



Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

Welcome!

Mandated Reporting Advisory
Committee Members
and
Public Participants

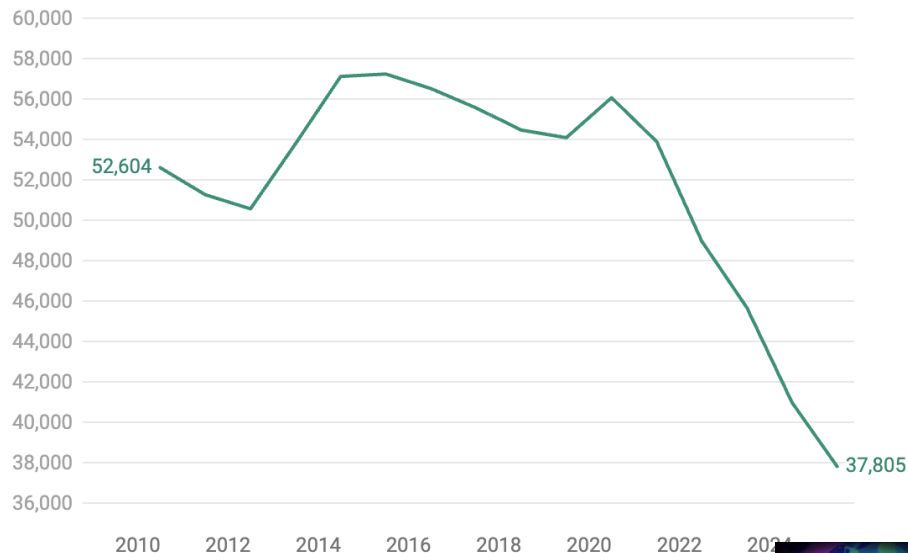
January 15, 2026

THE TREND OF KIDS IN CARE IS POSITIVE, YET...

In 2024, 4.9% of California's children age
0 – 17 had an allegation, nearly 420,000 kids

California's Foster Care Population Has Shrunk

The number of children placed in out-of-home foster care from 2010 to 2025.



Agenda

- Welcome and Connections
- Update on Statewide Mandated Reporter Training
- Moving from Implementation Planning to Action
- Public Comment
- Next Steps & Closing Remarks

Housekeeping

- MRAC Members: Name and MEMBER in zoom box, cameras on if possible
- Public Participants: Name in zoom box, cameras off, and mute on
- **Chat is open – We ask that Public Participants only use the chat during the Public Comment period at the end of the meeting**
- Host will put materials in the chat

Invitation to Create Necessary Space

Micky ScottBey Jones

Adapted from her work titled "Invitation to Create Brave Space"

What part of this invitation is resonating with you right now?



Together we will bravely create “necessary” space,
Because there is no such thing as a “safe space.”

We exist in the real world,
We all carry scars, and we have all caused wounds.

We seek to turn down the volume of the outside
world;
We amplify voices that fight to be heard elsewhere.
We call each other to more truth and love.
We have the right to start somewhere and continue
to grow;
We have the responsibility to examine what we think
we know.

We will not be perfect.
This space will not be perfect.
It will not always be what we wish it to be,
But it will be our necessary space together.
We will work on it side by side.

The Art of Conversation Behaviors



- We acknowledge one another as equals
- We stay curious about each other
- We recognize that we need each other's help to become better listeners
- We slow down so we have time to think and reflect
- We remember that conversation is a natural way humans think together
- We expect it to be messy at times
- We use “I feel”, “I believe”, or “In my experience” statements



