



**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting
Task Force**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

**Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting
Task Force and Subcommittee Meetings**

January 16, 2024

1:00 to 4:00 pm

MEETING MINUTES

[Recording](#)

[Meeting Slide Deck](#)

In Attendance	TASK FORCE MEMBERS	ADVISORY/PROJECT MANAGEMENT	GUESTS/PRESENTERS
	Dana E. Blackwell, Co-Chair Roger De Leon Jr., Co-Chair André Chapman Arati Vasani Charity Chandler-Cole Christina Riehl Danielle Lowe Daniel Webster Diane Elias Hillary Konrad Jenny Pearlman Joan Miller Kelly Graesch Dr. Khush Cooper Luciana Svidler Melinda Sokolowski Mercie DiGangi Raina Peres-Diaz Sarah Cook Shane Harris Shelley Lopez Tamara Hunter Tina Rios Wendy Alvarez Zoila Perez Sanchez	Alli Schisler Beth Kuentler Cheryl Treadwell David Swanson-Hollinger Doris Tolliver Faiqa Ejaz Juliet Cox Kathy Icenhower Katie Albright Lori Clarke Selena Childs Vanessa Spignoli Wendy DeTata	Justin Lee La Mikia Castillo Dr. Laurel Bear Kathy Bonk
WELCOME Roger De Leon Jr. and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approved minutes from MRCS December 5, 2023 meeting ● Introduced new Task Force member, Dan Allmon, Chief of Youth 		

Dana Blackwell	Project Section at DHCS. Dan has over 20 years of experience in healthcare, mental health services and substance abuse disorders.
OPENING PUBLIC COMMENT	None
LAND AND LABOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT	
<p>GROUNDING THE WORK: LOS ANGELES COUNTY LISTENING SESSIONS</p> <p>Katie Albright Justin Lee La Mikia Castillo Dr. Laurel Bear</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation and discussion on findings and recommendations from listening sessions in Inglewood and the greater Los Angeles area, conducted with educators, parents, caregivers, and other community members: Moving-from-Mandated-Reporting-to-Mandated-Supporting-Listening-Sessions.pdf ● Collaborative listening sessions with mandated reporters and community members identified key areas for change, the impact of mandated reporting laws and a vision for an alternative system that supports parents. ● The findings highlight the need for a more supportive approach towards parents. ● Mandated Reporting in Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inglewood educators and community members, including mandated reporters, participated in listening sessions, highlighting the close-knit community's experiences with mandated reporting. ○ Key themes emerged from the participant interviews, including the current mandated reporting process being biased against families of color and resulting in punitive actions without supportive services. ○ Developing relationships before filing reports was emphasized as crucial to addressing the root causes of issues and ensuring the best outcomes for families. ○ Tension between mandated reporting and building relationships between parents and school staff, with some feeling pitted against each other. Trust is broken between families and school staff due to reports filed. ○ Fear and lack of trust in mandated reporting systems, feeling unsupported and concerned about potential consequences of not reporting. ○ Training was seen as inadequate and in need of an anti-racist approach, with a focus on support rather than surveillance, and multiple in-person training sessions throughout the school year. ● Invest in community pathways and supports for parents, survivors of domestic violence, and families experiencing domestic violence. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recommendations were made to look at policies in New York and Texas to address the disparity and inequity in

	<p>removing children from survivors of domestic violence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Task Force members discussed recommendations related to training, especially the value of in-person consultation as well as the challenge of addressing adaptive changes. ● Task Force members highlighted the importance of addressing domestic violence, substance use, and mental health issues. ● A Task Force member suggested a successful campaign to change a narrative is child sex trafficking where advocates organized law enforcement, child welfare services, and youth to shift policy and mindset.
<p>SUBCOMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS AND TASK FORCE DISCUSSION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Subcommittees presented their initial priority areas: COMPILED Sub Priorities MRCS-Task-Force-January-16-2024.pdf ● Task Force members discussed the proposed priority areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How to address overlapping issues among Subcommittees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joint meetings ▪ Challenges of changing systems that were built for oppression ▪ Community support and alternative pathways are needed to address systemic issues and improve outcomes for underserved communities ○ Gaps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Who will lead the narrative change/mindset work? ▪ How do we address the different mindsets within the Task Force and Subcommittees? ▪ How will the Task Force address the systemic racism that impacts mandated reporting? ○ Pilot programs to address the diverse needs throughout the State and demonstrate possibilities ○ How to keep Mandated Reporting training fresh, engaging and exciting every year ○ How to address cases that currently fall under General Neglect if that category is eliminated? Culture within the County is more important than the reporting category. ○ What is the scope and charge to the Subcommittees? How bold can the recommendations be? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Task Force is not reforming a part of the mandated reporting system. Task Force is looking to reform the entire system so that the “right” families are reported to child welfare hotlines. The data shows over-reporting in all areas, not only general neglect. ▪ Task Force recommendations will focus on mandated reporting and not the child welfare system. ○ Suggestion to create a system that tracks clients who have been referred to child welfare services but are not currently in the system, to ensure they receive necessary support and

	<p>reduce risk of recurrence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concerns raised about over-surveillance ○ Importance of being cautious when addressing the idea of abolishing general neglect, as it can be misinterpreted and met with resistance. ○ Importance of inclusivity in addressing child welfare issues, particularly with regards to indigenous individuals and their lived experiences. ○ There is a need to extend the work beyond June to ensure momentum and continued progress. ○ Regarding mindset shift, the Chairs and Advisory Team are looking at a communication strategy around narrative change. ○ There is a lot going on around the community pathway work, led by the PEI Committee. They have stood up a committee to address policy, financing and implementation of community pathways. Our Task Force should address how to connect families to the community pathways.
<p>NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING REMARKS Beth Kuenstler Dana Blackwell Roger De Leon, Jr</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All Task Force materials are on the Child Welfare Council website on the MRCS Task Force page: California Child Welfare Council - California Health and Human Services
<p>SUBCOMMITTEE WORKING SESSIONS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Task Force members moved into Subcommittee meetings which were also open to the public.
<p>PUBLIC COMMENTS</p>	<p>Antonia Rios: She said that the meeting was very informative and powerful to hear everybody's perspective and all the changes the Task Force is looking at. As a child who was in the system as well as an adult who was investigated on multiple occasions, she could have changed her life sooner if she had been supported instead of violated and treated with disrespect. Regarding domestic violence, although she was the victim, she was arrested and her children left with the perpetrator because the police did not want to have any issues. We should help victims with housing and a safe place with her children. She also had a multitude of disrespectful social workers, however all it took was that one social worker who treated her like a person with respect and kindness that changed her life drastically. Because of that worker and Parents Anonymous, she has been clean for 18 years and became a strong advocate with lived expertise in child welfare and domestic violence.</p> <p>Sharon Balmer Cartagena: She heard many impactful things today. She encouraged the Task Force to be bold and brave, and to envision a system that is not fear based, but based on how we can best support the families and children.</p>

How can we build a system that we ourselves would want to go through, not just checking a box for fear of liability.

Tunisia Jackson: She is no longer a foster parent because she did not get the support that she needed when there was trouble in her household. She is concerned about how she can help families. How can she help other families so they are not afraid to reach out for help? We have a system that is in place that is etched in stone. And yes, there are good workers. But there are a lot of bad workers, and they are set in stone about what they feel for individuals. As soon as something comes up that a parent of color has been accused of, whether they've done it or not.