



Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting Task Force

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

Welcome!

This is our first HYBRID Meeting.

Thank you for joining virtually, and
for your patience as we work to
make this a good and productive
experience for all attendees.

December 5, 2023

- The agenda and other documents will be in the chat.
- We will take public comment at the opening of the general Task Force meeting, and the closing of each individual Subcommittee meeting.
- Chat is enabled for all participants:
 - Use good chat etiquette.
 - Chat is not on public record.
 - We can't respond to public chat questions and comments.
- The general Task Force meeting will adjourn at 2:50pm for breakout Subcommittee meetings. Public participants (virtual and in person) may select ONE session they want to attend. A list and zoom links will be in the chat.
- For tech support during the meeting, direct chat CalTrin.
- All current and prior meeting materials are on the Child Welfare Council website. See link in the chat.



Group Agreements

- Respect each other's opinions even / especially if you don't agree with them.
- Participate!
- Confidentiality – some things shouldn't be repeated outside of this meeting.
- Uphold commitments. (Come prepared, do the follow up work.)
- Listen to understand. Speak up and make space for others to contribute.
- Assume good intent, until proven otherwise.
- Lean into discomfort.
- Ask for what you need, offer what you can.
- Balance results—process—and relationships:
 - **Results:** What we are looking to achieve
 - **Process:** How we will get to results effectively and efficiently
 - **Relationships:** How we will honor and interact with each other along the way

Agenda

- Welcome
- Public Comment
- Grounding the Work
 - California on the National Stage
 - Research, Data, and Stories
- Announcements & Next Steps
- Task Force Meeting Adjourns
- Subcommittee Meetings (with closing public comment)

Introductions

Task Force Members

Advisory Team

Project Management Team

- Name
- Organization, Agency, or Affiliation
- Seat You Represent on the Task Force

Public Comment



- Raise your virtual hand
- Come off mute. Turn on your camera if you like
- Maximum of 2 minutes for comment which will go on public record
- No response will be provided

Grounding the Work:

California on the National Stage

1. National Prevention Overview
 - Rebecca Jones Gaston, MSW, Commissioner, Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF)
2. California's Vision of Prevention through a Community Pathway
 - Jennifer Troia, Chief Deputy Director, California Department of Social Services (CDSS)
3. Q&A

Rebecca Jones Gaston, MSW

Commissioner, Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF)

Rebecca Jones Gaston is the commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, at the Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Administration on Children, Youth, and Families manages the Children's Bureau and the Family and Youth Services Bureau.

Before joining the Biden Administration via confirmation by the U.S. Senate in December 2022, Jones Gaston was the child welfare director for the state of Oregon's Department of Human Services that oversees child protection, foster care, and adoption services, a position she held since 2019. During her time as director, Oregon launched a major transformation built on trauma-informed, family and community-centered, and culturally responsive programs and services.

Prior to joining the Oregon senior management team, Jones Gaston served as the executive director of the Maryland Department of Human Services' Social Services Administration with oversight of child welfare and adult services. She has worked in the field of human services and child welfare for over 25 years as a social worker, advocate, therapist, consultant, and administrator. Previously, she was a director with Casey Family Programs providing technical assistance to child welfare agencies throughout the United States. She served as the national campaign director for AdoptUsKids, a collaboration with the Children's Bureau and the National Ad Council. This major campaign, which she now oversees as commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, continues to help increase the numbers of foster and adoptive families across the country.

A proud mother of two young adults, Jones Gaston holds a B.A. degree in psychology from Georgetown University and a master's degree in social work from the University of Pennsylvania.



**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting
Task Force**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*



Jennifer Troia

Chief Deputy Director, California Department of Social Services

Jennifer (Jen) Troia (she/her/hers) has served as a Chief Deputy Director at the California Department of Social Services since January 2020. In this role, she is responsible for overseeing children and family services and safety net programs, including child welfare services, foster care and adoptions, cash assistance, nutrition, and child care and development programs. Jen is passionate about social justice and about disrupting inequities. Among previous roles in the government and non-profit sectors, she served as a policy advisor to the President Pro Tem of the California Senate, Deputy Director for the California Senate's Committee on Budget & Fiscal Review, and an attorney and advocate for children and youth in foster care. Jen holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida and a Juris Doctor from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law.