**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

Land, Labor, and Trauma Acknowledgement



Update on Statewide Mandated Reporter Training

- AB 2085 training
- Statewide Gold Standard Mandated Reporter Training

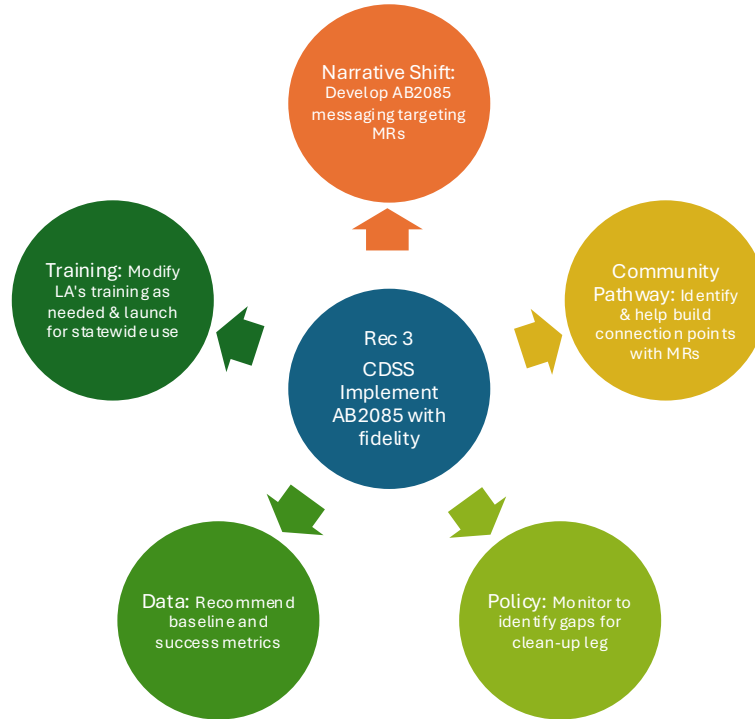
Integrated Focus: Implement AB 2085

Narrative Shift: messaging to start the new way of thinking, mindset shift, and public awareness

Community Pathway: MRs know the community pathways and build connection points to address families' needs with community supports

Data: what to track to know the law is being implemented, impact on the system

Policy: what is missing from the law, possible regs, what other policy is needed to support MRs



Recommendations 3 and 9 Highlighted in State Update

AB 2085



Ensure implementation of AB 2085 in all California Counties and Tribes until Recommendation #5 is implemented and General Neglect is removed as a reporting requirement

MR Training



Require the CDSS Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) to develop, with participation of individuals with lived expertise, a standardized curriculum for Mandated Reporters

2023

2024

2025

2026

2027

AB 2085 Roadmap



Dec 2023
Guidance released to social workers



Nov 2025
Gather info via focus groups



Feb/March 2026
Roll out training and start conversations about revision to SW training



