

Jurisdictional Scan: *Jurisdictional efforts to transform mandatory reporting*

The information provided below was gathered via outreach to Casey’s strategic consultants to learn more about how jurisdictions are advancing a shift in their approach to mandatory reporting of child maltreatment. This summary of jurisdictional efforts is for informational purposes only and does not necessarily reflect the views of Casey Family Programs. The strategies shared below are categorized into one of six different components: (1) training; (2) policy or legislative efforts; (3) building community supports; (4) Evident Change Community Resource Guide (CRG); (5) statewide commission; and/or (6) other efforts.

Jurisdiction	Component(s)	Description of strategy/effort
Arizona	Community supports Policy/legislative	<p>Community collaborative to implement strategies that address factors that are resulting in families being reported for neglect, including but not limited to prevention services, community messaging and influencing mandated reporter. Support continued development of Lean On Me Arizona to provide alternatives to reporting. See toolkit: Lean on Me AZ: Strengthening Families to Prevent Child Adversity.</p> <p>Statutory changes under consideration in 2023: Arizona HB 2530 requires referral of pregnant person who discloses drug use to a substance use program but exempts reporting to DCS.</p>
California (state)	Statewide commission Policy/legislative	<p>Statewide taskforce to examine and make recommendations on the state’s mandated reporting system (Dana Blackwell is co-chair) AB2085, which seeks to redefine neglect, is also a major policy breakthrough. The state has begun the process of re-examining its mandated supporter training. The development of new training will likely fall under the auspices of the statewide taskforce.</p> <p>Policy guidance for AB2085 (a bill to limit the definition of neglect to only include circumstances where the child is at substantial risk of suffering serious physical harm or illness, and would provide that general neglect does not include a parent’s economic disadvantage) will be available soon.</p> <p>Statutory changes under consideration in 2023: SB47 (Roth) will specific investigation timelines and expectations, including requiring an investigator to make contact with the person who made the report and visit the child in person.</p> <p>December 2023 CA Supreme Court decision to strike down the Tender Years Doctrine, which had allowed courts to separate children under the age of six from their families based solely on age and suspected parental substance abuse, rather than any other evidence of risk or physical harm as required by law.</p> <p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Welfare Council Meeting – March 1, 2023 (start at minute 20)

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Analysis and Key Questions: Racial Disproportionalities and Disparities in California’s Child Welfare System • California Child Welfare Council Prevention and Early Intervention Committee: Community Pathway Recommendations • Creating a Child & Family Well-Being System: A Paradigm Shift from Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting
California, Humboldt County	Community supports Evident Change CRG Training	Implemented the Evident Change Community Response Guide a few years ago.
California, LA County	Training Policy/legislative Community supports	<p>Transformation of mandated reporting system to shift from mandated reporter role to mandated “supporter” role, with particular focus on over-surveilled and over-reported Black/African-American children and families. Includes reviewing training curriculum, learning sessions with educators, policy changes, addressing the fear among mandatory reporters about not reporting, etc.</p> <p>Plans to implement Community Response Guide.</p> <p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission for Children and Families: Knowledge is Power Summit Videos (2022) • LA County Mandated Supporting Initiative Roadshow Power Point (2022) (Appendix A) • Mandated Reporter Listening Session Questions (2022) (Appendix B) • Mandated Reporter Training Review Rubric (n.d.) (Appendix C) • Mandated Supporter Initiative Concept Paper (Appendix D) • Implementing Assembly Bill (AB) 2085: Guidance for Mandated Reporters in Los Angeles County (e-learning) https://learn.wellbeing4la.org/detail?id=401261&k=10662210 • Assembly Bill 2085 General Neglect Decision Tree for Mandated Reporters https://learn.wellbeing4la.org/detail?id=1150
California, San Diego County	Community supports Evident Change CRG	<p>In collaboration with Partners in Prevention and other community stakeholders, develop strategies for broader community engagement, including redefining the role of mandated reporters to reduce entries of children ages 0-5 into foster care, as well as testing out promising initiatives such as the Guaranteed Basic Income pilot. Also includes Evident Change and implementation of resource guide, as well as continuing to build out the community-response infrastructure (211/warmline).</p> <p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can helplines serve as a better pathway for families to access support? • How does San Diego’s child protection agency partner with 2-1-1 to better serve families and children?

