



Welcome to

From Promise to Action: Updates on California's Mandated Reporting Transformation

De la promesa a la acción: Novedades sobre la transformación del sistema de denuncia obligatoria en California (Interpretación al español comenzará pronto)

THE TRAINING WILL BEGIN SHORTLY! WHILE YOU'RE WAITING...



Icebreaker Question

(answer in the chat)

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Survey & Certificate of Completion

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- The California Training Institute
- Funded by the State of California, Dept. of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) to support child abuse prevention through professional development and extended learning opportunities.
- Designed for staff of family strengthening and child abuse prevention organizations in California, including Family Resource Centers, Child Abuse Prevention Councils, community-based organizations, and other child and family serving systems.

What we offer

- Live webinars & small group training
- Virtual, self-paced courses
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This training was made possible with funding from the California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, and/or recommendations expressed are those of the CEBC /CalTrin and do not necessarily reflect the views of the California Department of Social Services.



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February 4 | Cultural Competence



February 5 | The Role of Accountability in the Coaching Process



February 18 | Child Trafficking 101



February 19 | Parental Resilience

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AFTER



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A follow-up email will be sent to all participants within two days.



From Promise to Action: Updates on California's Mandated Reporting Transformation

Presented by Janay Eustace, Alicia Garoupa, & Juan Solis





**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

From Promise to Action: Update on California's Mandated Reporting Transformation

Presented in Partnership with CALTRIN

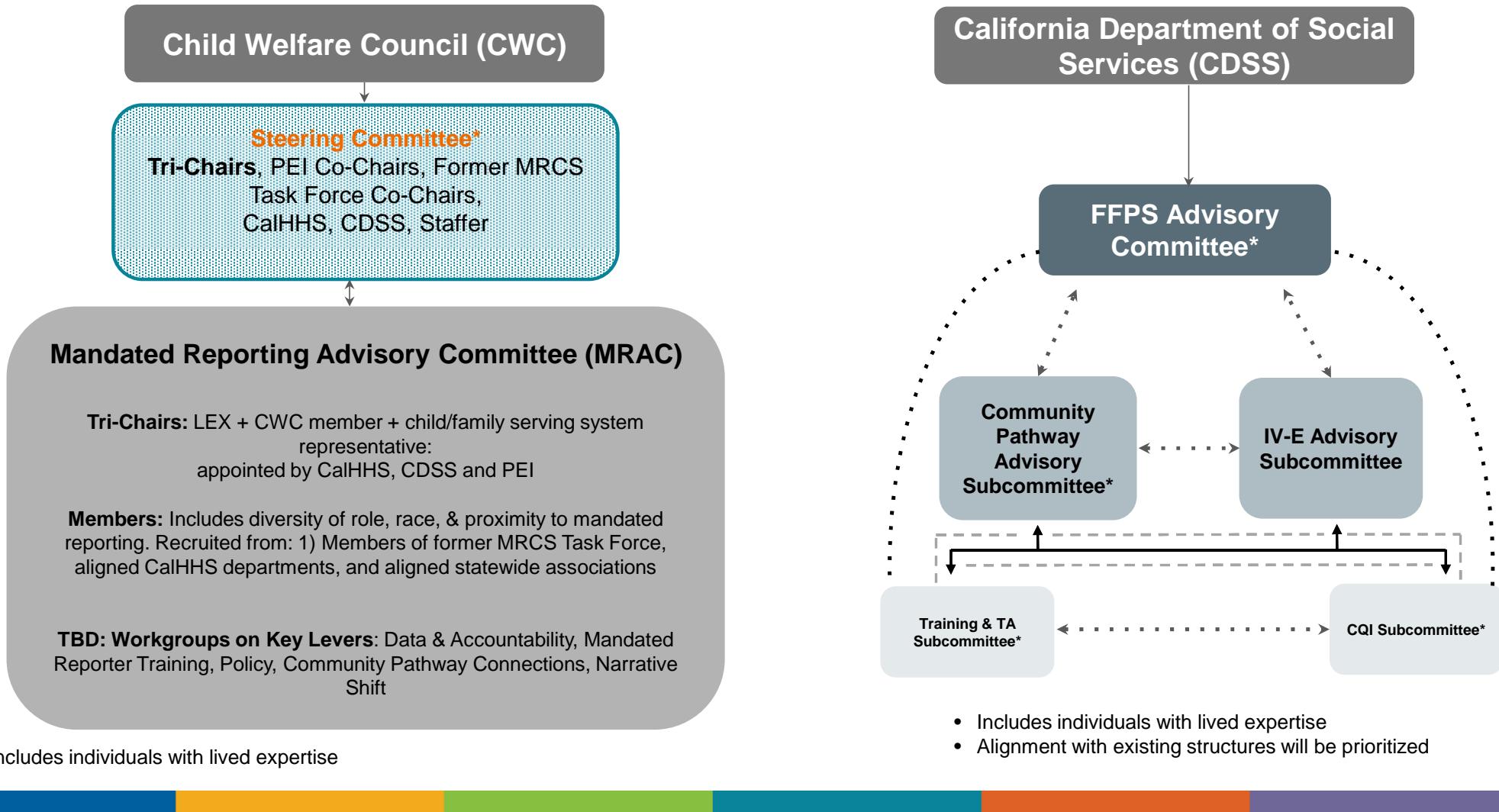
January 21, 2026

Welcome and Opening Remarks



COMPONENTS OF A CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING SYSTEM

DRAFT Updated: July 2025





Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting Task Force

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

PRESENTERS: MRAC Tri-Chairs



Janay Eustace
President & CEO, California
Child Abuse Prevention Center



Juan Solis
Father Engagement
Coordinator, Children's Network,
San Bernardino County



