



The Mandatory Reporting Task Force | Meeting 3
Meeting Minutes

April 5th, 2023, 8:00 am-11:00 am Virtual Meeting (Zoom)
 Facilitators: Doris Tolliver and Trace Faust
 Members: See Appendix A

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| <p>Welcome & Approval of Minutes</p> | <p>After member welcome, Task Force Chair Stephanie Villafuerte recorded Mandatory Reporting Task Force attendance and approved minutes from the previous meeting. The motion for approval was provided by Kevin Bishop and was seconded by Jennifer Ely.</p> |
| <p>Roadmap for 2023 Meetings</p> | <p>Trace Faust, Keystone Policy Center, outlined updates including information on the Task Force Google drive, Task Force charter, mission, outcomes, ground rules and protocol information detailing how to interact with media outlets. Trace also highlights the “Meeting Recap” which serves as supplemental “homework” for Task Force members as well as “Exit Tickets/Survey” which will serve as an additional method of feedback to the facilitation team. Task Force members are also invited to reach out to any member of the facilitation team for direct feedback at any time. Interim meetings for the Mandatory Reporting Task Force have been added and are as follows: July 19th, September 20th, and November 8th. All interim meetings will occur 8:00 am-10:00 am via Zoom (MST).</p> |
| <p>Review of Directive of Discussion</p> | <p>Doris Tolliver, Health Management Associates, reviewed the directive of discussion of the Mandatory Reporting Task Force and requested members to consider if mandatory reporting is effective in serving children and families in Colorado. Task Force members are asked to keep in mind the following questions while disseminating their thoughts on the effectiveness of mandatory reporting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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? <p>Doris also shared the roadmap detailing the various points of view that will be shared with the Task Force including members with lived experience, mandatory reporters themselves, those who access the reports, and those who enforce and monitor the reports. Task Force members were asked to share their thoughts, all comments are individual and not attributed to the Task Force.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What are the broader goals of Child Welfare? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Doris shares from the Colorado Department of Human Services’ website that “Child Welfare in Colorado works to strengthen the ability of families to protect and care for their own children, minimize harm to children and youth, and ensure timely permanency planning.” ○ A member shared it was important to list the complete quote from the CDHS website which is as follows “The Division of Child Welfare is composed of a specialized set of services that strengthen the ability of the family to protect and care for their own children, minimize harm to children and youth, and ensure timely permanency planning.” It was important to highlight how the services can aid in stabilization and strengthen the family's capacity to care more effectively. ● Child welfare is not the focus of this Task Force, we need to allow child welfare to do its job. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A member shares that they agree child welfare should do its job, yet mandatory reporting and child welfare go hand in hand. |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to stay true to the charges of the Task Force • The Colorado Department of Early Childhood is a perspective that may be beneficial to this Task Force. Mary Alice Cohen, Deputy Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Early Childhood, was nominated by a member. • Youth are not listened to enough. It is important that mental health supports are also included in solutions. |
| Data Presentation | <p>Dr. Kelley Fong, associate professor at the University of California, Irvine presents to the Task Force her research regarding the intentions of many mandated reporters and the impacts of reports made by mandatory reporters on children and families. Additional information on Dr.Fong can be accessed here. Dr.Fong ended her presentation by sharing “Whether it is abuse, neglect, or poverty, there is still a child in need” from an Associated Press article.</p> <p>Task Force Members were invited to ask Dr.Fong inquiries regarding the information presented, all comments are individual and not attributed to the Task Force. Dr. Fong also shared her contact information for Task Force Members: kelley.fong@uci.edu.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were you able to see any sector-specific data regarding mandatory reporters? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Dr.Fong shared she feels it is more location specific rather than sector. Dr.Fong shares an anecdotal example of police officers in Connecticut who had varying reporting styles as it was station dependent. She does agree that police officers and educators, for example, do report varying topics to each other. • This presentation mirrors data seen in Colorado. Prosecution with failure to report has created more reports. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Dr.Fong shared one takeaway from her research that has arisen is the topic of legality versus morality. When asking if a report was not required but occurred, the answer was often yes on the basis of morality. She shares prosecution does increase with increased reporting. • Is there a standardized way to evaluate a child’s needs? Do youth have cross-boundary records? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Dr.Fong shares screening discussions that are made by frontline workers with a supervisor. • Would a database be beneficial? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Dr.Fong shares she hadn't considered a database. • Do people often report out of care rather than support? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Dr.Fong shares these are both evident in reports made by In-Home service providers that spent hours at the home, multiple days a week. Child protection services aren't called in this case as the in-home service providers are expected to act as the oversight. Dr.Fong also highlights the differences in mandatory reporting through the lens of class as more affluent mandatory reporters would be more patient/forgiving than others. • The role of a mandatory reporter is not to investigate, just report. Should the boundaries be blurred? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Dr. Fong shares a positive sentiment with caveats as this is often what she hears from mandatory reporters. A slight investigation or a call to parents can clear up many reports. |
| Lived Experience Panel | Mandatory Reporting Task Force members Nathaniel Hailpern, Samantha Carwyn, Shayna Koran, and Tara Doxtater participate in a lived experience panel facilitated by |



Doris. Each panelist shared their experience with mandatory reporting, how mandatory reporting has impacted them, and how mandatory reporting has impacted the people around them. Doris asks the panelists questions in an effort to allow the panelist's points of view to inform the Task Force.