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Colorado	Statewide commission Policy/legislative	<p>Legislatively created statewide mandatory reporting taskforce facilitated by the CPS Ombudsman to look closely at reforming policies related to mandatory reporting. Interim report with recommendations released January 1, 2024.</p> <p>Statutory changes under consideration in 2023: Colorado House Bill 23-1142 would require any person making a report to the state’s child welfare hotline include their name and phone number. Currently that information is optional.</p> <p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does mandatory reporting of child abuse help or hurt? A Colorado task force is taking a second look. • Interim Report: Mandatory Reporting Task Force (includes key recommendations)
Connecticut	Policy/legislative	Statutory changes under consideration in 2023: CT S 535 requires providers of reproductive health care and counseling to be mandatory reporters.
District of Columbia	Policy/legislative	Statutory changes under consideration in 2023: Workgroup is discussion option to amend policy with a goal of further narrowing the front door. DC B25-0043 repeals religious exception to the definition of child neglect.
Hawaii	Policy/legislative	Statutory changes under consideration in 2023: SB407 establishes a definition for “immediate harm” and amends the definition of “imminent harm”. SB350 modifies the exemption from mandatory reporting by members of the clergy so that they cannot be exempt if there exists a substantial risk.
Illinois	Policy/legislative	Statutory changes under consideration in 2023: HB1468 would remove a newborn infant who tests positive for a controlled substances from the definition of “neglected child” and require the Department of Public Health to conduct a family needs assessment and create a family care plan for any infant exhibiting signs of withdrawal from a controlled substance or medication.
Massachusetts	Statewide commission	<p>Statewide Mandated Reporter Commission, established in 2019.</p> <p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandated Reporter Commission Final Report (2021) • Massachusetts Commission Declines to Recommend Expansion of Mandated Reporters (2021)
Minnesota	Policy/legislative Community supports	<p>Educational neglect - looked at best practices across 5 counties to see what is coming through the school system; want to create alternatives, public health approach.</p> <p>Work with health care providers, specifically with regard to supporting families affected by substance use.</p>

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		<p>Statutory changes under consideration in 2023: MH HF2095 requires changes so that prenatal substance use itself does not constitute neglect or maltreatment, and establishes reporting requirements and informed consent requirements for parent and newborn infant toxicology tests and drug or alcohol screenings.</p> <p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of PACE program on racial disparities in the child welfare system
Mississippi	Policy/legislative	Statutory changes under consideration in 2023: H1371 provides immunity from civil and criminal liability in the process of reporting maltreatment.
Montana	Policy/legislative	Statutory changes under consideration in 2023: HB37 clarifies that substance use by a parent, disorderly living conditions, other factors closely related to economic status, or a child's obesity do not alone constitute physical or psychological harm to a child. Requires a warrant to remove a child except in exigent circumstances.
National	Evident Change CRG	<p>Evaluation of Evident Change Community Resource Guide in various locations (with the most intensive evaluation collaboration occurring in New Hampshire)</p> <p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Response Guide Theory of Change (Appendix E)
Nebraska	Policy/legislative	Statutory changes under consideration in 2023: LB271 expands the definitions of reporters, changes reporting requirements, and provides a training requirement for certain reporters.
New Hampshire	Community supports Evident Change CRG	<p>Support development and implementation of the Child Protection Reporter Guide</p> <p>National scan of trainings; significance of mindset shifts; active and ongoing use of data; Evident Change; involvement of parent partners</p> <p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did New Hampshire create and distribute a resource guide to support child and family well-being during the COVID-19 emergency? • Request for Proposals: Community Navigator Program • How can helplines serve as a better pathway for families to access support?
New York, New York City	Training Community supports	Strengthening community referral pathways between mandated reporters (e.g., public hospitals, CBOs, schools) and ACS's community-based prevention services, so that more families in need of support are connected to services earlier and voluntarily, and avoid unnecessary child protection involvement.