Alicia Garoupa
Chief of Wellbeing & Support
Services, Los Angeles County
Office of Education

OPENING REMARKS

Prevention & Early Intervention (PEI) Committee Co-Chairs

- Dana Blackwell, Child Welfare Council Member; Senior Director, CA Strategic Consultation, Casey Family Programs
- Kathy Icenhower, Child Welfare Council Member; FFPS Leadership Team; CEO, SHIELDS for Families Los Angeles

AGENDA

- Centering the conversation on lived expertise
- The “Why” of Mandated Reporting reform
- Historical perspective
- The MRCS Task Force
- Recommendations for transformation
- Implementation and early wins
- Creating sustainable change together

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Examine the unintended consequences of mandated reporting** on California’s child and family court system.
- **Engage in shifting the statewide narrative** from reporting to support, so families and children can remain safely together.
- **Highlight actionable reforms** to realign the mandated reporting system that can align with other vital components of county and state work
- **Understand the need for, and impact of, engaging multiple diverse stakeholders**—emphasizing individuals with lived expertise and experience

Poll Question

POLL QUESTION:

Which best describes where your
and/or your
county/agency/organization is
right now in advancing mandated
reporting reform?



“My daughter was born medically fragile. I had no support from my family, and I didn’t know where to go for help or even what to ask for. The domestic violence in our home got worse because of the stress of being parents of a child with significant needs. When the police called CPS, I had no idea that my child could be removed because I was a victim of domestic violence. How could they take her away? I believe my experience—and my daughter’s life—would have been different if we had support and had known about the “failure to protect” laws. Even though my daughter was in foster care for less than a year, she continues to suffer from the experience.”

— Shelley Lopez, MRCS Task Force and Lived Experience Group member, parent, and advocate

“Students learn best in safe and supportive school environments. We must re-examine our training and support for mandated reporters, as well as our policies and practices to ensure that we are centering child safety and strengthening families through prevention. We need to better understand and address over-reporting and over-surveillance, especially around general neglect, and critically examine how bias contributes to harm experienced by our historically underserved students and families.”

— Dr. Debra Duardo, Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools

“We can do so much better, and the time is now. Maybe 20 years ago the time wasn’t right, but the time is now. Communities are strong and ready to do this work. The Task Force is made up of transformers who must continue to do the work, no matter how scary. It takes all of us living in the uncomfortable zone to push.”

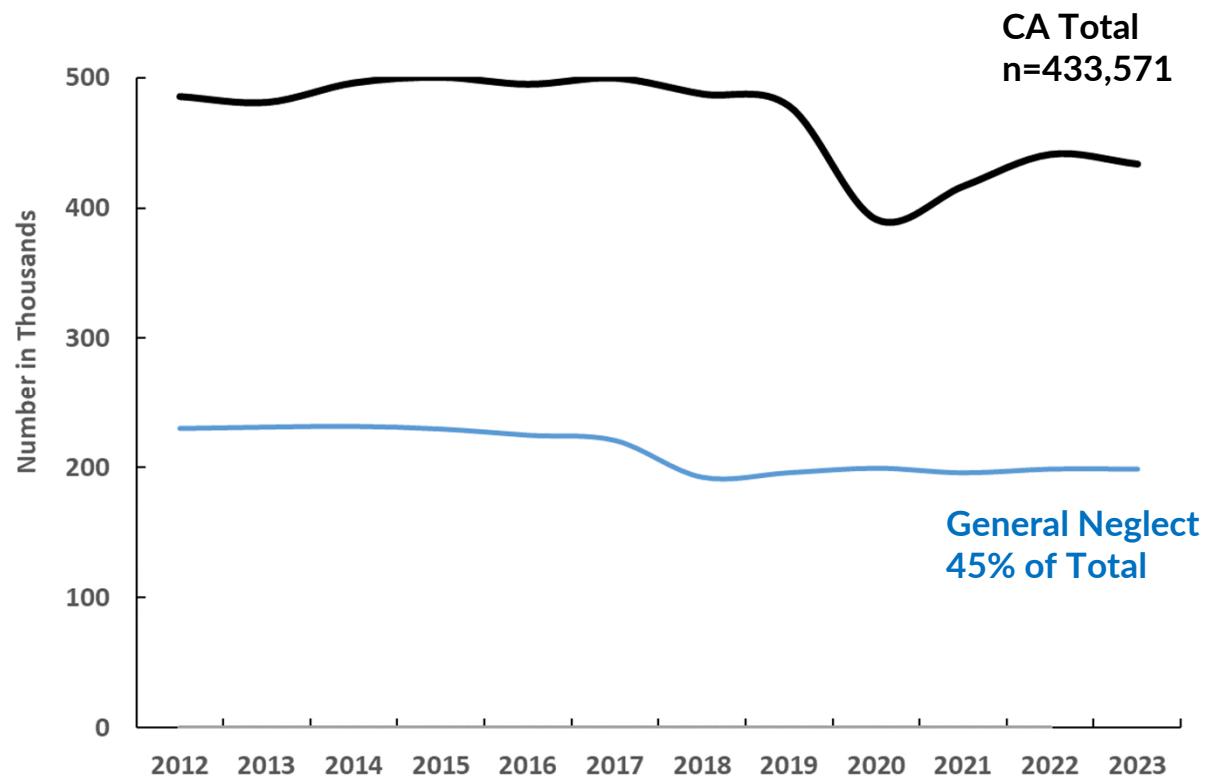
— Janay Eustace, President & CEO, The Child Abuse Prevention Center



General Neglect is the #1 allegation

45% of all children with an allegation of maltreatment are related to general neglect, an occurrence that can often be mitigated by community supports. General neglect is a “catch-all” allegation that is often driven by racism, bias, and the absence of economic opportunity and resources. It can also include issues related to domestic violence, substance abuse, and mental health.