**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting
Task Force**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*



The Child Welfare System Overview – Federal, State, and County Roles



**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting
Task Force**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

The Administration on Children, Youth and Families

The Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) oversees major federal programs that support:

- ❑ Social services that promote the positive growth and development of children, youth and their families
- ❑ Protective services and shelter for children and youth in at-risk situations
- ❑ Adoption for children with special needs

These programs provide financial assistance to states, community-based organizations, and academic institutions to provide services, carry out research and demonstration activities, and manage training, technical assistance and information dissemination.

ACYF is divided into two bureaus (**Children's Bureau and Family & Youth Services Bureau**) responsible for different issues involving children, youth and families and a crosscutting unit charged with research and evaluation. Each bureau has an associate commissioner appointed by the President.

Children's Bureau

The Children's Bureau (CB) focuses on improving the lives of children and families through programs that reduce child abuse and neglect, increase the number of adoptions, and strengthen foster care.

Family and Youth Services Bureau

The Family and Youth Services Bureau supports the organizations and communities that work every day to put an end to **youth homelessness**, **adolescent pregnancy** and **domestic violence**.

State Child Welfare Agencies

The Children's Bureau works with State and local agencies to develop programs that focus on preventing child abuse and neglect by strengthening families, protecting children from further maltreatment, reuniting children safely with their families, and finding permanent families for children who cannot safely return home. Each State has its own laws that define abuse and neglect, the reporting obligations of individuals, and the required State and local child protective services (CPS) agency interventions.

California County Human Service Agencies

County human service agencies work with the community to ensure the safety and well-being of children and youth through the programs of Child Welfare Services, Foster Care and Adoption. County staff provide protective and supportive services in the belief that children and their families deserve stable nurturing homes and a supportive environment. County staff are responsible for responding to allegations of abuse and neglect, intervening in child abuse and neglect situations, providing services to families in which children are at risk and are responsible for finding children permanent, loving homes when returning to a biological family is not an option.

Grounding the Work: Research, Data, and Stories

1. California Data Review
2. Framework Overview
3. Research & Data
Subcommittee Coordination
4. Q&A

Objectives

- Review quantitative data with Task Force and subcommittee members
- Present Research/Data/Stories Framework
- Identify goals for Research & Data Subcommittee coordination with other subcommittees

