



# Mandatory Reporting Task Force

## Meeting Three

April 5, 2023

**April 5, 2023**

**Stephanie Villafuerte, Chair**  
**Trace Faust and Doris Tolliver, Facilitators**



# Welcome

- Member Roll Call
- Feb. 1, 2023  
Meeting Minutes
- Co-Chair
- Google Drive
- Shared Media



## Mandatory Reporting Task Force | Meeting Two February 1, 2023, Meeting Recap

### Overview

The Mandatory Reporting Task Force is legislatively charged with analyzing the effectiveness of Colorado's mandatory reporting laws in keeping children safe, connecting families with the resources they need, and providing clarity to mandatory reporters. Integral to this analysis, the task force will continue to examine the relationship of these laws to systemic issues and disproportionate impacts on under-resourced communities, communities of color, and people with disabilities.

At its initial meeting in December, task force members expressed the desire to be bold in addressing these issues. Many expressed the desire to provide Colorado with innovative ideas and actionable recommendations for a new approach to mandatory reporting and family support.

### Summary of February 1, 2023, Meeting

**Directive Discussed:** *The disproportionate impact of mandatory reporting on under-resourced communities, communities of color, and persons with disabilities.” (See C.R.S. §19-30304.2(7)(a)(II))*

Doris Tolliver, Principal with Health Management Associates, led the February discussion by presenting an overview of disproportionality and disparity in the child welfare system and the importance of understanding the impact of decision points, including mandatory reporting. Doris encouraged the audience to be bold and use discomfort as an opportunity to grow and learn.

Among the data presented, national data shows that professionals submitted 66.7% of all child abuse and neglect reports, with legal and law enforcement personnel being the largest source followed by education and medical personnel. Non-professional reporters submitted 17% of reports and the rest were from unclassified sources. In Colorado, Black children are overreported to the child abuse hotline 1.27 times more than their percentage of the population, while white children are underreported at about 0.64 in relation to their representation in the state population. Nationally, more than half of all Black children experience one child protective services investigation during their lifetime.

Additional data indicated that statutory language regarding neglect may not address the difference between intentional neglect and neglect due to a lack of resources. According to one of the panel speakers, mandatory reporting has become conflated with neglect and catching families and children in disproportionate ways, especially those in poverty. This has created barriers for agencies and has made it difficult to differentiate between neglect and abuse. Differential response has been implemented in Colorado, but it only occurs after a family has been reported. The stigma remains, and it's challenging to address neglect.

# Task Force Meeting Recaps

- **Directive discussed:** *The disproportionate impact of mandatory reporting on under-resourced communities, communities of color, and persons with disabilities.” (See C.R.S. §19-30304.2(7)(a)(II))*
- Panelists discussed a community-based approach to provide services to families and emphasized the importance of understanding the trauma that families and children experience.
- Panelists and members discussed the need for more flexible funding for community-based services.
- Members discussed the need to refine approaches and challenge assumptions about reporting.



## Mandatory Reporting Task Force Charter

### Introduction

On September 15, 2021, the Office of the Colorado Child Protection Ombudsman (CPO) issued a brief detailing its study of Colorado's mandatory reporting law. The CPO initiated that study in response to repeated inquiries from citizens, professionals and mandatory reporters themselves, seeking clarification regarding what the law requires of them. The CPO spoke with numerous mandatory reporters, including health professionals, school administrators, teachers, school resource officers, law enforcement, county human service agencies and others whose job it is to report child abuse and neglect. During these conversations, many urged the CPO to also consider how mandatory reporting disproportionately impacts families of color and under-resourced communities.

The CPO's analysis of issues revealed an inconsistent understanding of the law by mandatory reporters, a fragmented system of trainings for mandatory reporters and a general lack of support and resources for mandatory reporters to capably do the job asked of them – namely, to report suspected child abuse and neglect. This report culminated in the creation of House Bill 22-1240, which established the Mandatory Reporting Task Force (Task Force).

This Charter outlines the mission, scope and objectives of the Task Force along with its guidelines, media protocols and task force roles.