Children with an Allegation of Maltreatment



Black/African American, Native American, and Latino families are significantly more likely to be reported to child abuse hotlines

1 in 3 Children

in the U.S. is subject to an investigation of child abuse by the time they turn 18.¹

1 in 2 Black & Native American Children

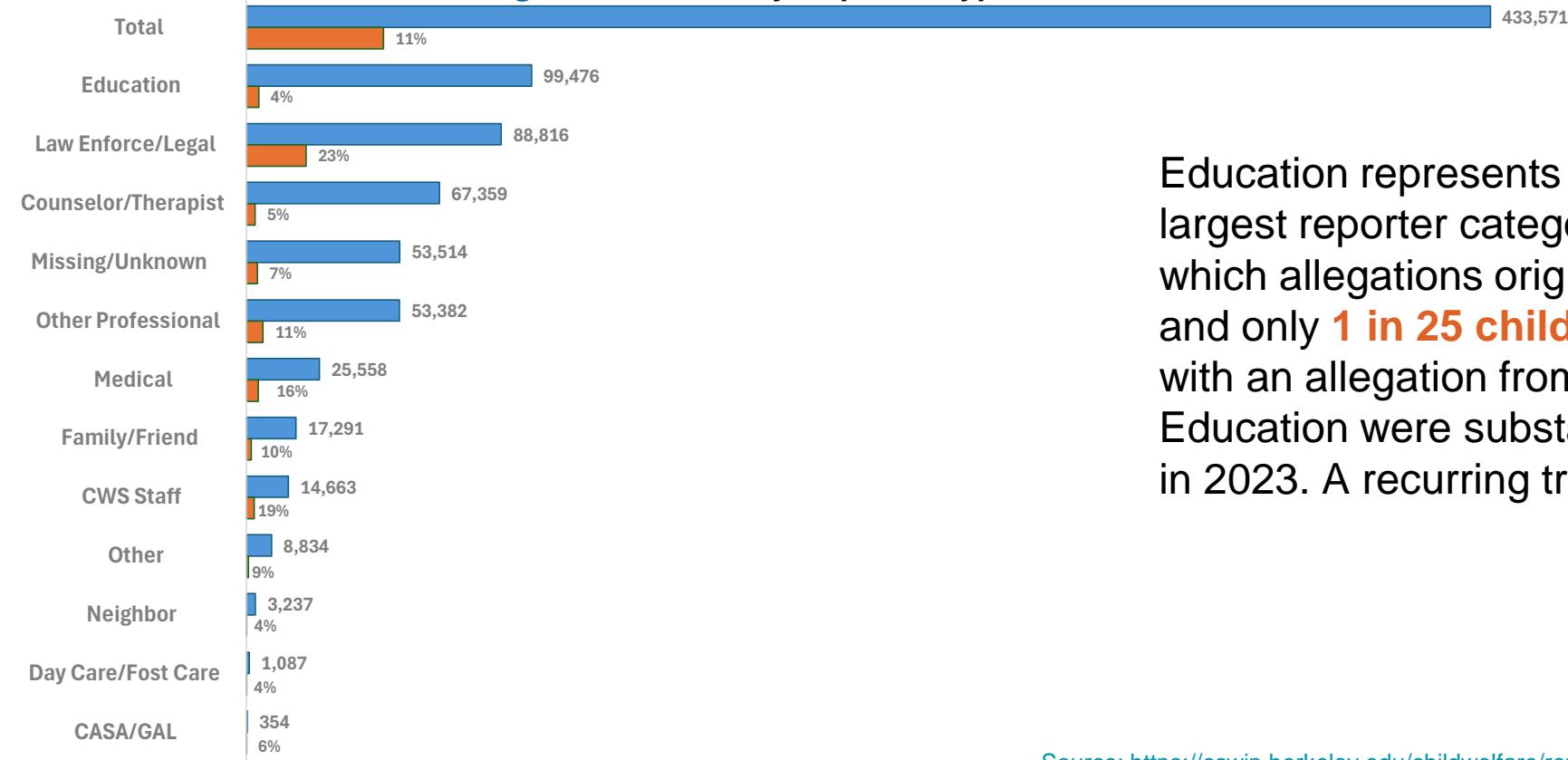
in California is subject to an investigation of child abuse by the time they turn 18.²

¹ American Journal of Public Health, 2017

² California Legislative Analyst's Office, 2024

In 2023, only 1 in 9 children with an allegation of abuse and/or neglect was substantiated in California

Children with one or more Allegations in 2023 by Reporter Type & Percent Substantiated



Education represents the largest reporter category from which allegations originate, and only **1 in 25 children** with an allegation from Education were substantiated in 2023. A recurring trend.