After the panelist's stories, Doris asks to what extent did the mandatory reporting affect the family?

- There were positive portions, but I feel it was not effective for me. I often felt as though the report was weaponized against me. Reports aren't always accurate and made in good faith.
- There is no universal reporting mechanism, thus the outcomes are subjective.
- It is one person making a call rather than a system intervention.
- As a mechanism, mandatory reporting was necessary to catalyze change.
- Mandatory reporting can be a beneficial intervention
- Mandatory reporting leads to access to services including substance abuse support as it is often unattainable due to financial barriers. An anecdote is shared detailing that despite the present efforts like substance abuse support, child protective services removed the child based on previous cases, in the face of difficult barriers like illiteracy and financial struggle.

Doris inquires about the unintended consequences of mandatory reporting through child protective services.

- My report was created due to an existing criminal case and led to no contact. I am still rebuilding my relationship with my child as this caused undue trauma to my child. This type of consequence can allow a parent to lose hope, as a child can mean the world to a parent.
- Services were desired but not accessible without the mechanism of mandatory reporting and child protective services
- Long-term reporting consequences can prevent and limit work and community engagement opportunities.
- Foster parents are often given more of the benefit of the doubt than birth parents as titles can be perceived as more reputable.
- Communication is valued to prevent unnecessary reports.
- I wish someone approached me from a position of care and understanding.
- Lack of resources needs to be acknowledged
- Cultural competency should be considered for all reports.
- Cultural competency is valuable. It would be impactful if those from the community can serve the impacted family to prevent judgment and misunderstanding

Doris Tolliver inquires if there is a complementary or replacement approach for mandatory reporting.

- Communication is key; if substance abuse is a problem, it would be wise to inquire with the parent if they use it in the presence of their children or how they prepare to use it.
- Rapport is important
- Helping parents stop self-sabotaging

Task Force members were invited to ask panelist questions or provide comments regarding the information shared, all comments are individual and not attributed to the Task Force.

- The lack of community is a valuable notion to maintain as the narrative of the enemy is strong. Referral process for mandatory reporting to community



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| | <p>services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">As professionals, we are trained not to make an informed decision/ think critically, but rather to make the report with the most information available. This panel was very helpful and I appreciate those who shared. <p>Doris inquires if there are thoughts on law enforcement and mandatory reporting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A panelist shares they feel everyone has varying skill sets and it is important to allow for multiple touchpoints to access harm. |
| Small Group Discussion | Mandatory Reporting Task Force members participated in small group discussions. |
| Public Comment | There was no public comment for this meeting. |
| Next Steps and Adjourn | After receiving the exit ticket, Task Force Chair Stephanie Villafuerte shares her appreciation for Dr. Fong, the panelists, and all those who are present for being compassionate and engaged. They adjourned the meeting at 10:54 am |



Appendix A:

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| Dawn Alexander | Early Childhood Education Association of Colorado |
| Yolanda Arredondo | Colorado Department of Human Services |
| Kevin Bishop | Colorado Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel |
| Samantha Carwyn | Families Minister |
| Carlos Castillo | Denver Police Department |
| Ashley Chase | Colorado Office of the Child's Representative |
| Jill Cohen | Colorado Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel |
| Michelle Dossey | Arapahoe County Department of Human Services |
| Jessica Dotter | Colorado District Attorneys' Council |
| Tara Doxtater | Recovery Coach / Parent Advocate |
| Ida Drury | The Kempe Center |
| Jennifer Eyl | Project Safeguard |
| Leanna Gavin | Kalamaya Goscha |
| Zane Grant | CASA of Pueblo County |
| Nathaniel Hailpern | Parent Advocate |
| Adriana Hartley | Office of the Delta County Attorney |
| Lori Jenkins | Kindred Kids Child Advocacy Center |
| Shayna Koran | Parent Advocate |
| Maria Mendez | Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault |
| Criston Menz | Licensed Clinical Social Worker |
| Margaret Ochoa | Colorado Department of Public Safety |
| Colleen O'Neil | Colorado Department of Education |
| Sara Pielsticker | Disability Law Colorado |
| Roshan Kalantar | Violence Free Colorado |
| Brynja Seagren | Boys & Girls Club of Metro Denver |
| Nicci Surad | Mesa County Department of Human Services |
| Dr. Kathryn Wells | The Kempe Center |
| Donna Wilson | WellPower |
| Kelsey Wirtz | Denver Health Medical Center |
| Jade Woodard | Illuminate Colorado |
| Stephanie Villafuerte | Office of the Colorado Child Protection Ombudsman |

Appendix B:

Abbey Koch
Addi Cantor
Britney Cornelius
Britney Nobel
Catania Jones
Denver 7
Donna Wilson
Jake Goulder
James Connell
Kristin Jones
MariyInn Teel
Micheal Teagues
Ruby Richards
Tiffany Lewis
Bonnie Steele
Shelia Strouse
CBS 4
Piola Venegas