



Mandatory Reporting Task Force | Meeting 5
Meeting Minutes

July 19th, 2023, 8:00 am-10:00 am Virtual Meeting (Zoom)
 Facilitators: Doris Tolliver and Trace Faust
 Members: See Appendix A

<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 Dawn Alexander and was seconded by Cris Menz. The Meeting Recap motion for approval was provided by Samantha Carwyn and was seconded by Ida Drury. Trace Faust, co-facilitator with Keystone Policy Center, outlines the agenda for the day including multiple panels and data presentations.</p>
<p>Effectiveness of mandatory reporting Panel 1: Provider Professionals</p>	<p>Doris Tolliver, co-facilitator, explores the question “Is mandatory reporting effective for the professionals charged with making the calls?”and reminds the group the overall reasons mandatory reporters make calls has been condensed for purposes of this group to concerns about a child's safety, the desire to connect families and children with resources and services, or concerns about legal liability for failing to report.</p> <p>Trace Faust introduces the task force member panel of provider professionals: Cris Menz, Brynja Seagren, and Zane Grant. Each panelist provided a small biography of their experience as a provider professional interacting with mandatory reporting requirements. Tolliver 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, Tolliver inquires what, in their perspective, is the main reason for a mandatory report. All comments are individual and not to be attributed to the Task Force.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Child safety is the largest reason for reporting. ● Most calls derive from community members who feel unheard from previous calls. Frustration is an ample emotion with the mandatory reporting system. Additional reporting is often due to re-abuse. The Department of Child Welfare should be more active in the communities they serve. ● Youth have multiple areas of need like food insecurity, lack of clean water, lack of educational support, etc. <p>Tolliver inquires what, from their perspective, alternative reporting mechanisms should be considered outside of current mandatory reporting requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Re-allocate funding to lead to navigation forward. If access, resources, and navigation is invested in, it may lead to positive change. Should be a government lead but a regional state approach to account for equitable solutions. ● Resources should be proactive. A goal should be to encourage and empower children to advocate for their needs despite fear. Many rural areas are uncomfortable with governmental support. It is important to have community-driven “safe spots”, possibly like the “I Matter” campaign to support and aid youth in need. Youth requires tools to make reporting decisions. Religion, political views, cultural effects, and a desire for anonymity are common reasons that prevent youth from reporting. Schools are a valuable partner to disseminate information to youth and families. <p>Lastly, Tolliver inquires what system improvements could aid and support mandatory reporting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is a current lack of training for mandatory reporting. Mandatory reporters require more robust training and support pathways. Rural counties can be resource deserts, and rural families often do not want to accept resources. The dynamic of receiving resources through reporting isn't valuable. Mandatory reporters do and have been indicted due to lack or delay of the report. A repository should be created with categories of support, resources, etc. The



	<p>system is often misused and screen processes can be evolved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is difficult to balance the relationship with the families and the legal obligation to report. Providers have to have courageous conversations with families to explain why and how reports are made. Training is extremely valuable to de-escalate and to continue to support families. Structure, statute, and training are all important topics to maintain while evaluating the current system. Mandatory reporting statute is a 'gray area', it would be powerful to create safety in the 'gray area.'
<p>Effectiveness of mandatory reporting Panel 2: Education Professionals</p>	<p>Trace Faust introduces the task force member panel for Education Professionals: Michelle Murphy, Colleen O'Neil, and Dawn Alexander. Each panelist provided a small biography of their experience as a provider professional with mandatory reporting. Trace asks the panelists questions in an effort to allow the panelist's points of view to inform the mandatory reporting task force. After the panelist's stories, Faust inquires what, from their perspective, is the main reason for a mandatory report. Faust notes how education providers have a higher percentage of reporting due to time of exposure. All comments are individual and not to be attributed to the task force at large:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers are often told to default to the well-being of the child. That may also give credence to the number of calls from Education Providers. Training could aid in decreasing it. Training is lackluster and often doesn't "sink in" for action. Uncertainty does not support MR or youth. The idea of fear is overshadowing the desire to serve youth. <p>Trace Faust inquires about the largest barriers and frustrations of mandatory reporters?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory reporters need support, resources, and a safety net. Aminity is valued and Mandatory reporters are often brought to aid in legal proceedings when they shouldn't have to. Mandatory reporters do not see/have any alternatives to reporting. The opportunity to dig deeper is absent. The panelist shares an anecdote of a mandatory report instance where a child was reporting having little food when their parent was in ongoing cancer treatment. Every report requires two investigations, youth and licensing, and check-ins can go on for up to two years. <p>Trace Faust inquires to the existing opportunities in the mandatory reporting system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are reasons mandatory reporting exists and is a part of multiple systems. Mandatory reporters should be mandatory supporters. We should source more information from caregivers that addresses implicit bias and allows families to understand mandatory reporting more robustly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The notion of mandatory reporters should be Mandatory supporters was supported and applauded by multiple Task Force members. Infrastructure to support youth is in place and could expand its reach to include Mandatory reporters /Mandatory supporters, especially with the new preschool legislation passed in Colorado. Mandatory supporters are amazing. Siloed work is creating harm toward youth. Workforce development to lead young people to support these systems is paramount. <p>Trace Faust opens the dialogue to the task force for both panels to answer questions from members. All comments are individual and not to be attributed to the task force at large:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What about teaching internships through schools? Maybe mandatory training to attain or renew a teaching license. Training requirements also create system rigidity, In the licensure context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training must include bias understanding ongoing consistently Insurance companies have their own training that they require child care programs to share with staff to have lower rates. Professional Providers have no control over the content of those trainings that are coming from a