Source: <https://ccwip.berkeley.edu/childwelfare/reports/Allegation/STSG/r/ab636/>

Additional Harms of Mandated Reporting

- **Fear of Asking for Support:** Families share that they often do not ask for help due to fear of how their situation will be perceived, and that they could lose their child.
- **Trauma and Stigma:** Families talk about being traumatized by child welfare investigations and stigmatized by allegations that follow them, even if the outcome of the investigation did not result in formal system involvement
- **CWS System Overburdened:** Majority of reports to the child welfare hotline do not need formal system involvement; as a result, the child welfare workforce is overburdened and unable to focus on referrals that do require formal attention



The Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting Task Force: Developing Transformative Recommendations



Momentum Toward Mandated Reporting Reform

Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA):

- Federal government opened door to family strengthening
- California's plan takes even broader approach to investing in prevention

Prevention and Early Intervention Committee of California's Child Welfare Council:

- Leading prevention efforts since 2007, with integral role in CA's FFPS plan
- Advanced the Community Pathway Recommendations to pave the way for mandated reporting reform and community pathway development



AB 2085 (2022): California narrows the legal definition of neglect to exclude economic disadvantage and require substantial risk of harm

Safe & Sound Issue Brief in Partnership with the Office of Child Abuse Prevention, 2022



Citizen Review Panel Recommendations, 2022



LAO Report: California's Child Welfare System Addressing Disproportionalities and Disparities, April 2024



Task Force Composition

The Task Force was comprised of **32 diverse members** across 7 sectors and 11 counties

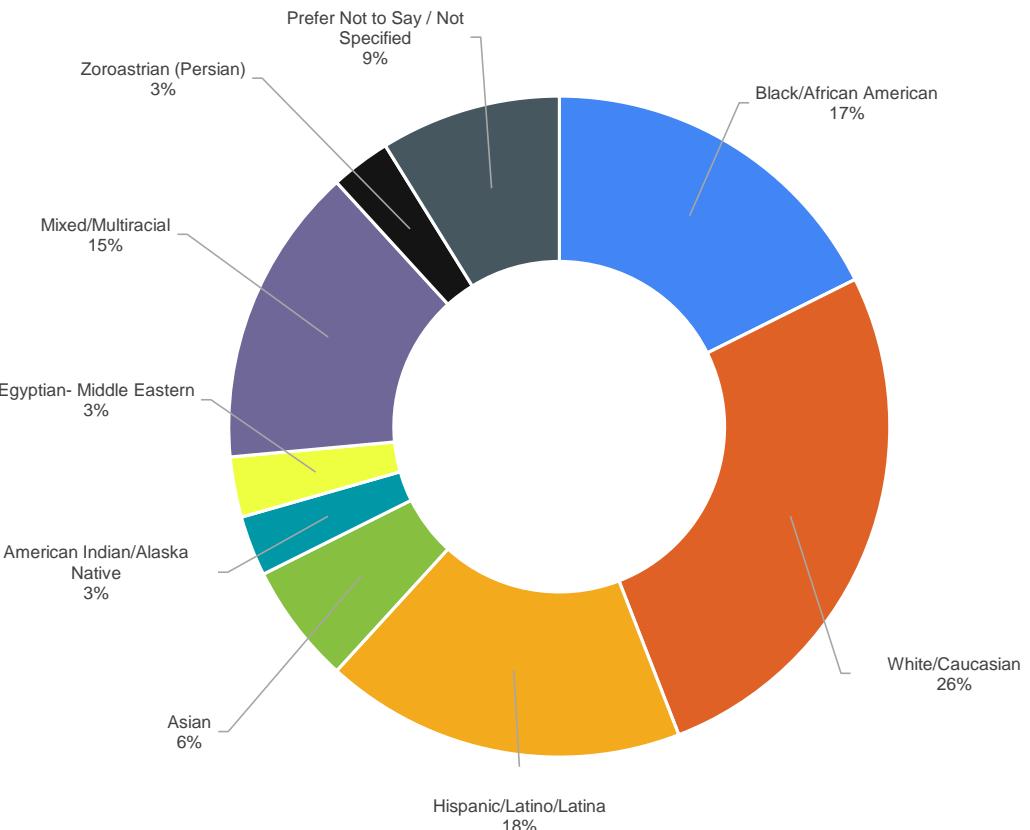
Lived Experience

- **88%** worked in or had personal experience with the child welfare system.
- **28%** had lived experience with child protective services as a youth or parent/caregiver.

Mandated Reporter Experience

- **59%** were Mandated Reporters.
- **94%** worked in or had personal experience with Mandated Reporting laws and/or practices.

Task Force Composition by Race and Ethnicity*



* Note: percentages add up to more than 100% as some members may fall into multiple categories

Subcommittee Composition

Six subcommittees that included 32 Task Force members and **68 cross-sector Subcommittee members** across 24 counties

