



The Mandatory Reporting Task Force

Data Subcommittee Meeting Minutes, June 26th 2024

Facilitator: Mallory Huggins

Members: See Appendix A

Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Mallory Huggins welcomed the subcommittee. She electronically shared the directives and Bryan Kelley electronically shared the statute.● Michelle Dossey asked about the list of questions that subcommittee members wanted more information on. Bryan said that there has been information gathered but it might not be ready to share just yet. Yolanda Arredondo said that more information is being gathered and it should be ready for the next meeting.● Mallory provided the subcommittee with time to review collected information; Bryan provided it electronically.
Personal Information of a Child	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Mallory asked for panelists to introduce themselves. Jessica Montoya introduced herself; her team works on data related to child welfare. April Jenkins also introduced herself; her team takes the calls, makes visits in the field, updates information in TRAILS and gathers information. Mallory thanked them and asked for opening thoughts.● Jessica said that, on the research side, her team has access to all of this information and can make assessments about how the data impacts the life of the record. Mallory thanked her and asked how data gets collected and if there are gaps in this.● April said that the list of child data collected is a standard template when a report is called in; a caller can give as much as they know and if they do not know a lot, then the caseworker will go out to gather more information and place it in TRAILS. She said that it is important to get this accurate. She explained that 1046 requires them to collect more information than what they have already collected as required by volume 7. She said that the list is; race, ethnicity, LGBT identity, disability and English proficiency (this is added and they are drafting rule on this). She wants to share this to further understand what information collected at the hotline call and what information is collected when interacting with families.● Margaret Ochoa asked, 'if race and ethnicity is collected, then is tribal affiliation also collected?'. April said yes; there is a way in TRAILS to identify tribal affiliation. She asked for more questions.● Michelle Dossey asked what was behind this directive. Bryan said that the bill asked the task force to analyze; he is unsure specifically about the goal of the directive but it is usually meant for the task force to dig deeper on a topic if need be. Michelle asked if the goal is to look at the demographic information of a child



that is collected to address disproportionality. She continued that TRAILS has non-required fields and callers might not have all the information; what agencies want to avoid is people guessing about people's identities. Bryan said that these concerns are a throughline of the charter generally. Michelle said that she would want to know, outside of the data collection, is the component at the end of the charter that mandated reporters are required to follow up with a written report which is often missed since most reporters do not know about this requirement. She said that Arapahoe County trains folks on this however there is no statewide consistency on this; she recommends discussing this. Mallory asked if this would be possible to have a consistent process across the state. Michelle said that it would be possible but she questions this part of the law; 'is it necessary to submit a written report since it is unable to be saved on TRAILS and seems like paperwork pushing?'. She said that the only interest can be the difference between a phone call and a written report so they train on consistency between written and oral reports.

- Yolanda said that she is not sure why this is a part of the law; maybe it was from an older statewide database. She suggests striking it from the law; the reporting party should not have to follow up with a written report. She explained that if there are supplemental documents, then those can be attached to the referral. She also said that most reports do not follow up. She also said that one of the problematic things about demographic information is considering the source of the information and at what point this information goes in. She said that many reporters might not have an accurate understanding of how someone would self-identify and if this is not double checked with the family; it is hard to do data analysis when this information is not gathered accurately. Michelle also said that there are updates to TRAILS coming but at the moment, they cannot parse out multirace folks; it is not a required field but when it is entered, you cannot fully identify a family in TRAILS. Bryan said that the written component of the report can be returned to at a later meeting. Mallory thanked everyone and highlighted the accuracy of the information collected as well as collecting data for multiracial families; she said that the written report can be addressed in future meetings. She also highlighted Yolanda's electronic chat about this conversation relating to SB 24200.
- JP Sleeper introduced himself, he works with TRAILS as a database. Mallory thanked him.
- Jessica asked about the suggested tweak in the system for multiracial families. Mallory said that she heard that there is not a way to capture if a family holds multiple racial identities. Jessica said that there is; there are federal



requirements for child welfare systems and there is a multi-select for race. Mallory thanked her. Michelle said that she has had complaints from caseworkers about not being able to multi-select for racial identity but she has not used TRAILS in a while.