Continue to promote

CDSS Mandated Reporter Training (MRT) Roadmap



Oct 2023
Focus groups held



Feb-Apr 2025
2nd focus groups

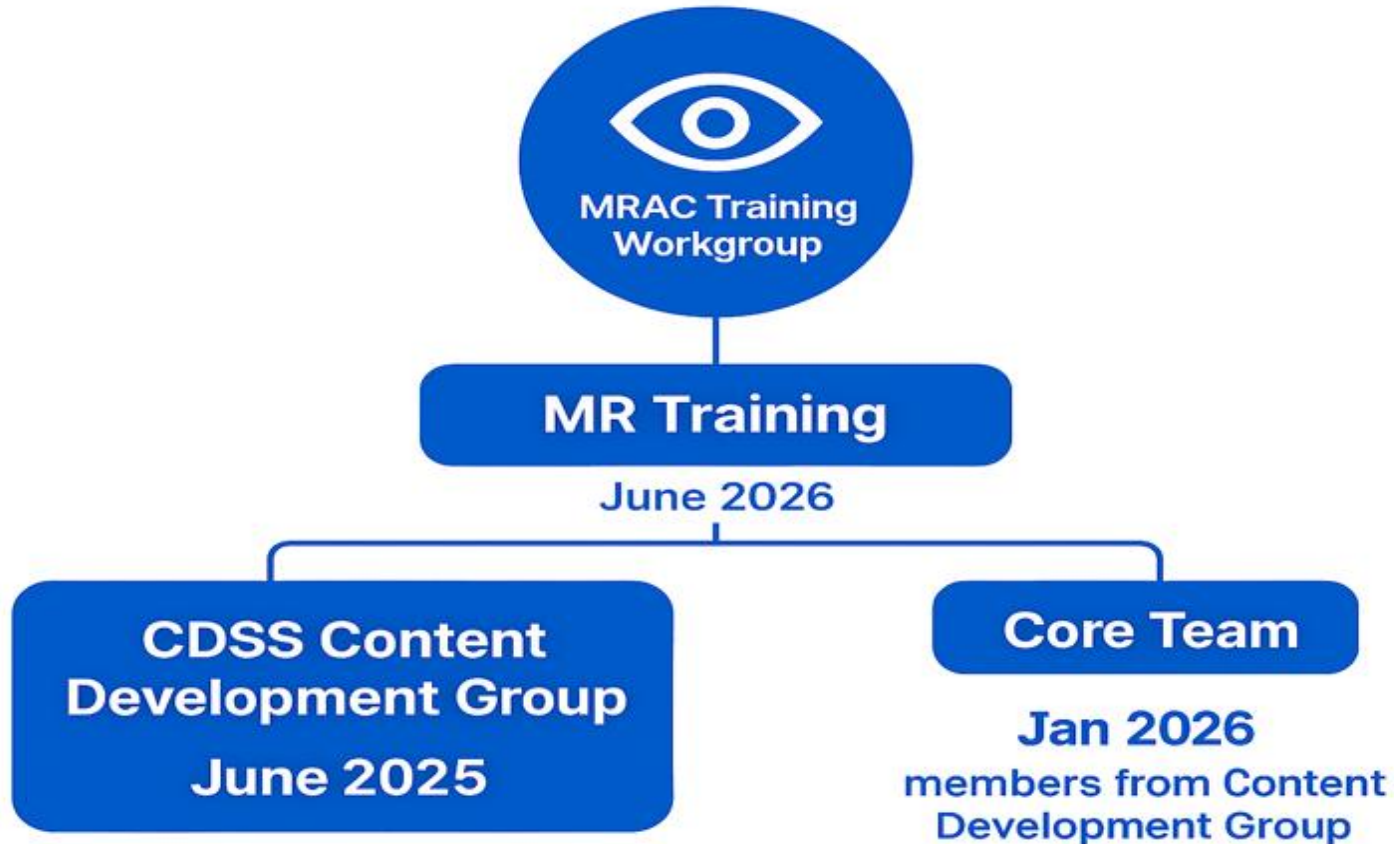


June 2026
General training module developed



Jul 1, 2027
SB 119 required MRT developed

CDSS MR Training Structure



Mandated Reporter Training Phases

Sept-Nov 2025

Phase—1 Project Planning, Kickoff, and Content Development

- Deliverables: module/lesson/topic architecture, course outline, course transcripts

Dec-Feb 2026

Phase—2 Layout Design, Content Completion, and Courseware Production

- Deliverables: Final course transcripts and final course designs

Mar-April 2026

Phase—3 Courseware production, QA Testing, and Validation

- Deliverables: Course alpha and beta review

May- June 2026

Phase---4 Courseware Production, QA Testing, Prepare and Test Course for LMS, User Acceptance Testing

- Deliverables: Course Gold Review and packages available in LMS

Gather Information: Focus Groups & Training Evaluations by CalTrin

Mandated Reporter General Training AB 2085 Implementation

February 2025 – April 2025

Focus Groups:

- 7 Focus Groups were conducted
- 60 participants registered to attend, 41 attended
- Focus Groups were divided into 2 main categories:
 - Law Enforcement & Education
 - Child Welfare

Training Evaluation:

- 48 participants completed

November 3-19, 2025

Focus Groups:

- 7 Focus Groups were conducted
- 45 attendees
 - Mix of county child welfare agencies, educators, and other mandated reporter stakeholders.

Training Evaluation:

- 22 participants Completed

Thematic Report & Recommendations

KEY COMMON THEMES ACROSS EVALUATION DATA

All focus group and training evaluation themes are summarized below.