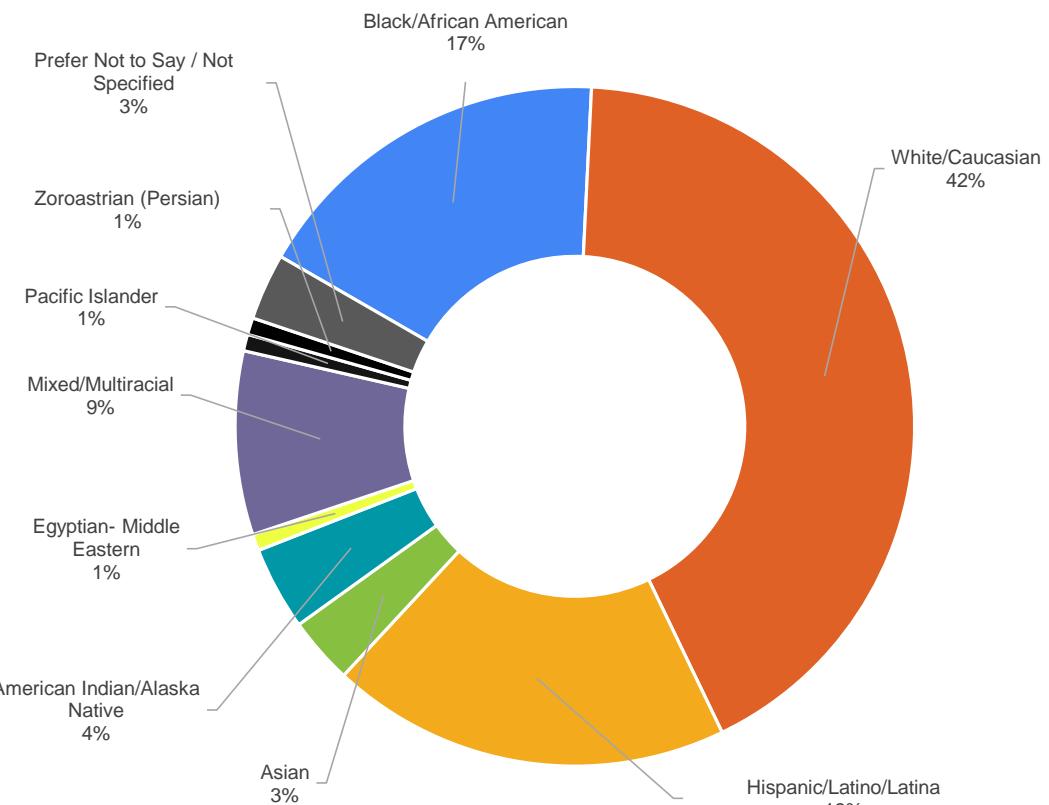
Lived Experience

- **79%** worked in or had personal experience with the child welfare system.
- **25%** had lived experience with the child welfare system as a youth or parent/caregiver.

Mandated Reporter Experience

- **63%** were Mandated Reporters.
- **81%** worked in or had personal experience with Mandated Reporting laws and/or practices.

Subcommittee Composition by Race and Ethnicity



* Note: percentages add up to more than 100% as some members fall into multiple categories

Recommendations & Key Levers for Implementation

Data / Accountability

Recommendation 1: The California Child Welfare Council (CWC), through its Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Committee, shall establish a Mandated Reporting Advisory Committee (MRAC) to ensure the transformation of Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting continues and disparities in the child welfare system are eliminated. (SP 1)

Recommendation 2: Request the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), in collaboration with the Mandated Reporting Advisory Committee (MRAC), to continuously monitor disparities in the child welfare system. (SP 1)

Recommendation 13: Require the California Department of Social Services' (CDSS) to ensure recommendations from the Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting (MRCS) Task Force and any subsequent policy reforms related to Mandated Reporting are enacted and efforts necessary to ensure continued transformation of the Mandated Reporting system are advanced.

Focus and sustain action to ensure the efforts of mandated reporting reform are carried out with fidelity and accountability.



Recommendations & Key Levers for Implementation

Policy

Recommendation 4: In alignment with the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) report, *California's Child Welfare System: Addressing Disproportionality and Disparities*, encourage the LAO to continue analyzing disparities in the Mandated Reporting system to determine if narrowing mandated reporter categories in the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA) negatively impacts child safety. (SP 1)

Recommendation 5: Support the amendment of the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA) to remove the reporting requirement of *General Neglect* for Mandated Reporters. (SP 2)

Recommendation 6: Support the amendment of the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA) to revise and clarify the definition of *Severe Neglect* to be aligned with the definition of Severe Neglect utilized in the [California Structured Decision Making \(SDM\) Tool](#). (SP2)

Recommendation 7: Encourage the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), in collaboration with the Mandated Reporting Advisory Committee (MRAC) and Counties, to implement a two-year pilot that provides Mandated Reporters with immunity from liability as identified in [Penal Code Section 11166 \(C\)](#) when there is a demonstrated use of a child abuse and neglect decision-making process that indicates a child's safety is not at risk and a report is not required. (SP 3)



Enact laws and regulations that will address the well-documented over-reporting of the current mandated reporting system, with a focus on the disproportionate burden on Black/African American and Native American communities.

Recommendations & Key Levers for Implementation

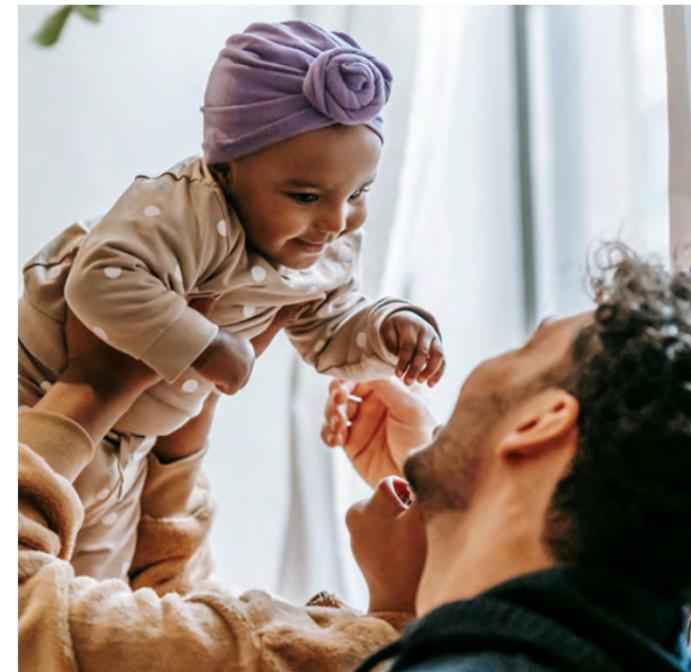
Training

Recommendation 8: Support the amendment of Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA) to require all Mandated Reporters in California receive standardized training on child abuse and neglect. (SP 3)

Recommendation 9: Require the CDSS Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) to develop, with participation of individuals with lived expertise, a standardized curriculum for Mandated Reporters. (SP 3)

Recommendation 10: Encourage the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), in collaboration with the Mandated Reporting Advisory Committee (MRAC), to create a mandated reporting web page specific to Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting. (SP 3)

Recommendation 3: The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) shall ensure the implementation of AB 2085 in all California Counties and Tribes until such time that Recommendation #5 is implemented, and General Neglect is removed as a mandated reporting requirement. (SP 3)



Leverage training as a tool to begin shifting the conversation from reporting families to supporting families.

