



Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting

Communities Keeping Children Safe and Families Together

MANDATED REPORTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY: February 19, 2026

REFERENCE MATERIALS

- [Meeting Slide Deck](#)
- [The Art of Conversation Behaviors](#)
- [AB 1566](#)
- [AB 2085 Implementation Tracker](#)
- [Meeting Participants](#)
- [Members](#) (as of December 2025)

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Policy Update - AB 1566: Recasting the Definition of Severe Neglect (10 minutes)**

MRAC member Luciana Svidler provided a legislative update on AB 1566 (Assembly Member Jackson), advancing Task Force Recommendation 6 to amend the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA) by aligning the Penal Code definition of severe neglect with the Structured Decision Making (SDM) definition used at child welfare hotlines statewide. She emphasized that misalignment between mandated reporter statutory language and hotline screening criteria contributes to overreporting and inconsistent application of investigation thresholds.

Key points included:

- Revising statutory language to incorporate SDM-aligned terms such as “willfully causing” serious illness or serious injury and “placing a child at imminent risk of serious illness and serious injury.”
- Reinforcing that poverty or lack of resources alone does not constitute severe neglect, absent willful failure to provide care.
- Reducing unnecessary referrals by aligning reporter guidance with actual hotline screening practice.
- *From the chat:* Tina Rios wrote, “I recall Dr. Jackson saying this will be a process with legislation moving toward the end goal of keeping families away from unnecessary reporting.”

The bill is scheduled for its first hearing in the Assembly Public Safety Committee on March 3rd. Members discussed opportunities to submit support letters or attend in person, mentioned coalition versus individual letter strategies, and acknowledged that clarification is needed

regarding what MRAC may share formally versus actions members may take through their respective organizations. Luciana took as a next step to send the support letter to all MRAC members to consider supporting individually, or as a representative of their own organization.

- **WORKGROUP UPDATES - OVERALL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
(20 minutes; ~ 4 minutes per Workgroup)**

Workgroup co-chairs provided updates on priority activities not tied to AB 2085, described progress to date, and identified coordination needs and questions requiring MRAC direction.

Community Pathways reported:

- Met with the DAAWG Committee and explored areas of focus relating to efficacy of evidence-based practices. Continuing work to identify relevant data inputs, including patterns in unsubstantiated reports and county-level drivers of child welfare involvement.
- Recommendation 11 work related to OCAP funding policies/process, which are in alignment with the findings from the Citizens Review Panel report. Compiling information and developing a list of questions and recommendations.
- Reported progress on Recommendation 12, including a draft template for county CPP plan amendments related to mandated reporter education/training and resource access.
- The group requested clarity on the MRAC review and approval process prior to sharing materials externally (e.g., FFPS Community Pathways group, CDSS).

Data & Accountability reported:

- Continued cross-workgroup engagement to identify meaningful metrics and data sources to monitor progress, assess system-level changes, and develop evidence-informed recommendations based on findings.
- Focus is on narrowing to a manageable set of indicators and defining a realistic review cadence based on data timeliness and the pace of implementation.

Narrative Shift reported:

- Continued refinement of key messages.
- Discussion with the Data & Accountability group to identify data needed to ground messaging so members feel confident, prepared and are consistent when speaking about mandated reporter reform.
- Developing a Clear Harm Statement that addresses the impacts mandated reporting has had on Black and Indigenous families and naming the history and inequities directly and responsibly.
- Drafting and finalizing interview questions for upcoming stakeholder listening sessions to better understand how people define a shift from reporting families to supporting families and what they need to help make that shift happen statewide. This is part of building out a library of stories, testimonials, and quotes for use across all communications materials.

Policy reported:

- Members are in active policy-season work and will meet on Monday to finalize a more robust shared plan.
- Focusing on data points to inform whether more reporters are needed prior to meeting with DAAWG.
- Carrying Recommendations 5 & 6 to support planning related to AB 1566 (to the extent organizations can participate).
- Deciding on Recommendation 7 and how they will move forward on upcoming work regarding liability/protections recommendations.
- Development of a community supporter pilot concept (bill number pending) intended to support family resource centers/community-based organizations; through a multi-year pilot with consistent training, data collection, and outcomes documentation. Authored by Assemblywoman Celeste Rodriguez, San Fernando Valley, CA Resource Association.