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		<p>1800 school liaisons have been provided with new training to foster a culture of support for families and the use of the state decision tree to help determine when a report is warranted.</p> <p>Initial focus on high-reporting schools to equip school staff with resources to support children and families, making calls to the SCR a last resort and furthering alternative pathways for connecting with local services in their communities.</p> <p>Parallel efforts to support training of mandated reporters at the public hospital system.</p> <p>Subsequent efforts to work with each City agency in the portfolio of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, including: Department of Social Services, Department of Homeless Services, NYC Health and Hospitals, Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs, Mayor’s Office of Veteran’s Affairs, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, NYC Chief Medical Examiner’s Office, Mayor’s Office of Community Mental Health, and Department of the Aging.</p>
New York (state)	Training	<p>New mandated reporter training.</p> <p>Statutory changes under consideration in 2023: A2479 replaces the system of anonymous reporting with confidential reporting. A2211 expands the definition of mandatory reporter.</p> <p>New York is implementing Blind Removals in certain communities as an approach to reducing racial disparities in CPS report screening, but until they develop a fidelity assessment tool and refine when they employ this strategy, they are not in a position to evaluate it with TA from Casey.</p> <p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrowing Mandated Reporting – Laws that Fuel Surveillance: Some options for New York • Mandated Reporter Decision Tree • Mandated Reporter Online Training
Ohio (metro)	Training Community supports Evident Change CRG	<p>Community rethinking about mandated reporting, including messaging, MR training, policy, dialogue, community partnership, and agency screening. Working with 5 major urban counties (Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Mahoning, and Summit), state child protective services, Ohio’s Children’s Trust Fund, community members and those with lived expertise. Partnering with Evident Change. As an important component, Ohio Community Prevention Navigation Convening to be held Friday March 8th for key partners to collaborate around the identification, coordination, and development of current and emerging mechanisms to connect families needing support to community based resources.</p> <p>Statutory changes under consideration in 2023: HB33 intended to make it easier to refer screened out families to community-based organizations (relevant sections include: 2151.421; 5101.136; 5107.137).</p>

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		<p>Ohio Children's Trust Fund is working with counties to launch the Family Success Network to help navigate family supports, resources and connections outside of and as a diversion to child protective services. This was launched via the 5 year federal Family Support Through Primary Prevention grant.</p> <p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evident Change: Shaping the Discovery Work. Ohio Community Response Guide (Appendix F) • Evident Change: Ohio Community Response Guide: Core Team Series – Session 3 Shaping Discovery (Appendix G) • Discovery Findings and Recommendations - Ohio CRG (evidentchange.org) • Ohio Community Response Guide: An Overview of Discovery Recommendations (video) • Repository for other relevant documents associated with the development of the Community Response Guide
Oklahoma	Policy/legislative	Statutory changes under consideration in 2023: H1540 modifies penalties relating to child abuse and the definition of enabling child abuse.
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia	Training Community supports	<p>Focused on increasing access to concrete supports, developing a helpline in partnership with the Department of Health, and redesigning and delivering training to mandated reporters focused on the education system. Grew out of Disproportionality Study that pushed leaders to consider what to do differently.</p> <p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philadelphia DHS Integrated Research Brief
Pennsylvania (state)	Training	<p>Review training and protocols and look for opportunities to transform the way in which the state interacts with mandated reporters</p> <p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse: Mandated Reporting in Pennsylvania • Testimony of Dr. Rachel Berger and Dr. Cindy Christian to the PA House of Representatives (December 16, 2020)
Texas	Training Policy/legislative	<p>House Bill 567 (effective 9/1/21) amended the definition of “neglect” to add that a parent’s behavior must show “blatant disregard” for the consequences to the child and to require that a parent’s acts or failure to act result in harm or place the child in “immediate danger,” rather than “substantial risk” of harm. The law also excludes from criteria for neglect allowing the child to engage in age-appropriate independent activities.</p> <p>House Bill 63 (effective 9/1/23) prohibits the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) from receiving a report of child abuse or neglect from an anonymous reporter. If the person is unwilling</p>

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		<p>to provide this information, intake staff will notify the person that DFPS is not able to accept an anonymous report of abuse and neglect and refer the person to local or state law enforcement. If law enforcement evaluates the report and refers it to DFPS, then DFPS is allowed to conduct a preliminary investigation on the report.</p> <p>DFPS updated the mandatory training available to the public online.</p> <p>Ongoing efforts continue by stakeholders to limit mandatory reporting. HB1667 was filed during the 2023 legislative session and received majority consensus but did not make it to the governor’s desk before sine die. Stakeholders are using this draft legislation as a starting point for continued discussions to allow professional reporters to refer to a community-based services and to remove any criminal liabilities for failure to report when those referrals are made. They are also exploring ways to better support mothers who have substance use issues through community supports and alternative response.</p>
Washington	Training Policy/legislative	<p>Redoing training?</p> <p>Statutory changes under consideration in 2023: S5280 requires clergy to report suspicions of child abuse and neglect except when obtained solely as a result of a confession.</p>
West Virginia	Policy/legislative	<p>Statutory changes under consideration in 2023: H2397 modifies the definition of child abuse and neglect to exclude accidental injury.</p>