Recommendations & Key Levers for Implementation

Community Pathway

Recommendation 11: Require the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to incorporate an assessment of the capacity of community supports and services. (SP 4)

Recommendation 12: Consistent with the PEI Community Pathway Recommendations, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) shall be required to ensure Counties' Comprehensive Prevention Plans (CPP) incorporate information and education specific to Mandated Reporters regarding the implementation of and access to Community Pathways and/or community resources available to support families in their communities. (SP 4)

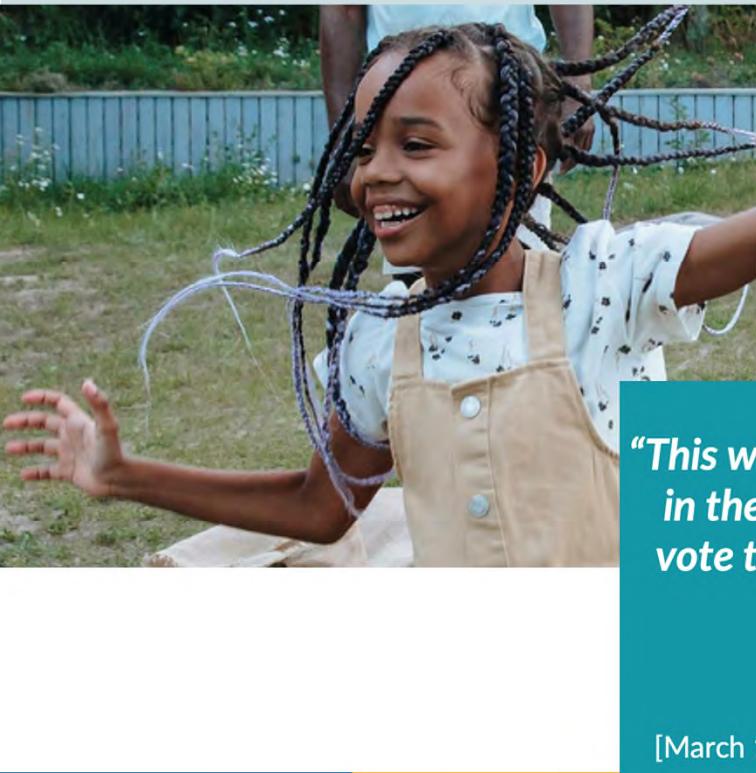
Help ensure mandated reporters understand the resources available to support families and the mechanisms for making connections to supports instead of reporting



Recommendations & Key Levers for Implementation

Narrative Shift

Recommendation 14: Ensure the creation and implementation of a statewide narrative change initiative. (SP 5)



Increase awareness and understanding of the need for mandated reporting reform; as well as the individual, family, and societal benefits of safely narrowing the front door to CPS.

"This will take a reorientation of both mindset and how people work—how we invest in the work and invest in the people who do the work. This is not just an average vote that we turn our backs on. This is a vote with a commitment that we all stay involved and support a mindset shift to make this happen."

- Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency

[March 13, 2023: In response to a unanimous CWC approval of the PEI Community Pathway Recommendations]

Standing Up the MRAC



Standing Up The MRAC

36 TOTAL MEMBER SEATS + TRI-CHAIRS

21 Community, Organization, and Provider Seats – Invited applicants from Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting Task Force and Subcommittee members

- Parents & Caregivers with Lived Expertise (2)
- Tribal Communities (2)
- Youth with Lived Expertise (2)
- System of Care (1)
- Community-Based Organization (CBO): Child Abuse Prevention Council (1)
- CBO: Domestic Violence Advocacy / Provider (1)
- CBO: Family Resource Centers (1)
- CBO: Behavioral Health (1)
- CBO: Child Welfare Prevention Provider (2)
- CBO: Data & Research (1)
- Education: Elementary/Middle/High School (1)
- Education: Early Childhood and Childcare (1)
- Health Care (1)
- Legal Representation (1)
- Policy (1)
- Law Enforcement/First Responder (1)
- Probation/Juvenile Justice (1)



Progress To Date: Standing Up The MRAC

36 TOTAL MEMBER SEATS + TRI-CHAIRS

9 CalHHS Department Seats – Identify and invite candidates from each selected Department (one person per seat)

- Department of Developmental Services
- Department of Public Health
- Department of Social Services
- Community Services and Development
- Department of Healthcare Services
- Managed Health Care
- Department of Rehabilitation
- Office of the Surgeon General
- Office of Youth and Community Restoration



Progress To Date: Standing Up The MRAC

36 TOTAL MEMBER SEATS + TRI-CHAIRS

6 State Association Seats – Identify and invite candidates from each selected Association (one person per seat unless noted)

- Child Welfare Directors Association (CWDA)
- California Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA)
- Association of Regional Centers Agencies (ARCA)
- California Teachers Association (CTA) - 2
- California Child Abuse Prevention Centers (CAPC)
- Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Program and State Advocacy
- Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC)