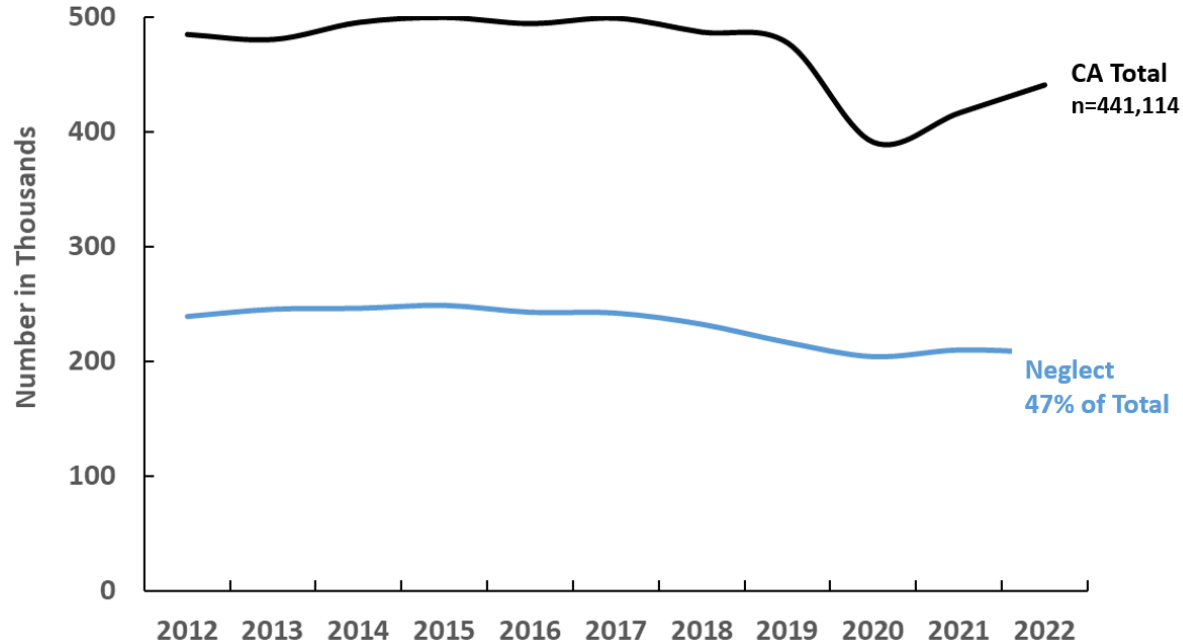
MRCS Data Highlights



**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting
Task Force**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

Children with an Allegation of Maltreatment



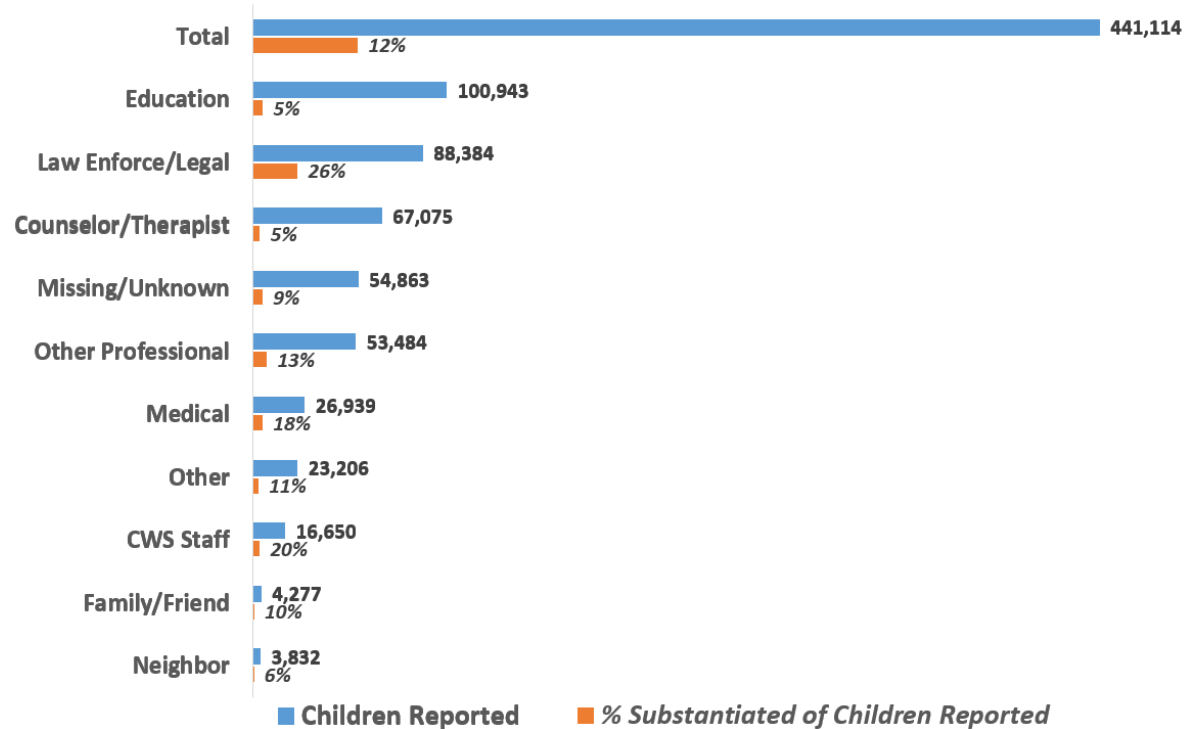
MRCS Data Highlights



**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting
Task Force**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

Children with One or More Allegations in 2022 by Reporter Type & Percent Substantiated