	<p>severe liability perspective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Mentorship ongoing to have a conversation partner for determination. If a Child Care Director reviews a video of a room to see if what happened should be reported, they are cited for interfering with an investigation. The number one thing I hear from programs...."I reported this and the county and state don't behave like we are in this together. We are under attack from the first contact."○ This is our opportunity to learn and refine our system collectively.○ Mandated reporters must have consultative support. They need to be able to ask questions, get guidance, share information and get ideas on how to help families. Training is great, but it cannot be everything. Families and their needs are complex.○ Radical community engagement is valuable. It is about what they want to see changed as each part of the state is completely different○ Walk-ins threatening to close a program down before any investigation has even taken place. It's abusive and frightening.○ Child welfare workers are required to follow up with specified mandated reporters who have ongoing relationships with the child. These rules could be expanded to require follow up and collaboration with reporting parties. This is a constant concern, that they don't know what happens, they aren't included in the assessment and they don't understand child welfare involvement. It can be argued that we cannot expect mandated reporters to help keep kids safe when child welfare doesn't collaborate and partner.● A member shares they have been working to get legislation to have Bachelors of Social Work in each school for resourcing and training to bridge school, community and Department of Human Services. Budgetary is problematic, though seeing differences from one of our districts because of a social worker in the school.● There is a lot of opportunity for human service "intake" roles to be defined by learning from different models. From a human resources background, sees strong parallels to the invention of human resources business partner roles who on the back end triages with employee relation, payroll, admin, and talent. They become more of the "face" and can be trained in social and emotional learning and approach.
Data Discussion	<p>Tolliver welcomes Steve Ellis and Crystal Ward Allen of Casey Family Programs to review and present the national mandatory reporting data and Colorado specific data for reports made by child care and education professionals accessible HERE. Task Force members were invited for questions and comments, all comments are individual and not attributed to the Task Force.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ward Allen highlights that alternative response is a growing option for mandatory reporting that has been responded to positively by families, but is not reflected in Black/African American youth statistics. Ward Allen shares that good practices can serve as building blocks to aid in implementation.● Where do folx like community-based confidential victim advocates get counted?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ward Allen shares they will source the answer for the task force.● Would love to learn who all is lumped into the "Legal/Law Enforcement" group for these stats?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ward Allen shares law enforcement will be the focused data community next meeting on August 2nd, 2023.● Adams and Denver counties are not differential response counties so all of their child protection assessments require a finding to be entered.● Thank you for presenting the data in such a comprehensive and digestible



	<p>way....not an easy task!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Support cannot be one size fit all though...it has to be based on equity, not equality!● When the task force considers why the statistics are changing, it is valuable to look at how the economy since coronavirus disease has changed. It may be difficult for more parents having to find work.● A member shares that they feel that parents who are more stressed, in this case because they are working more, would result in more abuse, not less.● The Colorado Department of Early Childhood says everything has to be reported.
Public Comment	<p><u>Stephanie - Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners</u> <i>"Hello, My name is Stephanie. I work in the RMCP (Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners), Our statewide crisis hotline. So we do telephonic lessons. And my question kind of falls in, if there is any potential discussion for first steps, perhaps being something like a mobile crisis unit as an to potentially assess the things that we cannot in telephonic crisis work. So allegations of abuse or neglect that are coming in telephonically and then have somebody who could visually see what's actually happening in the home as kind of a first step. So my question was, versus calling in that work based on the information provided telephonically and CPS (Child Protective Services) being, you know, that first step of potentially sending in a mental health care some kind of clinician to assess what we're hearing so that we're taking the right steps as far as reporting goes telephonically."</i></p>
Next Steps and Adjourn	<p>After receiving the exit ticket, Villafuerte shares her gratitude for all the panelist's participation, Steve Ellis, Crystal Ward Allen, and all present members for the passionate dialogue. The task force was adjourned at 10:00 am.</p>



Appendix A:

Dawn Alexander
Yolanda Arredondo
Kevin Bishop
Samantha Carwyn
Michelle Dossey
Ida Drury
Jennifer Eyl
Leanna Gavin
Zane Grant
Adriana Hartley
Lori Jenkins
Tess McShane
Gina Lopez
Criston Menz
Margaret Ochoa
Colleen O'Neil
Sara Pielsticker
Brynja Seagren
Nicci Surad
Donna Wilson
Jade Woodard
Stephanie Villafuerte

Appendix B:

Micheal Teagues
David Hansell
Tamara A.S.