



Mandatory Reporting Task Force

Meeting Four

June 7, 2023

- **June 7, 2023**

Stephanie Villafuerte, Chair
Trace Faust and Doris Tolliver, Facilitators



- Welcome
- Member Roll Call
- April 5, 2023
Meeting Minutes
- Child Welfare
Interim
Committee



Mandatory Reporting Task Force | Meeting Two April 5, 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 April 5, 2023, Meeting

Directive Discussed: *Is mandatory reporting effective in serving children and families in Colorado? (See C.R.S. §19-3-304.2(7)(a)(I))*

Purpose of Child Welfare Services

Doris Tolliver, Principal with Health Management Associates, opened the April discussion by providing an overview of the goals of child welfare in Colorado, which include strengthening families' ability to protect and care for their children, minimizing harm to children and youth and ensuring timely permanency planning. These goals are reflective of a movement towards a more family-centered, prevention-oriented system in child welfare, but their actualization in policy and practice is still being determined. Members discussed a concern that the safety component of child welfare may be lost. As the group continued its discussion of the goals of child welfare, members detailed additional points the Task Force should consider when discussing outcomes for children and families who are the subject of reports by mandatory reporters.

Among the ideas raised during discussion:

- A distinction between reporting abuse or neglect and reporting concerns about a family.
- The language around the goal of child welfare reflects a philosophical shift towards prevention and using family and community as a primary intervention point to keep children safe.
- Concerns about the lack of representation for children in the reunification process.
- The current legal system seems to favor the parents over the welfare of the child.
- Mental health is identified as an important factor that needs to be considered.

• April 5, 2023 Meeting Recap

- **Directive discussed: Is mandatory reporting effective in serving children and families in Colorado? (See C.R.S. §19-3-304.2(7)(a)(I))**
- **Panelists discussed whether the current mandatory reporting system hinders or supports child welfare services in Colorado.**
- **Dr. Kelly Fong, assistant professor of sociology at the University of California, Irvine, presented research regarding the juxtaposition between the mandatory reporters' intent in making a report, and the outcome for the child or family involved.**



Directive Overview

Total = 19

Ongoing = 3 Complete = 0



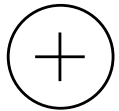
- Analyze the effectiveness of mandatory reporting.



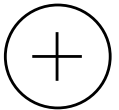
- Analyze disproportionate impacts of mandatory reporting.



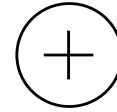
- Alternative process and services for children and families.



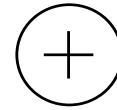
- Standardized training for implicit bias.



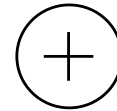
- Standard training regarding the requirements of the law.



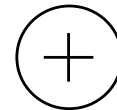
- Definition of “immediately” and timeframes for reporters



- Reporting timeframes when domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking is involved.



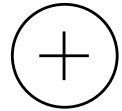
- Reporting medical child abuse, standards and processes.



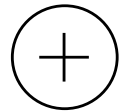
- Whether mandatory reporters have a duty that extends beyond their professional capacity.

Directive Overview

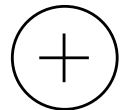
Total = 19 Ongoing = 3 Complete = 0



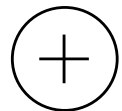
- Reporting requirements for employees/agents of attorneys providing legal representation.



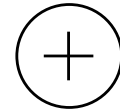
- Reports involving children/youth who are the victim of dating violence or sexual assault.



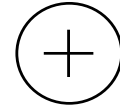
- Reporting process for two or more mandatory reporters who have joint knowledge.



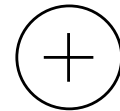
- Whether the duty to report may be delegated to another.



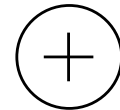
- Whether institutions may develop internal policies regarding mandatory reports.



- Training requirements for people applying/renewing professional licenses.



- Child personal information collected for a report.

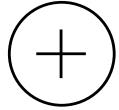


- Standard training for county departments in determining which reports meet the threshold for assessment.

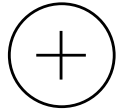
Directive Overview

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- Benefits of an electronic reporting platform.



- Process for inter- and intra-agency communications, confirming receipt of reports and, in some circumstances, sharing the outcome of reports with certain mandatory reporters.

Roadmap 2023

- **June 7, 2023** – Who Makes the Calls: Members who serve as mandated reporters in Colorado.
 - Medical/Mental Health Panel
- **July 19, 2023** – Who Makes the Calls: Members who serve as mandated reporters in Colorado.
 - Provider/Non-Profit Panel
 - Education Panel
- **August 2, 2023** – Who Makes the Calls: Members who serve as mandated reporters in Colorado.
 - Advocacy Panel
 - Legal/Law Enforcement Panel
- **September 20, 2023** – Who Receives the Calls: Members who are charged with receiving and assessing calls from mandatory reporters.

Roadmap 2023

- **October 4, 2023** – Who Monitors the System: Members who are charged with monitoring or enforcing the current mandatory reporting laws.
- **November 8, 2023** – Interim Report Review
- **December 6, 2023** – National Reform Efforts

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))

Why are mandatory reporters making calls?

1. Concerns about the safety of a child.
2. Desire to connect families and children with resources and services.
3. Concerns about legal liability for failing to report.