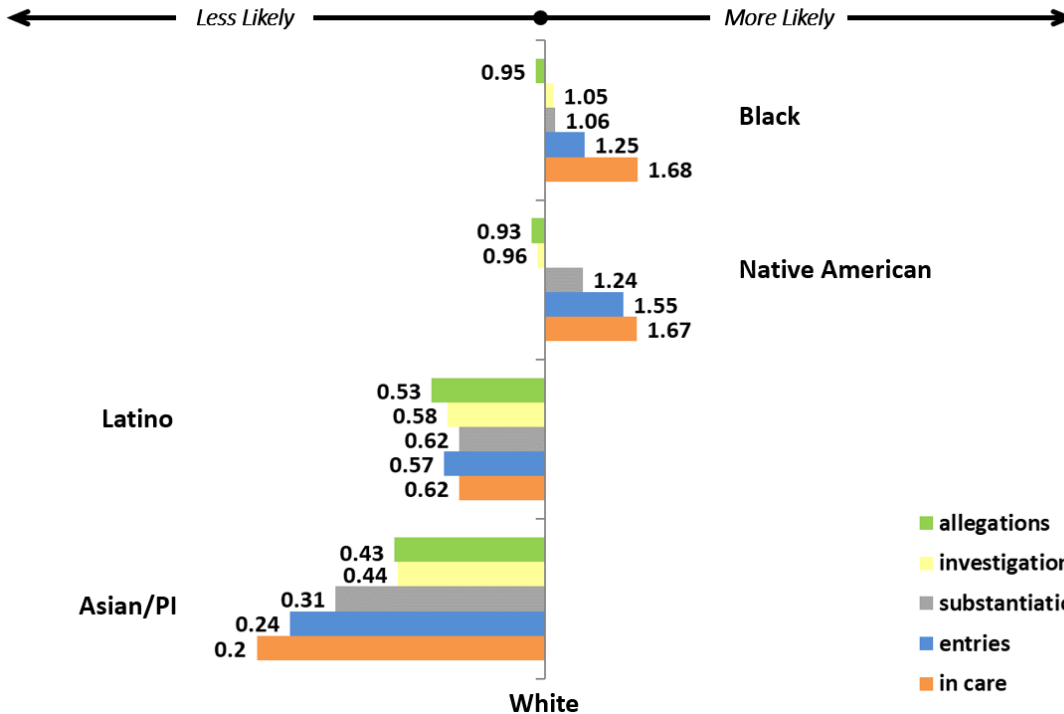
MRCS Data Highlights



**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting
Task Force**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

Racial Disparity Indices (Poverty Population) Ethnic Group Disparity Compared with White Children along CW Continuum, 2022



