



The Mandatory Reporting Task Force

Meeting Minutes

October 2nd, 8:00 am-11:00 am Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Facilitators: Trace Faust and Doris Tolliver

Members: See Appendix A

Welcome & Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Task Force Chair Stephanie Villafuerte welcomed the group. She said that approval of the minutes and recap from the previous meeting will not happen at this time.● Trace Faust welcomed the group and outlined the schedule for the remaining meetings as well as the key question for today's meeting. They overviewed the subcommittee work prior to the drafted recommendations. They also explained that if a task force member wishes to abstain from recommendation voting, then that member will need to provide a written letter on letterhead to explain their abstention. They electronically shared slides on these topics. They asked for questions; there were none.
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Trace described recommendation one; the task force has to weigh in on this recommendation. They asked if the task force would support a further study about mandatory reporting and asked for comments.● Kevin Bishop said that he thinks that a study might not be needed but it could depend on the explanation or summarization of the no vote.● Jade Woodard suggested including the presentations from earlier in the task force as the study. Trace said that there can be a survey with the presentations as a reminder to the task force's vote.● Michelle Dossey said that enhanced screening is conducted at the time a report is made; separate from that, there is a RED team review. She said they should be clear about if a case is accepted for investigation; the question of whether reporting is effective is a different one than if a case is screened in.● Stephanie said that that task force might not even need to consider the second part of the directive since the task force is not recommending a study. Trace thanked her and highlighted her comments with Michelle Dossey's. Michelle Dossey said that she agrees, there should not be a study; she said that there should be context included in the recommendation to be clear about language.● Doris Tolliver said that she agrees with Stephanie; the statement can include that the task force reviewed and discussed existing studies and determined that no future study is needed under directive one. Stephanie said that she agrees.● Trace suggested language "The Task Force reviewed and discussed existing studies conducted on the effectiveness of mandatory reporting and determined that no additional study would be needed under directive 1" They asked for yes votes on this language.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ashley Chase○ Maragart Ochoa○ Adriana Hartley○ Michelle Dossey○ Sam Carwyn



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Shawna McGuckin○ Jade Woodard○ Aletha Jenkins○ Jennifer Eyl○ Dr. Kathi Wells○ Stephanie Villafuerte○ Dr. Donna L. Wilson○ Tara Doxtater○ Roshan Kalantar○ Jill Cohen○ Carlos Castillo○ Kevin Bishop○ Yolanda Arredondo○ Michelle Murphy <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Gina asked a clarifying question.● Trace said that the vote was a majority so the recommendation will include the suggested language as well as context including the studies that the task force reviewed.● Trace moved the task force to directive two and three. They reminded the task force of the key questions. They provided time for the task force to review the drafted recommendations.● Trace brought the task force back for a discussion about directive two a. Ashley Chase said that she likes how this recommendation is written; she suggested that there was an implication about excluding reports.● Donna Wilson said that the recommendation is well written and she suggested adding language about separating poverty and neglect. Trace asked if she had drafted language. Donna electronically provided drafted language, “During the convening, the administration announced several policies to prevent family separation and to support and create opportunities for youth and families. To offer additional guidance, six new questions and answers have been published in the Children’s Bureaus’ Child Welfare Policy Manual. The reforms targeted four key areas: Separating poverty and neglect Prevention services, Prioritizing kin and youth needs, Innovations and research”.● Stephanie asked Ashley to explain more about her suggestion. Ashley said that she was focusing on the subject of the exclusion. Stephanie asked her to send drafted language. Bryan said that he understood the suggested change.● Doris highlighted Roshan Kalantar electronic chat and said that there can be an explanation that a report should not be made on someone’s characteristics and that the hotline should screen out reports only made on characteristics. Roshan said that this was a summary of her thoughts.● Jennifer Eyl said that she struggles with ‘solely due to’ language since people will think of another reason. Trace asked for a suggested solution. Ashley suggested ‘substantially based on’. Jennifer said that this is the right direction but the recommendation should not encourage someone to come up with another
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reason other than bias. Trace asked her to send drafted language if she thinks of it.