MRAC Members

Community, Organization, and Provider Seats	CalHHS Department Seats	State Association Seats	
Parents & Caregivers with Lived Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tina Rios • Jason Sharpe Tribal Communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keishanne Whitworth Youth with Lived Expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monique Nunes • Jevon Wilkes System of Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melissa Preader • Cindy Sutcliffe CBO: Domestic Violence Advocacy/ Provider <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arati Vasan CBO: Family Resource Centers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pegah Faed CBO: Behavioral Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danielle Lowe CBO: Child Welfare Prevention Provider <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elle Grant • Mara Ziegler 	CBO: Data & Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Webster Education: Elementary/Middle/High School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marcelino Serna Education: Early Childhood and Childcare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthony Garcia Health Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather Briscoe Legal Representation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Progress Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luciana Svidler Law Enforcement/First Responder <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Sheriff Ed Axelsen Probation/Juvenile Justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Progress 	Department of Developmental Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leah Dempsey Department of Public Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jane Andrews Department of Social Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenny Pearlman Department of Education (outside of CA Health and Human Services) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erika Torres Community Services and Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Progress Department of Healthcare Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Pam Riley Managed Health Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Progress Department of Rehabilitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Progress Office of the Surgeon General <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lauren Groves Office of Youth and Community Restoration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Josefa Rodriguez Fontan 	County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayle Johnson California Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gail Gronert Association of Regional Centers Agencies (ARCA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Bloom, Director of Client Services California Teachers Association (CTA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patricia Rucker, Legislative Advocate • Connie Rosales, Regional Executive Director California Child Abuse Prevention Centers (CAPC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cindy Marroquin, Training Director Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Program and State Advocacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Progress Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Progress

Implementation Strategy and Plan



Key Levers of Implementation: The Recommendations are each connected to a key lever of change to focus the implementation strategy

Shared Framework: To organize development of the implementation plan, the MRAC established a shared framework that articulates the deliverables for each recommendation, guides the identification of key activities, and highlights productive intersections across Workgroups

- Data and Accountability
- Policy
- Training
- Connecting to a Community Pathway of Supports and Services
- Narrative Shift

Key Lever of Implementation: Training

Leverage training as a tool to begin shifting the conversation from reporting families to supporting families

TRAINING	DELIVERABLES	ACTIVITIES	TIMING
Rec 3 — Use data to track AB 2085 implementation [shared with Data & Accountability]	Oversight of the AB 2085 training (CDSS lead)	Provide structured oversight of CDSS MR training (feedback loops, reviews, certificate process)	Oversight of the development of CDSS MR training: March 2025–April 2026
Rec 8 — Require standardized mandated reporter training	Recommendations for CANRA amendments tied to standardized training	Create crosswalk between training and legislation	Decision-making tool survey with the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP): November 2025
Rec 9 — Develop statewide “gold standard” curriculum with lived expertise	Curriculum oversight to ensure alignment with core content and lived expertise	Explore review processes for non-state trainings	Webpage development & implementation: TBD
Rec 10 — Develop a statewide mandated reporter webpage	Training approval standards and certification processes	Survey decision-making tools from CA counties and other states	AB 2085 training development and oversight: January 2026
	Development and ongoing monitoring of statewide MR webpage	Develop and operationalize MR webpage content, monitoring, and dissemination	
		Monitor AB 2085 training implementation data	
		Develop communications and messaging for training awareness	

Key Lever of Implementation: Data & Accountability

Focus and sustain action to ensure the efforts of mandated reporting reform are carried out with fidelity and accountability

DATA & ACCOUNTABILITY	DELIVERABLES	ACTIVITIES	TIMING
Rec 1 — Establish MRAC; track data to monitor and support progress	Semi-annual report to CWC on progress Ongoing analysis of impacts of recommendations	Align with FFPS CQI workgroup; review plans, EBPs, county saturation	Metrics landscape analysis + socialization: February 2026
Rec 2 — Recommend and apply data sets to advance MR reform	Recommendations for future data tools/processes for mandated reporting	Inventory statewide data sources and metrics (SDOH, ACES, EpiCenter, etc.)	Recommend five key metrics: March 2026
Rec 3 — Use data to track implementation and success of AB 2085 [shared with Training]	Oversight of implementation data	Conduct landscape scan of available upstream/downstream metrics	Alignment with FFPS: Ongoing
Rec 13 — Continue to advance MR reform through ongoing data analysis	Regular monitoring of statewide data Annual publication of disparities and impact data with CDSS Data submissions to support Community Pathways capacity assessment (Rec 11)	Develop and recommend five key metrics to track reform impact Outreach to agencies and youth/parent advocacy groups for qualitative data Meet quarterly with all MRAC workgroups to identify shared measures	Quarterly cross-workgroup coordination: Ongoing

Key Lever of Implementation: Community Pathways

Help ensure mandated reporters understand the resources available to support families and the mechanisms for making connections to supports instead of reporting

COMMUNITY PATHWAYS	DELIVERABLES	ACTIVITIES	TIMING
Rec 11 — CDSS to assess capacity of community supports/services for MR and OCAP funding alignment	Review of CQI Outcomes Develop Recommendations from CQI findings (in partnership with CP Advisory Committee)	Coordinate timelines with MRAC Data and CP Advisory Committees Review statewide CQI reports and identify gaps	All Rec 11 Initial Deliverables: Within 0–12 months
Rec 12 — CPPs must include MR-specific info/education on community pathways	Align OCAP Funding (ensure funding is accessible to CBOs and linked to prevention needs) Define “information and education” for CPP amendments; develop statewide template Draft All County Letter or Interagency Letter with requirements and timeline Create process to ensure all amendments are completed Monitor implementation of amendments through CDSS + CP Advisory Committee Support counties in building MR-focused websites and warm handoff practices	Conduct EBP access and county CPP gap analysis Stakeholder outreach and engagement (ILT, providers, counties) Create dissemination plan for recommendations Collaborative meetings with CDSS, CP Advisory Committee, and workgroups Draft CPP amendment template Establish ACL/Interagency Letter content & approval process Develop tracking tool for county submissions Coordinate with Data Workgroup on monitoring	All Rec 12 Initial Deliverables: Within 0–12 months