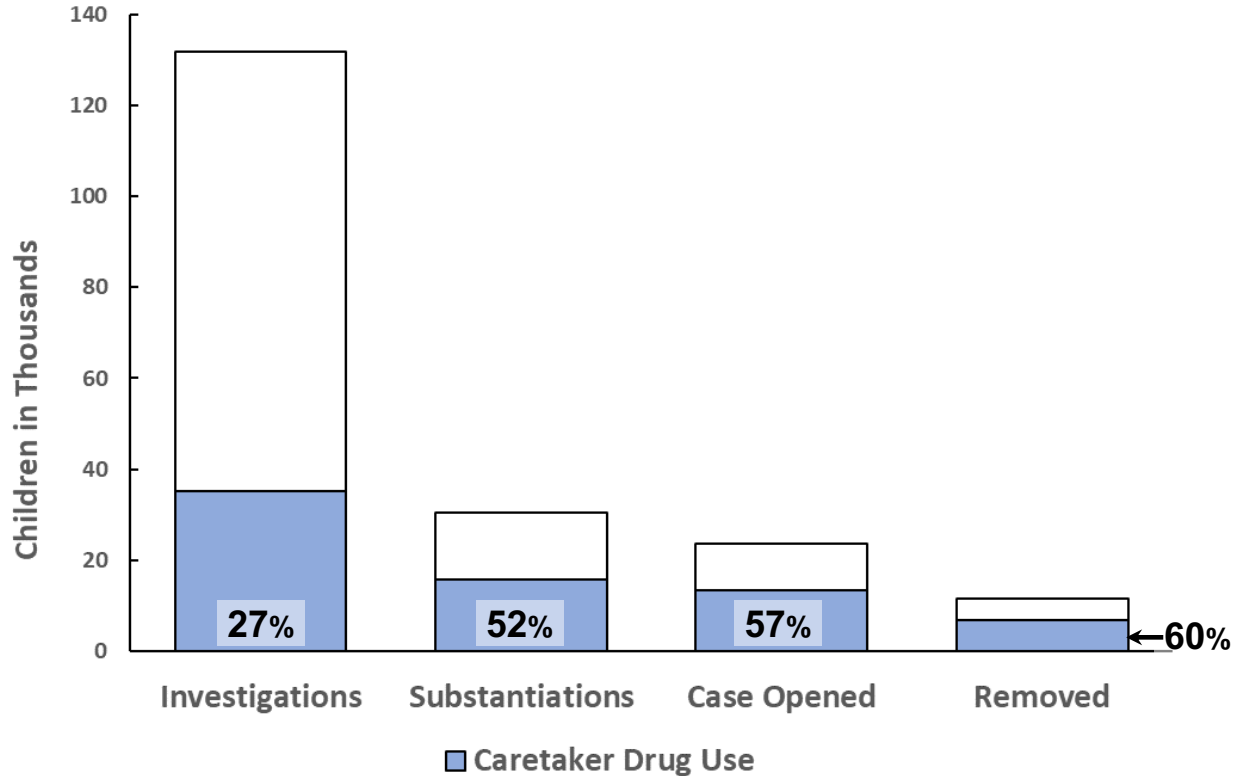
- allegations
- investigations
- substantiations
- entries
- in care

MRCS Data Highlights



**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting
Task Force**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*



Information in this graph is from a 10 county data workgroup on substance use disorder in CWS.

Introduction to the Research/Data/Stories Framework



**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting
Task Force**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

- **Creates a shared understanding** of relevant stories, data, and research to inform the shift from mandated reporting to community supporting
- Uplifts gaps in the current, traditional ways we examine mandated reporting to **encourage mindset shifts, critical thinking, and system transformation**
- **Weaves together stories, data, and research** to have a more comprehensive understanding of the current impact of our system and what strategies will work to eliminate harm and better support families, communities, and mandated reporters

Our Framework



**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting
Task Force**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

Research	Data	Stories
<p>Identify traditional and non-traditional research with a focus on the current functioning of the system and what strategies might yield system transformation</p>	<p>Utilize quantitative and qualitative disaggregated data at the county, state, and national level focused on understanding how mandated reporting impacts child safety, family functioning, and community wellbeing</p>	<p>Share powerful stories of lived experiences from individuals, families, and communities about mandated reporting, the vision for community supporting, and how we can realize that vision through true partnership</p>
<p>Types of Research: Participatory Research Qualitative Research Survey Research Quantitative Research Exploratory Research Field Research Longitudinal Research</p>	<p>Types of Data: Administrative data Case reviews Interviews and focus groups Open/public data</p>	<p>Types of Stories: Oral traditions passed down Testimonials Lectures and Speeches Op-ed, social media Spoken word and other artistic forms of expression</p>

