



Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting

Communities Keeping Children Safe and Families Together

MANDATED REPORTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY: April 16, 2026

REFERENCE MATERIALS

- [Meeting Agenda](#)
- [Meeting Slide Deck](#)
- [The Art of Conversation Behaviors](#)
- [Meeting Participants](#)
- [Members \(updated April 2026\)](#)

MEETING OBJECTIVES

1. Clarify and align on process and roles for advancing implementation activities
2. Coordinate implementation activities and planning across Workgroups
3. Map out 2026 semi-annual milestones

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

• WELCOME, CONNECTIONS, AND HOUSEKEEPING (10 min)

The meeting opened by grounding members in MRAC's purpose and reinforcing shared expectations as the group transitions into implementation.

- All voices are welcomed, needed, and appreciated.
- Introduced new member Elizabeth (Liz) Oseguera, Director of Public Policy at the California Alliance of Child and Family Services, who is stepping in for Elle Grant. She shared her experience working directly with youth and navigating the challenges of being a mandated reporter, including uncertainty about when reporting is required and reflection on over-reporting when abuse had occurred in the past and was no longer ongoing. The need for clearer guidance to support decision-making and to maintain trust with youth was emphasized.
- Reinforcement of participation norms and the importance of creating space for all voices.

• IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES: PROCESS AND ROLES (RACI) (15 min)

The group clarified roles and responsibilities in response to workgroup questions about how to move implementation forward.

A DAAWG example (see meeting slide deck) demonstrated how the RACI framework is applied in practice, including developing and refining proposed metrics, engaging other workgroups and external partners, and submitting recommendations to MRAC for feedback and endorsement.

Key points included:

- Implementation responsibility varies by recommendation:
 - Metrics → developed by workgroup, published with state partners
 - Training → led by CDSS with workgroup input
- Recognition that MRAC is transitioning from planning to implementation
- Emphasis on coordination across ecosystem partners, not MRAC alone
- Non-MRAC entities (e.g., Families First and Community Pathways Advisory Committees) should be consulted by workgroups to inform and advance implementation activities

• **WORKGROUP UPDATES AND ACTION PLANNING (70 min)**

Workgroups provided updates on implementation progress, coordination efforts, and next steps across key areas of work. The group also received guidance on structuring updates, including deliverable status, key accomplishments, the role of lived experience, challenges and needs, and upcoming activities to inform MRAC.

Data & Accountability Workgroup (DAAWG) (10 min):

The workgroup continues to advance development of a data framework to support MRAC implementation:

- Ongoing development and refinement of proposed core metrics aligned with MRAC recommendations and AB 2085 implementation.
- Incorporation of feedback from MRAC, including lived experience perspectives, to ensure metrics are meaningful, actionable, and grounded in real-world impact.
- Emphasis on pairing quantitative data with lived experience to provide context and support a narrative shift.
- Coordination with state partners to assess data availability and support future public reporting.
- Focus on developing an initial set of metrics for presentation to MRAC for feedback and endorsement.
- Next steps include continued refinement of metrics and returning to MRAC with more synthesized recommendations.

Community Pathways Workgroup (10 min):

The workgroup continues to align community-based approaches with system implementation efforts:

- Coordinated with DAAWG to identify key data needs, including data on unsubstantiated reports, hotline-to-helpline implementation, and the root causes of child welfare involvement.
- Engaged with the Family First Prevention Services (FFPS) Community Pathway Advisory Committee to align efforts and identify available data and resources.

- Engaged with OCAP to review grant materials and explore opportunities to align messaging and implementation across system partners.
- Focused on Recommendation 12, including strengthening training and guidance for mandated reporters and system partners.
- Explored elements to include in a potential All-County Letter to support consistent statewide messaging and guidance for mandated reporters and system partners.
- Emphasized shifting from reporting to supporting families by improving earlier access to community-based resources and reducing unnecessary system under development for CDSS review.

Policy Workgroup (10 min):

The workgroup continues to advance policy alignment to support implementation of MRAC recommendations:

- Engagement with counties, including Calaveras County, to better understand current practices for Structured Decision-Making (SDM) tools and reporting processes.
- Exploration of alignment between SDM tools and statutory definitions (e.g., severe neglect) to reduce subjectivity and bias in decision-making
- Identification of drivers of reporting and over-reporting, including considerations related to domestic violence.
- Engagement with the Steering Committee to clarify roles and support alignment across workgroups.
- Engagement with the Data & Accountability Workgroup to align policy considerations with data needs and identify relevant data points to inform the work.
- Emphasis on elevating and integrating the needs of families experiencing domestic violence across all areas of work, including policy, data, and narrative.
- Upcoming engagement with San Diego County and other counties to gather additional input on hotline processes, SDM tools, and the application of severe neglect definitions in practice.
- Focus on ensuring that policy considerations support legislative goals reflected in MRAC recommendations, including issues related to liability, general neglect, severe neglect, and mandated reporting.

Training Workgroup (20 min):

The workgroup continues to advance development and rollout of training to support AB 2085 implementation:

- **AB 2085 Training**
 - Online training was delivered on April 1, 2026, as part of the CDSS Child Abuse Prevention Month series with CalTrin partners, with approximately 45 participants attending.
 - Training was modeled after the Los Angeles approach (1-hour format) and received positive feedback.
 - Planned enhancements include expanding to 1.5 hours, increasing interactivity, and incorporating lived experience and family stories.
 - Training covers distinguishing between poverty and neglect, and uses scenario-based examples.