### Mission

This critical task force is established to analyze the effectiveness of mandatory reporting and its relationship with systemic issues, including the disproportionate impact of mandatory reporting on under-resourced communities, communities of color and persons with disabilities. The Task Force will analyze whether Colorado's mandatory reporting system is the most effective way to help and/or support children and families and may develop recommendations regarding secondary support systems, training and other issues identified by the Task Force.

### Charge

Pursuant to HB 22-1240, the Task Force is required to analyze:

- Whether a study should be conducted to determine the effectiveness of mandatory reporting in serving children and families and determine the necessary funding for a study. If the Task Force determines there should be a study, the study must include an analysis on whether enhanced screening techniques for accepting reports may mitigate the disproportionate impact of mandatory reporting on under-resourced communities, communities of color and persons with disabilities.

# Mandatory Reporting Task Force Charter

- Mission
- Charge
- Outcomes
- Ground Rules
- Media Protocols

# Interim Meetings

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8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Wednesday,  
May 10, 2023

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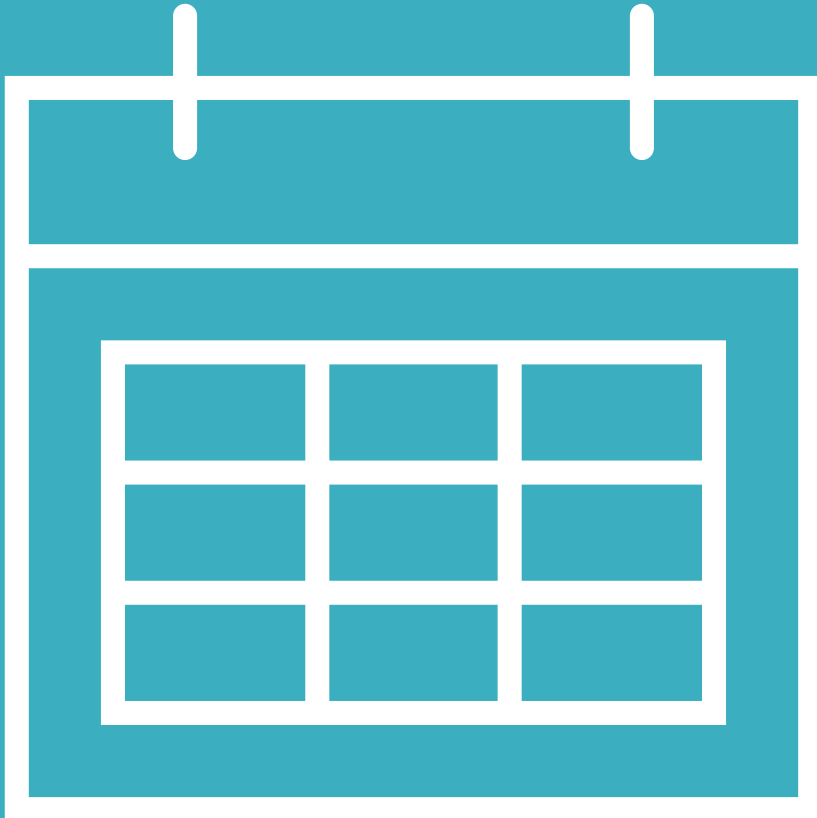
8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Wednesday,  
July 19, 2023

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8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Wednesday,  
September 20, 2023

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8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Wednesday,  
November 8, 2023



# Directive for Discussion

Is mandatory  
reporting effective  
in serving children  
and families in  
Colorado?

(See C.R.S. 19-3.3-  
304.2(7)(a)(I))

# Is mandatory reporting effective?

- 1. What is the purpose of child welfare services in Colorado?**
- 2. How does Colorado's mandatory reporting law help achieve that goal?**
- 3. In what ways does Colorado's mandatory reporting law inhibit that goal?**



# Roadmap 2023

- **April 5, 2023** – Lived Experience: Members who have been the subject – as a parent, caregiver or child – of a report to child welfare services.
- **June 7, 2023** – Who Makes the Calls: Members who serve as mandated reporters in Colorado. (2 panels)
- **August 2, 2023** – Who Receives the Calls: Members who are charged with receiving and assessing calls from mandatory reporters.
- **October 4, 2023** – Who Monitors the System: Members who are charged with monitoring or enforcing the current mandatory reporting laws.
- **December 6, 2023** – Interim Report Review