- Strong Support for Community**
 - Focus Groups: Participant concerns about available resources
 - Training Evaluations: Mar supporting but wanted more practice.
- Need for Practical, Actionable**
 - Focus Groups: Requests for real-world scenario walkthrough
 - Training Evaluations: Part examples to apply learning
- Emotional Hesitation and Rep**
 - Focus Groups: Emotional uncertainty about the "right" making mandated reports a
 - Training Evaluations: Son
- Confusion About Poverty vs. N**
 - Focus Groups: Difficulty d reportable neglect was a do
 - Training Evaluations: Part addressing poverty and gra
- Frustrations with Training Del**
 - Focus Groups: Participant nuance, and needed to be r
 - Training Evaluations: Con elements, better pacing, an
- Desire for Faster Consultation**
 - Focus Groups: Need for h gray-area cases.
 - Training Evaluations: A sr "on-demand FAQs" into or c

ONLINE MANDATED REPORTER GENERAL TRAINING MODULE REDESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Simplify language, define key terms, and redesign narration.
- Increase engagement with videos, branching scenarios, and short quizzes (knowledge check throughout).
- Offer more bite-sized content – easier for participants to digest and understand.
- Incorporate nuanced case studies and gray-area decision-making scenarios.
- Create practical, downloadable tools such as:
 - Job aids
 - Flowcharts
 - Decision trees
 - Resource directories
 - Conversation starter guides
 - Sample SCAR form walkthroughs
 - Mock reporting scenarios
- Offer role-specific supplements to the general training for different mandated reporter groups (e.g., educators, medical staff, child welfare).

COMMUNITY SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Define clear indicators for when community support is appropriate versus when mandated reporting is required.
- Align training and messaging with statewide definitions, expectations, and the community-supporting framework.
- Develop sample collaboration protocols with administrators, case managers, and support staff (including for remote professionals).
- Provide quick-access consultation options (e.g., hotline, chat consult) for real-time decision support within 24-48 hours.
- Invest in local resource directories, support lines, and tangible assistance options for families.
- Normalize and promote a community-supporting mindset across all mandated reporter professions.
- Establish clear protections and guidelines for mandated reporters engaging in community support efforts.
- Build community trust through consistent outreach, partnerships, and culturally responsive practices.

KEY COMMON THEMES ACROSS FOCUS EVALUATION DATA

All focus group and training evaluation data w common themes are summarized below.

- Strong Support for AB 2085 Implementa**
 - Focus Groups: Participants express emphasis on clarifying general neglect responses, while noting that successful guidance, consistent county alignment
 - Training Evaluations: Respondents emphasized the need for more precise to apply the law in real-world situation
- Need for Practical, Statewide-Aligned D**
 - Focus Groups: Participants repeated decision trees, checklists, scripts, and reporting decisions across counties.
 - Training Evaluations: Participants as and decision-support tools to reinforce the training.
- Ongoing Uncertainty Around Reporting**
 - Focus Groups: Participants describe decision, and pressure to default to re 2085.
 - Training Evaluations: Some respond to report versus when to support, part after completing the training.
- Confusion About Poverty vs. Neglect**
 - Focus Groups: Difficulty differentiat general neglect emerged as a domina cost of living and available resources.
 - Training Evaluations: Participants re guidance that specifically address poo
- Need for Accessible Consultation and O**
 - Focus Groups: Participants emphasi such as hotlines, expert guidance, or complex cases.
 - Training Evaluations: A smaller but resources, FAQs, or decision aids to s beyond the training itself.

TRAINING REDESIGN AND ROLL-OUT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based on findings from the focus groups and training evaluation data, the following recommendations are offered to support both training refinement and statewide rollout of AB 2085.