- Yolanda said that she would need to know more about the question but maybe the categories are limited based on how the census captures race and ethnicity; this is a limitation in itself since someone could select as many boxes as they want but the boxes do not capture everyone's identity. Mallory thanked them.
- JP said that the business process flow for caseworkers is interacting with TRAILS; the intake portion starts in TRAILS mod as caseworks start to get to know the family. He continued that the caseworker starts by searching for a family using certain information so the system forces caseworkers to check if this is an existing family in the system before starting a new profile. He also said that, for hotline referral and assessment, all of the engagement is done in TRAILS mod. He said that the legacy system did not allow for the multi-selection of races but that is done a fraction of the time since now it is mainly added on TRAILS mod. He brings this up to help clarify the frequency of the issues case workers were experiencing with TRAILS legacy (the older version).
- Michelle clarified that she was referencing TRAILS legacy; the modernization is good. JP thanked her. Mallory thanked them and highlighted that the new system allows for a multi-selection; the only issue would be adding someone to the legacy system but this is a less common issue. JP said that TRAILS mod and TRAILS legacy is the same database but different versions; it's more a question of what case workers are able to see and interact with in the legacy system and how caseworkers flow their work. Mallory thanked him.
- Bryan asked about the timeline of phasing entirely into mod or phasing out TRAILS. JP said that this is a common question; they do not have a strong commitment as of right now as they do not know the effort level needed at the moment. He said that the intake process is modernized; the ballpark is the end of the next calendar year for full modernization. Byran thanked him.
- Margaret said that SB 24200 requires specifics about disability and language proficiency; it makes sense to create something consistent. She said that she keeps thinking about preventing disproportionality and how it might be needed to marry SB 24300 and HB 1046. She said that it can be difficult if the data is collected but it is not accurate and that it can be hard for mandatory reporters to know all of the questions asked. Michelle echoed these thoughts. Mallory asked for more comments.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Michelle said that she is concerned about a reporting party who is unsure about the information in non-required fields; roughly 40-45% of the race field was not filled in. She said that the data will not include the full extent of disproportionality due to incomplete data. Jessica said that this is a good point and her question is how TRAILS is being applied like in court cases or other major decisions. She said that, as a data steward, her mission is to have accurate data; she is thinking about who the closest source of truth is in these situations. She shared that 50% of families had their race and ethnicity fields updated but many came in with unidentified race fields. She said that can have implications, such as ICWA. She said that the supervisors and caseworkers need to verify information. She continued that baseline assumptions from a reporter will not ensure accurate data. Mallory thanked her and highlighted inaccuracy of data.● JP clarified that they do not collect race and ethnicity information at the hotline level; the mandatory reporter is not expected to report ethnicity and race but rather the caseworkers are when they contact the family. Yolanda said that race and ethnicity information from reporters calling the hotline provide context; there is not a field for race and ethnicity during a hotline call but it is entered into the narrative. Michelle said that 193 307 said that reporter parties are required to provide this whenever possible. Yolanda said that it would be helpful to show an example record. Mallory thanked her and asked for people to think about what they would maybe want to change about the information gathering.● JP electronically shared a fake hotline record to show what information is collected in a hotline call and explained the online form. He explained that there is no client level information. Mallory thanked him.● Michelle said that a recommendation to consider should be aligning SB 24200 and HB 1046; she also suggested aligning volume 7 to include how caseworkers ask for the information. Mallory thanked her.● April said that she agrees and they are working on aligning the statues into volume 7. Mallory thanked her.● JP said that his primary job is to prioritize improving the system; he has the capability to change information collected relatively easily so he encouraged this piece of information as the task force considered recommendations. Mallory thanked him.● Byran asked if there are any subcommittee members against aligning SB 24200 and HB 1046. Margaret said that she is questioning the job of the reporter and the job of DHS; she does not think that the tool to address disproportionality is requiring a reporter to know extensive details, like income or race and ethnicity,
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about a family; it is not their job. She said that she is conflicted about this but it would be foolish to move forward without considering other obligations.

- Bryan asked for clarification about SB 24200. Margaret said that it is for DHS and it references data in relation to children in the system and their families. She said that it is important data but it is about what piece do we want to see in the reporting statute. Michelle said that the intent was around holding DHS accountable at the county and state level to report out on DEI data to address disproportionality. She said that it is less about the data collected but more about how the decision to report being impacted by a family's identities; she stressed challenging reporters to question why they feel urged to report a family. She said that Arapahoe County saw more reports against black and brown families so, to her, the interest starts with who is reporting it and why they are choosing to make a report.
- Ida Drury said that she agrees with Michelle; this gets to the spirit of HB 24200. She said, in addition, she suggested including family strengths since the reporting system is very deficit based at the moment; this can have an impact to get reporters to think about what support is needed. Mallory asked her to say more. Ida said that- for example- if there is a concern of physical abuse but the children are always at school on time and the parents are involved in the school, there could be insight into more aspects of the family's life and their strengths; this could be important to make this a statewide practice as other countries have started to do this. Mallory asked for reactions to this.
- Bryan asked if there are other examples of state data collection or other county models about how to adapt this. April said that Colorado is a differential response state which includes an advanced screening that can include family strengths as well as gray areas or other unknowns. Michelle said that there are other states that collect family strengths through advanced screening; there might not be an ability to collect data on this. She continued that there might not be a way to shift 193307 to require reporting parties to include family strength information; the child welfare system is set up to find deficits in a family and report it so here lies the problem. She said that the incident drives the concern rather than looking holistically to provide a balanced perspective. She said that this can be included in training; families can be more than the incident reported. Mallory thanked her.
- Bryan moved the conversation to a nuanced need for the information that comes in from law enforcement or other mechanisms. Michelle said that the statute is written so that every incident of child abuse is reported to law enforcement and the DA. She explained the difference between inter-familial



and third party abuse and neglect; law enforcement is the only entity that investigates third-party abuse and neglect whereas both DHS and law enforcement investigate inter-familial abuse and neglect. She continued that this practice can be great in some counties and difficult for other counties; for Arapahoe county, it is a challenge to send every report to law enforcement due to call volume and many law enforcement jurisdictions. Bryan thanked her and said that there is a forthcoming directive about inter-agency reporting. He asked about if there is a substantial difference between the information that comes in through a law enforcement report. April said that there is going to be some difference. She said that there are likely not many substantial differences; police officers do similar guessing and have a similar lack of information about a family. She said that most of the information is native based and not a lot of demographic information.