- Michelle Murphy said that she is struggling with 'solely due to' as well since this is a reporter's liability. She suggested 'no report shall be required when...' to address these concerns. She also asked if a hotline can screen reports; she wants these reports to go somewhere so families are not ignored. Trace asked Donna to share more about her electronic chats. Donna said that if the language is switched then the meaning is watered down. Michelle said that she was not speaking to 'solely'. Donna said that if someone's first reason is based on a characteristic then that is the problem in itself. Trace asked Donna about the current language. Donna said that she likes the current language. Michelle Murphy said that she wanted to address the liability and unconscious bias. Donna asked about overreporting and protections for these folks. Michelle Murphy said that she doesn't know the answer. Trace asked Michelle Murphy to draft language. Michelle said she would do that and share it electronically.
- Kevin said that there is an omission to leave out sexuality on this list. Donna said that it is not included since the long standing issue is racial disproportionality; that is not to say that other folks should not be protected but racial disproportionality is the charge. Trace asked Bryan to provide the directive language to make sure that the recommendation addresses the directive. Then, they read the directive language. Bryan further explained the directives. Kevin said that he sees the specific focuses in the directive.
- Jade asked if excluding sexuality creates a gap in the statute. Donna said that the issue at hand is racial disproportionality. Trace asked if gender should be taken out. Donna said that, historically, racial disproportionality is the problem based on what the data has shown. Bryan said that there are various groupings of characteristics and the task force can decide how it wants to address characteristics. Trace said that there will be a revision process based on the data.
- Sam Carwyn suggested using 'primarily' instead of 'solely' as a way to capture her concerns. She also asked a clarifying question.
- Stephanie said that this directive addresses statutory language which is unique to this recommendation. She also said that she agrees with Donna; the directive is clear on the groups to consider. She also said that she likes Doris's language that she shared electronically, "Possible language change for A(3)(a): "...to a family/child's race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or disability status." Trace said that they will revise that language.
- Trace moved the task force to recommendation two b. Nate Bustamente said that the recommendation is a powerful step but substance abuse should be included in this recommendation. Trace asked him to say more. Nate said that separating poverty and disability from abuse and neglect has been addressed; he thinks that substance abuse can lead to behaviors that constitute abuse but substance abuse itself cannot constitute abuse.
- Michelle Dossey said that she agrees with how the recommendation is written; she said that people might misunderstand unaccompanied youth. She said that there should be a thought around a definition for unaccompanied youth. Adriana



Hartley said that she agrees with Michelle Dossey. She also said that legal custodians should be included since that language is in title 19.