- Ongoing development and refinement are planned, with a targeted June release in partnership with CalTrin.
 - The training registration link will be shared.
- **Mandated Reporter Training**
 - First iteration reviewed by MRAC Training Workgroup members and the CDSS content development team.
 - Feedback focused on four key areas:
 - Legal clarity: alignment with CANRA, accurate terminology, observable indicators, and consistent application of reasonable suspicion.
 - Equity: alignment with SB 119, inclusion of ICWA protections, and clear distinction between reporting and support.
 - Accessibility: plain language, centralized glossary, acknowledgment of county variability, and streamlined content.
 - Practical application: concrete examples, bias self-check prompts, and sample clarifying questions.
 - Second iteration in development, with review beginning on May 4, 2026; feedback to be collected within two weeks via a survey.
 - Ongoing incorporation of lived experience and family stories through partner engagement.
 - Exploration of opportunities to integrate AB 2085 content into mandated reporter training.
 - Coordination with state partners to support implementation and dissemination.
 - Focus on ensuring broad access across counties and among system partners.
 - Recommendation to integrate AB 2085 training into existing forums, including MRAC workgroups, FFPS committees, interagency meetings, and state and county convenings.
 - Clarification is needed on the feedback process, including who determines when feedback is sufficient, what will be incorporated, and when the feedback cycle concludes.
 - Next steps include finalizing training content and preparing for the statewide rollout.

Narrative Shift Workgroup (20 min)

The workgroup, with a guest presentation from Rally Communications, is advancing a communications strategy to support AB 2085 implementation and broader mandated reporting reform:

- Development and refinement of key messaging to support AB 2085 training and to position MRAC members and partners as messengers and champions.
- Progress toward a broader communications plan, including developing materials and tools that translate key messages into actionable resources to support rollout.
- Presentation of a phased communications roadmap outlining activities for 2026, including message development, story banking, execution support, and ongoing engagement.
- Introduction of story banking as a strategy to elevate lived experience and support narrative change.

- Ongoing support from Rally Communications, including message development, materials creation, and implementation of communications strategy.
 - Planned quarterly offerings, including skill-building sessions and execution support, to strengthen communications capacity across MRAC and its partners.
 - Reminder of the importance of protecting individuals with lived experience when sharing their stories, including providing appropriate training and support.
 - Recommendation to incorporate historical context into the narrative to explain how the system developed, the pathways that shaped current practices, and the populations most impacted.
 - Discussion of two key barriers to change: 1) liability concerns for mandated reporters and 2) limited access to resources. These barriers need to be addressed to support system reform.
 - Next steps include continued refinement of messaging, expansion of story collection efforts, and development of materials to support implementation and outreach.
- **MILESTONES FOR SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTS (10 min)**

The group began planning discussions for upcoming reporting milestones to track progress and outcomes:

- Direction to all workgroups to start to prepare content for the June and December semi-annual reports.
- Emphasis on identifying key accomplishments, priorities, and items to elevate across workgroups, and on progress sharing and forecasting upcoming activities to inform reporting
- Consideration of the 2026 timeline, including mapping milestones and aligning monthly meeting content to advance recommendations.

DECISIONS

- Agreed to apply the RACI framework to clarify roles across MRAC, workgroups, Steering Committee, and state partners
- Confirmed Workgroups lead strategy and planning, with implementation shared across system partners
- Confirmed Full MRAC serves as the decision-making and endorsement body for major actions
- Affirmed the importance of integrating quantitative data with lived experience in metrics development
- Supported continued alignment with external partners and advisory bodies
- Noted progress toward June release of AB 2085 training.

ACTION ITEMS

- Data & Accountability Workgroup
 - Refine core metrics based on MRAC feedback and lived experience input
 - Bring synthesized metrics back to MRAC for endorsement
 - Continue coordination with state partners on data availability and publication
- Community Pathways Workgroup

- Incorporate Community Pathway Advisory Committee feedback into draft document
- Coordinate with Data Workgroup on priority data needs
- Advance Recommendation 12 related to training alignment across system partners
- Policy Workgroup
 - Conduct additional county engagement to inform policy recommendations
 - Continue analysis of alignment between SDM tools and Penal Code definitions
 - Incorporate domestic violence considerations into reporting recommendations
- Training Workgroup
 - Finalize AB 2085 training for June release and provide registration link
 - Complete review and revisions of Mandated Reporter training
 - Develop an approach to track training participation and impact
- Narrative Shift Workgroup (RALLY)
 - Continue to refine the story bank form and process
 - Refine messaging framework and materials
 - Continue development of communications strategy and audience targeting
- All Workgroups
 - Prepare content for June and December semi-annual reports
 - Continue cross-Workgroup coordination and alignment
 - Encourage MRAC members to complete the AB 2085 training and share information with their respective networks.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT (5 min)

- No formal public comment was captured; participant engagement was reflected through chat activity.

NEXT STEPS & CLOSING REMARKS (5 min)

- Reference the above next steps

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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