Weaving Together Stories, Data, and Research

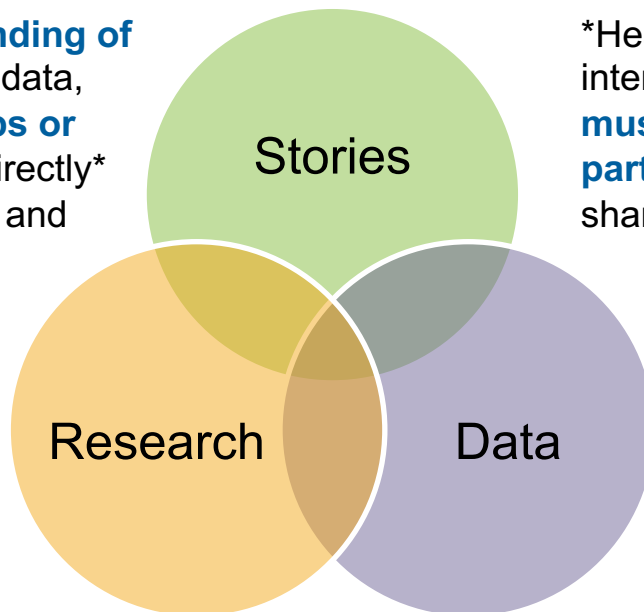


Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting
Task Force

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

Stories give us a **better understanding of what we know** from research and data, while also **helping us identify gaps or what we don't know** by hearing directly* from mandated reporters, families, and communities

Research can **demonstrate what works and encourage critical thinking** when interpreting data and stories



*Hearing directly is not intended to be passive; stories **must be acted upon in true partnership** with the people sharing the stories

Data presents opportunities to **analyze impact we hear from stories** at a macro level, **test hypotheses** based on research, and **set goals** to track for improved outcomes



Questions for Subcommittee Chairs

- How are you hoping to use stories, data, and research?
- What stories, data, and research will best inform the work of your subcommittee?
- What stories, data, and research do you already have?
- How can we ensure we move with urgency to meet deadlines while also engaging in critical thinking and shared decision-making?



Next Steps

- **2024 Meetings**
 - Tuesday, January 16: Virtual
 - Tuesday, February 13: Virtual
 - Tuesday, March 12: In Person, Location To Be Announced
 - Tuesday, April 9: Virtual
 - Tuesday, May 14: Virtual
 - Tuesday, June 4: In Person, Location To Be Announced
- **Subcommittee Next Steps:**
 - All-Chair Meeting
 - Interim Subcommittee Meetings
- **Task Force Materials** are on the Child Welfare Council website on the MRCS Task Force page, <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/home/committees/california-child-welfare-council/#mandated-reporting-to-community-supporting-task-force>

Subcommittee Meetings

- Select the breakout room (virtual and in person) that corresponds to your Subcommittee
- Public Participants - Please choose ONE Subcommittee meeting to attend. List is in the chat.
- Agendas will be provided in each breakout
- You have 65 minutes for subcommittee meetings
- We will NOT reconvene after the Subcommittee meetings. Subcommittees will take their next steps into their follow-up meetings.
- Subcommittee meetings officially end at 4:00pm with closing public comment, but can continue discussions until 5:00pm

Subcommittees



**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting
Task Force**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

Narrowing the Legal Definition of Neglect

Provide recommendations to limit reportable General Neglect, including but not limited to removing poverty-based neglect from the purview of what mandated reporters are required to report. The committee will also recommend steps for communicating updates to mandated reporting legislation to ensure its actionability.

Mandated Reporter Curriculum & Training

Provide recommendations on revising mandated reporting curriculum and training to help ensure referrals focus on child safety and providing support to families where there is not an imminent risk of safety as well as reducing racial and socioeconomic bias in reporting

Potential Legal / Liability Issues for Mandated Reporters

Provide recommendations on legislative reform to mandated reporting laws in order to shift the current fear-based system to one that focuses on building a community of support for families. For example, this could include setting limits on liability for mandated reporters failing to report, revising the “reasonable suspicion” standard for the mandate to report, and/or narrowing California’s reporting statute which currently includes very broad categories of who is a mandated reporter.

Policy & Practice Reforms

Provide state policy recommendations, such as the expansion of, and access to, concrete services and supports necessary to implement and sustain community support for families as well as organizational policy and practice reforms to help ensure that families are connected to the supports they need when there is no imminent risk of safety to a child.

Research & Data

Support and advise the MRCS Task Force and its subcommittees in identifying the “big data picture,” surface and address national research & data questions, as well as provide research and data that will be needed to advance this work.

Subcommittee Meeting Rooms

- Research & Data: Auditorium
- Policy & Practice: 235/237
- Legal & Liability: 202
- NLDN: 203
- Curriculum & Training: 204



**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting
Task Force**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

Task Force Meeting Adjourned



**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting
Task Force**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

Thank you!