Key Lever of Implementation: Policy

Enact laws and regulations that will address the well-documented over-reporting of the current mandated reporting system, with a focus on the disproportionate burden on Black/African American and Native American communities

POLICY	DELIVERABLES	ACTIVITIES	TIMING
Rec 4 — Support LAO analysis of narrowing MR categories	Collaboration with LAO to analyze MR categories and child safety impacts	Invite LAO to present findings; develop 1-page summary	LAO engagement + report alignment: Feb 2026
Rec 5 — Amend CANRA to eliminate General Neglect as a reporting requirement	Research on national MR category reforms	Review other states' MR categories and outcomes	SDM tool review (counties + definitions): Feb 2026–March 2026
Rec 6 — Update CANRA definition of Severe Neglect to align with SDM	Recommendations for legislation removing General Neglect from MR requirements	Gather data from mandated reporters beyond top categories	Liability pilot research + stakeholder coordination: March 2026
Rec 7 — Implement 2-year liability immunity pilot using decision-making tools	Recommendations for clarifying Severe Neglect definition Liability pilot design, tools, evaluation framework (leveraging LA County model)	Review SDM tool use across CA counties (Humboldt, LA, Ventura) Research other states' definitions of neglect and recent reforms Review CA county MR decision-making tools to inform pilot design	

Key Lever of Implementation: Narrative Shift

Increase awareness and understanding of the need for mandated reporting reform; as well as the individual, family, and societal benefits of safely narrowing the front door to CPS

NARRATIVE SHIFT	DELIVERABLES	ACTIVITIES	TIMING
Rec 14 — Create a statewide narrative change initiative to shift beliefs and values from mandated reporting to community supporting	Establish campaign objectives and communications plan Develop and implement statewide Narrative Shift Campaign Co-develop messaging with lived experts and community stakeholders Build qualitative data library (case studies, lived expertise stories) Merge dissemination and NS Workgroup efforts	Develop key messages (poverty = support, safety redefined, harm acknowledgment) Gather stakeholder input through extensive listening sessions Review existing listening session data (Humboldt, LA, statewide FGIs) Draft full communications plan (purpose, audiences, strategies, tactics) Compile qualitative stories, bright spots, and case studies Coordinate with CP, Data, Training, Policy Workgroups to support their implementation	Key messaging + harm statement: Jan 2026 Listening sessions + synthesis: End of Q2 2026 Full communications plan: Draft by Sept 2026; Final by Nov 2026 Qualitative Data (stories) Library: Q1 2026 and ongoing

Leveraging the Natural Intersections

While advancing implementation of all recommendations

WHAT: AB2085: Seeing clear intersections across recommendations, the MRAC is pinpointing where an integrated approach will move the work forward faster and more effectively.

WHY: Almost three years following the implementation of AB 2085, awareness and adherence to the law are extremely low across the state.

HOW: With a coordinated implementation effort that strategically applies the implementation levers of change the MRAC will harness our collective impact efforts to significantly increase awareness, help strengthen practice consistency, and ensure the law achieves its intended impact of reducing unnecessary reporting and advancing equity statewide.



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.



A BIG WIN: ADVANCED IN LEGISLATION



SB 119, signed into law in July 2025

- The California Child Welfare Council shall establish a Mandated Reporting Advisory Committee (MRAC). It is the intent of the Legislature that the MRAC ensure the transformation of mandated reporting to community supporting continues and disparities in the child welfare system are eliminated. (Recommendation 1)
- The new statewide mandated reporter training will incorporate content identified in the Task Force recommendations. (Recommendation 9)
- When counties update their Comprehensive Prevention Plans, the update shall include information for mandated reporters regarding the resources available to support families in their communities. (Recommendation 12)

IMPLEMENTED

Recommendation 1

- Tri-Chairs selected and leading the work
- 36-member MRAC established – former Task Force members, CalHHS, and Statewide Associations
- Ongoing commitment to lived expertise, diverse membership at all levels, and proximity to mandated reporting



SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS MADE

- **Narrative Shift (Recommendation 14)**
 - 25+ presentations statewide
 - National CWLA and BUILD Conference proposals
 - Presenting at CWDA and Beyond the Bench
 - Support from Rally Communications secured by Casey Family Programs
- **Workgroups** have met numerous times since June to develop comprehensive implementation plans for all recommendations for consideration by the CWC – focused on the key levers of change:
 - Data & Accountability
 - Policy
 - Training
 - Connecting to Community Pathways
 - Narrative Shift
- **First semi-annual report** presented December 2025



Small Group Breakouts

Breakout groups will discuss:

- What are you and/or your county/org/agency doing now to advance mandated reporting reform?
- What do you want to be doing more of in support of the reform work?
- How can the MRAC help advance your shift from reporting to supporting?
- What can you commit to doing after the webinar?





**Mandated Reporting to
Community Supporting**

*Communities Keeping Children Safe
and Families Together*

Thank You
&
Discussion

Thanks for joining us!

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Survey and certificate in the chat now
- Follow-up email with resources within two days
- Watch your inbox for the next issue of *CalTrin Connect*



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