- Michelle said that she could be curious how 1046 and 200 play out when law enforcement lack certain information points.
- Yolanda said that she is struggling with the point of when data is entered. She said that if information is gathered at the point of a hotline call but the call is not assigned, then there is not an opportunity to verify demographic information; there might not be a chance to correct the record. She said that if they do not create a new family profile when a report is not accepted for assessment, then they will not be able to know if any previous calls were made about this family. She continued that if there is a new client record without accurate demographic information, then they miss out on historical accuracy. She said that it is important to know if a family has been called in before. She said that the practice part is not legislated or in rule to have caseworkers verify and collect demographic information when they do intervene and assess a family; many counties do not verify this information. Michelle asked if this can be a recommendation; there is volume 7 rule change to this effect. Mallory asked if the issue is there is no mechanism to correct the inaccurate data if a report is not assessed. Yolanda said yes; the recommendation could be DHS to promulgate rule about demographic information confirmation with the family when an assessment or intervention happens. Michelle said, 'collected, corrected, and confirmed'. She also said that race is not a required field until a child is in placement; there could be a long investigation process without ever gathering this information. She said that they struggled with this in Arapahoe County; many reports did not have race entered even after a case worker had visited a home. Yolanda said that they could make race a required field at assessment rather than case and that now would be the time to do this since



TRAILS is being assessed and revised in modernization processes. She said that SB 24200 might mandate demographic categories so this could make spotty data. She said that it is tricky when there is a difference in how a child would identify versus how their family identified; this is apparent especially with gender and sexuality. She brings this up to avoid prescribing someone an identity but also make sure that it is captured; she suggested rechecking in on someone's identity to update the record over time. Mallory thanked her.

- April said that it is required in TRAILS for assessment to identify race and ethnicity; she said that someone cannot close an assessment if there were incomplete fields. She said that does not eliminate inaccuracies. She said that caseworkers can select multiple race ethnicities or that a client did not disclose their racial identity.
- Yolanda said some caseworkers do not always follow back up with a family to obtain their self-identified racial identity; they either make an assumption or use what the reporter disclosed. She said that the required fields are only as accurate as the caseworker's practice. Mallory thanked her and asked if there was any dissent to confirming information; there were no comments.
- Mallory said that the struggle is not 'what is collected' but rather 'when do you know' and 'when is information verified'. She asked if this is accurate. Michelle said that she is not clear if the reporting party is asked these questions or where it is documented. She is also unclear if reporters will be asked how demographics are impacting their decision to make a report. She brought up Margaret's point to putting more burden on reporting parties to know and share facts about the family. Mallory asked if demographic details motivating a report are currently asked. Michelle said no; it is an ideal but it is not in the enhanced screening guide. Mallory said that this might be to prompt a pause for a reporter. Michelle said yes; it would be similar to providing data to someone about all of the people that they reported and if that is disproportionate in any way against all walks of life like race, disability, orientation, religion, and more. She said that if it is accurate is not the question; it is asking it and including that if reporters know it. She wondered if emergency rooms or schools are collecting this data; the information is available to reporting parties. Mallory thanked her.
- Mallory asked for any comments or concerns about data collection. Ida suggested a designator in the racial identity field so then people know where the information is coming from. Mallory thanked her and said that this could be useful for other identities like gender as well.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Mallory provided high level takeaways; confirmation and correction of collected information, additional questions around motivation to report, and designating where information came from. She asked if she missed anything.● Bryan said that he did not notice any dissent to these recommendations; there were no further comments.● Mallory asked if TRAILS legacy is going to go away completely. April said yes; it will go away completely within the next 18-24 months. Bryan said that JP confirmed this timeline. Mallory thanked them and said that it sounds like an improvement.● Bryan said that the technical requirements of mod is lighter than TRAILS so the broadband requirements are different; this lends itself to urban and rural considerations on how useful mod is. Yolanda said that some counties do not have their own IT office so the state provides it for them; one of the challenges is stable and secure wifi when traveling to rural areas. She said that TRAILS mod can be accessed on someone's phone.
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Bryan thanked Mallory for guest facilitating.● Mallory thanked April for guest speaking.

Appendix A:

Michelle Dossey

Yolanda Arredondo

Ayla Bullock (for Shawna McGuckin)

Adriana Hartley

Ashley Prow

Margaret Ochoa

Sara Pielsticker

Leanna Gavin

Ida Drury

Shayna Koran

Jade Woodard