Training Workgroup reported:

- Review of LA County AB 2085-related training materials/transcripts and provided feedback to the County. Discussions highlighted training clarity, and also lifted up the need for additional lived expert input and testimonials.
- Interested in identifying the “why” in SDM tool inconsistency across counties/offices.
- Reviewing decision-making tools from other states/jurisdictions to support the development of the training workgroup’s strategy with a focus on rural communities.
- Considering reissuing the All-County Letter that provides the updates to AB 2085 to require mandatory training for DCFS and all CPS workers. Looking into the process and possibility of offering CEs for encouragement.
- Looking at Mandated Reporter trainings from other states that have already shifted from mandated reporting to community supporting.
- *From the chat:* Tina Rios wrote, “*They aren’t even required to take DV training.*”
- *From the chat:* Mara Ziegler said, “*Forward with Families through Ascend at the Aspen Institute is also highlighting many innovations across the country.*”

WORKGROUP BREAKOUTS - AB 2085 PLANNING (50 minutes)

Workgroups were presented with the updated AB 2085 tracker and asked to go into breakout groups to add their AB 2085-related activities into the tracker for Q1, and for other quarters if they are able. The Workgroups came back and overviewed their AB 2085 plans to the full MRAC. This is [the AB 2085 tracker](#) that is being used to help ensure the MRAC is supporting the success of AB 2085

The Public/Lived-Experience breakout group was given three discussion questions:

1. What is your understanding of what AB 2085 says and does? What do you know about AB 2085?
2. How much do you think key stakeholders in your county, org, etc. know about AB 2085?

3. What do you think would be key ways to increase awareness of AB 2085 for mandated reporters, and increase usage of the training once the statewide training is out?

- Breakout Themes from the public group discussion captured:

Four members of the public participated in the group. Each was familiar with and supports the implementation of AB 2085 through their employment, including providing technical and/or training expertise. Years of experience ranged from 2 to 10 years.

The group provided valuable insights:

- Prepare for broad retraining when the updated statewide training launches; note that training requirements vary by profession, and that retraining frequency plus available policy levers were discussed as key drivers of adoption.
- Strengthen outreach and messaging, especially for rural/local communities, by providing clear, practical examples and consistent guidance that helps mandated reporters distinguish family support needs from reportable neglect.
- The value of community-specific presentations (including for schools and hospitals) and school district policy guidance as a key integration opportunity was strongly reinforced.
- Identify and align on data metric selection to monitor implementation impact.
- Address concerns about liability-framed trainings (including those distributed through insurers/third parties) and their potential to reinforce “when in doubt, report” behavior

MRAC CALPREVENTS DEDICATED PAGE (15 minutes)

A live walkthrough of the new members-only MRAC CalPrevents workspace was provided, covering the homepage, resource hub, discussion board, events calendar, and member directory. CalPrevents was introduced as the centralized repository for MRAC materials and workgroup coordination.

NARRATIVE SHIFT COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT (CASEY / RALLY)

Dana Blackwell of Casey Family Programs (CFP) shared that CFP supports a collaborative of states and jurisdictions advancing mandated-reporter-to-community-supporter activities nationally.

CFP is also supporting MRAC’s narrative shift efforts in alignment with the national mandated reporting reform. Rally will provide support for the creation of a one-year strategic communications plan, California-specific messaging, and an elevator pitch, identification/support of spokespeople, audience targeting, and communications products (one-pagers, etc.). The anticipated start is in March. Rally is expected to regularly join the Narrative Shift Workgroup.

DECISIONS

- No formal decisions were made during this meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

- Workgroups will enter AB 2085-related Q1 activities and target timing into the integrated planning tracker and continue to refine quarterly visibility.
- Workgroup Co-Chairs will use the February 26 meeting to clarify the process for MRAC review of workgroup products and the steps for external engagement of workgroup-developed materials.
- The Community Pathways workgroup will prepare the Recommendation 12 CPP amendment template for MRAC review, pending clarification of the process and sequencing for FFPS Community Pathways/CDSS engagement.
- The Data & Accountability workgroup will bring forward a proposed shortlist of implementation metrics and a recommended review cadence for MRAC discussion.
- Narrative Shift and Training workgroups will coordinate on AB 2085 awareness/outreach messaging alignment to support statewide training rollout.
- The Policy workgroup will share updates following its next meeting regarding near-term policy priorities, related developments, and next steps.
- Project management staff will post MRAC resources, meeting updates, and workgroup materials in CalPrevents and maintain the events/calendar functions.
- Project management staff will send and post progress updates on AB 1566 legislation, including hearing dates and information on how to access the livestreams.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- All meetings are on the third Thursday of the month, 3 – 5 pm, on ZOOM, and are open to the public:
 - April 16 [REGISTER](#)
 - May 21 [REGISTER](#)
 - June 18 [REGISTER](#)