- Strengthen Clarity Around Poverty vs. Neglect**
 - Training Changes: Incorporate additional case examples that explicitly distinguish poverty-related conditions from reportable general neglect, including gray-area scenarios and guided decision-making explanations.
 - Rollout Considerations: Develop and disseminate statewide guidance that clarifies thresholds and expectations, with consistent language that can be reinforced across counties and systems.
- Develop Practical, Statewide-Aligned Decision-Making Tools**
 - Training Changes: Integrate practical tools directly into the training, such as adaptable decision trees, checklists, flowcharts, and sample scripts that model conversations with families and supervisors.
 - Rollout Considerations: Provide a state-endorsed set of templates that counties can customize while maintaining consistent core principles and expectations.
- Reduce Reliance on County-Specific Examples**
 - Training Changes: Replace Los Angeles-specific branding, tools, and protocols with statewide examples or clearly labeled illustrative samples, ensuring relevance across diverse county contexts.
 - Rollout Considerations: Allow counties to supplement statewide training with local resources or "plug-ins" without altering the foundational content or intent of AB 2085.
- Increase Interactivity and Flexibility in Training Delivery**
 - Training Changes: Redesign modules to be shorter and more interactive, incorporating scenario-based activities, knowledge checks, and applied learning opportunities throughout the training.
 - Rollout Considerations: Offer multiple delivery options, such as self-paced modules paired with facilitated discussions, to support varied learning environments and staff capacity.
- Address Reporting Anxiety and Liability Concerns**
 - Training Changes: Include explicit discussion of legal protections, supervisory support, and documentation practices when community-based responses are used appropriately.
 - Rollout Considerations: Provide consistent statewide messaging that reinforces leadership support for AB 2085-aligned decision-making and reduces fear-driven over-reporting.
- Provide Accessible Consultation and Ongoing Support**
 - Training Changes: Highlight existing consultation pathways within the training and model how mandated reporters can seek guidance in real time when facing complex

High-level Themes to Lift Up

Support with consistent, equitable implementation of AB 2085



Distinguishing poverty from neglect

Reducing unnecessary reports rooted in material hardship, while maintaining strong protections for children risk



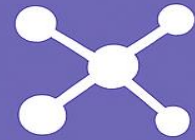
Mandated reporting as professional judgment, not automatic compliance

Expecting MR's to assess risk of serious physical harm or illness, not default to reporting based solely on family



Equity and disproportionality awareness

Addressing disproportionality in child welfare by encouraging more thoughtful, criteria-based reporting decisions



Consistency across mandated reporter systems

Clear, shared understanding of AB 2085 across sectors (education, healthcare, early childhood, behavioral health, social services) to avoid uneven

AB 2085 Beyond Training

Implementation challenges and opportunities beyond training

Narrative Shift

- Moving from “*when in doubt, report*” to “*use informed professional judgment.*”
- Recognizing that unnecessary reports can cause harm to families and systems.
- Supporting mandated reporters in understanding that AB 2085 clarifies their role, not weakens it.

MRAC Support:

- Reinforce shift through messaging, guidance, and cross-system dialogue.

AB 2085 Beyond Training

Implementation challenges and opportunities beyond training

Policy and Protocol Alignment

Mandated reporters may receive mixed messages when organizational guidance and training conflict with the updated law.

MRAC Support:

- Encourage the review and alignment of local policies with AB 2085 definitions and intent, possibly requiring revised internal policies.
- Clear internal guidance for supervisors and decision-makers who will be ensuring implementation by clarifying when referral to community supports is the appropriate response.

AB 2085 Beyond Training

Implementation challenges and opportunities beyond training

Tools and Support

Mandated reporters need access and guidance with real-time tools, not just training. These can include:

- Decision-making guides and resources that are embedded into intake or documentation systems.
- Clear alternatives to reporting, such as defined referral pathways to concrete supports.
- Quick-reference guides and job aides for mandated reporters and supervisors.

MRAC Support:

- Help identify and elevate effective tools and supports for mandated reporters.
- Encourage consistent use of tools and training across systems.
- Identify gaps where tools don't yet exist to support mandated reporters.

