect only. The harm caused to children and families by over-reporting is a key reason why the mandated reporting system needs to be reformed. The negative impact is even greater for Black/African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Latino/a children and families who are disproportionately represented in these reports, and in the child welfare system overall.

On March 13, 2023, the California Child Welfare Council (CWC) unanimously approved a set of seven [Community Pathway Recommendations](#) with the following goals:

1. Reform the state's mandated reporting system so children and families are safely supported in their communities.
2. Build strong and connected community supports that understand, connect to, and enhance the natural strengths of every family.



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To learn more please refer to:

- [Community Pathway Recommendations](#). The convening of a MRCS Task Force is the first recommendation.
- [Presentation Slides](#) from the March 2023 CWC meeting where the Community Pathway Recommendations were presented.
- [MRCS Task Force update](#), July 6, 2023.

We acknowledge the urgency for change and we seek to partner with individuals and groups who have proximity to the mandated reporting system through their personal and/or professional experience and expertise—especially individuals with lived experience of the child welfare system. Our goal is to inform and advance this work with those who are most impacted by the current system, and those who have the greatest ability to change it.

We are committed to engaging an active and expert group of people who share our passion for seizing this historical moment to reform the mandated reporting system and safely narrow the front door to child welfare.

In partnership,

Roger De Leon Jr.
Co-Chair, MRCS Task Force
Child Welfare Council Member
Parent Partner, Fatherhood Advocate,
Professional with Lived Expertise

Dana E. Blackwell
Co-Chair, MRCS Task Force
Child Welfare Council Member
Senior Director, CA Strategic Consultation,
Casey Family Programs

[Access the application in English or Spanish.](#)