AB 2085 Beyond Training

Implementation challenges and opportunities beyond training

Continuous Learning Through Intentional Tracking & Feedback

Observing patterns in data can help improve implementation efforts:

- Trends in “general neglect” reports.
- Variations by reporter type, agency, role, etc.
- Use of community-based supports and referrals.

MRAC Support:

- Help analyze what the data means and identify what questions should be asked next as implementation scales and evolves.

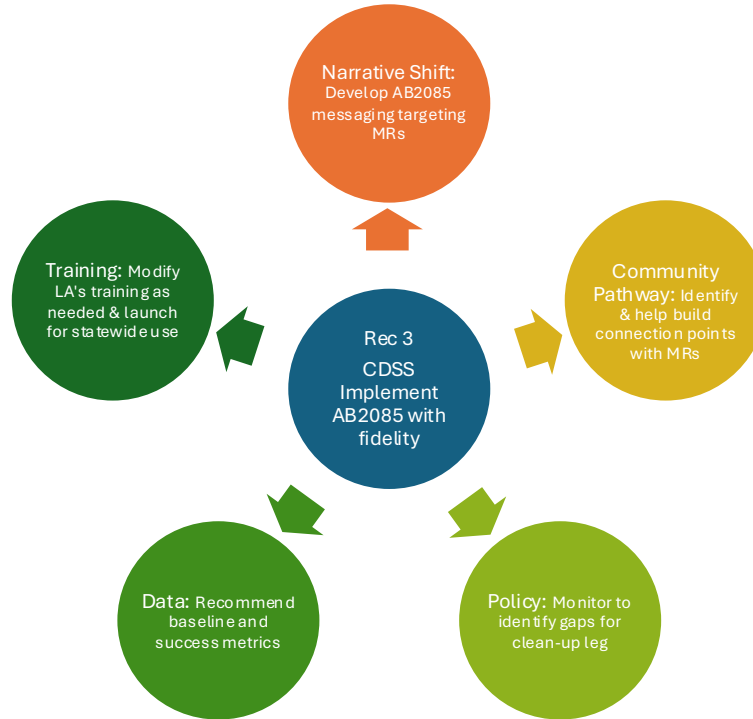
Integrated Focus: Implement AB 2085

Narrative Shift: messaging to start the new way of thinking, mindset shift, and public awareness

Community Pathway: MRs know the community pathways and build connection points to address families' needs with community supports

Data: what to track to know the law is being implemented, impact on the system

Policy: what is missing from the law, possible regs, what other policy is needed to support MRs





**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

Full Group Discussion: Moving From Implementation Planning to Action

The Purpose of the MRAC



**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

The MRAC is not simply a committee tasked with carrying out recommendations. It is a statutorily mandated body with a clear charge: Ensure California's shift from mandated reporting to community supporting moves forward, and that it drives the measurable elimination of disparities in the child welfare system.

Poll Question & Discussion

POLL QUESTION: How well do you understand your Workgroup's role in supporting the implementation of AB 2085?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are 1 - 2 specific things in your Workgroup's implementation plan that relates directly to helping advance AB 2085
- What processes and structures does this Advisory Committee need to work together to implement an Integrated Focus Approach—with AB 2085?

Poll Question & Discussion

POLL QUESTION: How well do you understand expectations for moving your implementation plans into action?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Are you clear on your next steps as a Workgroup?
- Where do you need clarity and/or support?

Poll Question & Discussion

- **POLL QUESTION:** For the MRAC meetings, do you prefer:
 - Working as a full group
 - More time in Workgroups to do work
 - Combination or rotation of the options

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is it about the approach you selected that will help your Workgroup advance your implementation plan?
- What else do you need to be successful?

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
- You can put comments in the chat that will go on the record
- No response will be provided



**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

CalPrevents Overview



Next Steps



**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

- Next MRAC meeting is **Thursday, February 19th**
- Meetings are set through June 2026—See chat for dates and please accept the calendar invites
- Continue to work between meetings. Meet at least once as a Workgroup – your PM will follow-up to support setting a meeting and agenda
- **February music selection... Community Pathways** 🎵🎵🎵



**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

Thank you!