- Jill Cohen said that substance use is interpreted differently for families of color compared to white families so she supports that edit. She said that she did not resonate with 'no services for relief' since services are not always accessible; she suggested adding 'accessible and reasonable' to the recommendation. She also asked a clarifying question. Stephanie said that some of the language is notes to the legislature. Jill thanked her and said that since these are just notes then, she will not wordsmith it.
- Ashley said that she is very worried about the unaccompanied youth definition since this could change a lot for migrant children which would potentially undo years of work. She said that the task force should not include unaccompanied youth and she suggested finding a different word. Trace asked if the task force was okay with this; there were majority head nods.
- Sam Carwyn suggested adding culturally relevant services into the definition of accessible and reasonable. She said that reports are happening more often for families of color so this should be highlighted. Sam said that her point is that families are impacted by being over reported and mandatory reporting causes this. Bryan said that the narrative will address this and he asked for any language to further this point.
- Zane Grant suggested adding a consideration about linking the parental substance use with the welfare of the child. Trace thanked him.
- Jade referenced statute language about substance use; there is an important consideration about impact to the child. Trace thanked her.
- Stephanie said that the recommendations are for the purposes of the mandatory reporting statute rather than the children's code. She wants to focus on the directives.
- Jessica Dotter said that she agrees with Stephanie; these other issues should not be included off hand at the end of the work. Trace thanked her.
- Jill said that substance abuse is a problem for screening and this is the only opportunity to stop people from making the calls. She said that the experts are here and there is not a contradiction on other laws. She said that these issues are a part of the directive. Trace thanked everyone and moved the task force on.
- Trace read the recommendation for directive three and asked for comments; there were none.
- Trace moved the task force to a break.
- Trace brought the task force back. Doris provided time for the task force to review the drafted recommendations.
- Doris asked for comments. Michelle Murphy said that she is unclear if there is a requirement to use the decision making tool. Doris asked if she is recommending requiring the decision making tool. Michelle Murphy said yes and suggested including language to explain that. Bryan said that the task force considered this and decided again requiring it but the task force could change that. Doris thanked them and asked for more comments around the requirement of the decision making tool.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michelle Dossey said that the decision tool should not be required since there are times when the situation is clearly abuse or neglect; the tool can be highly encouraged. She also asked for clarification on a bullet point. Trace suggested not opening up the discussion on requiring the tool or not since it was thoroughly discussed in the subcommittee. Byran said that the times to require the tool can be hashed out later but the recommendation focuses on creating the tool. Doris highlighted the special consideration for sexual abuse. Bryan said that there was a particular focus on sexual abuse. Jessica said that one of the biggest questions for mandatory reporters is about sexual abuse and the subcommittee liked having further explanations for sexual abuse. Doris thanked her.• Gina highlighted the considerations from the experts on this topic.• Trace and Doris discussed when to electronically share memoranda provided to the task force.• Doris asked for more comments. Margaret Ochoa said that incorporation of implicit bias as a consideration maybe should be listed higher on the list.• Jennifer said that the first two bullets are awkwardly worded so she suggested clearing it up. She also highlighted vague language in the fifth bullet and suggested making it more specific. Doris asked if she has specific edits. Jennifer said no but there should be more specificity.• Crystal Allen Ward said that some districts use peers as a consultation mechanism so she suggested this as another way to do consults. Doris thanked her.• Jennifer said that specialized knowledge about abuse or neglect should be broader such as if domestic violence includes abuse or neglect. Doris thanked her and asked for more comments.• Crystal said that there was a discussion on the impact of trauma on families who have been investigated; she is not sure where this should be included but she wanted to bring it up. Doris thanked her and said that this concept has been threaded throughout. Trace said that consideration is in the narrative of the report.• Jade suggested staffing the consultations with folks with expertise on child welfare reporting to ensure the knowledge is there rather than prioritizing the credentials of the profession.• Michelle Dossey said that she agrees with Jade and added that reporting parties have asked for preventative matters when there was a situation of abuse or neglect so she suggested that child welfare experts would be beneficial in some circumstances. Doris thanked her and asked for more comment; there were none.• Doris asked for comments on the next recommendation. Margaret said that there can be a connection between some of the points to consults with outside sources.• Shawna McGuckin said that there should be language explaining the reason behind a warmline.• Donna highlighted the warmline offering services that are culturally relevant and accessible.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doris asked for comments on the next recommendation. Gina said that she wants to focus on trauma informed practices with a community informed lens.• Donna said that training should ensure skill acquisition rather than simple compliance; she suggested knowledge checks to change behavior. Doris thanked her and said that this can be included in the contextual information.• Margaret said that she is struggling with 'administer'; she wants to make sure there is not a delegation on the training. Doris thanked her. Trace said that the location of the training was voted on in the subcommittee. Bryan asked how to incorporate Gina's thoughts; she said she would put language in the electronic chat. Doris thanked them and highlighted Zane's electronic chat.• Jessica said that the numbers of the failure to reports were mainly failures to report sexual abuse. She said that she would like to see sexual abuse specifically called out to ensure that these situations get reported. Doris thanked her.• Jennifer suggested including experts on domestic violence and sexual assault since the current language could come off as making these aspects optional. She mentioned including experts on adult survivors of child sexual abuse. Doris thanked her.• Roshan said that she agrees with Jennifer. She also said that it is uncomfortable to not include inclusivity and implicit bias in this training. Doris said that unless it is explicit, it is left out.• Stephanie said that there needs to be a conversation about where the training is housed. She asked if the training should be developed by multidisciplinary professionals and that the standard training can be used by various communities as a baseline training prior to training to other issues. She also asked if only CDHS should house the training and no one else can administer it. She said that the main question is if the training is community based or state based. Doris thanked her and asked a clarifying question about the word 'administer'. Trace said that the subcommittee recognized that every community is different and CDHS can ensure accountability. Doris thanked everyone and provided language electronically. Trace said that the task force has discussed this so these notes can be used in the draft recommendation revision process. Stephanie asked how to summarize this. Trace said that the subcommittee had this conversation so the recommendation revision process can include this conversation to make the recommendation more explicit. Stephanie said that there was a desire to have CDHS create the training in consultation with other groups; they would also be responsible for the training's dissemination that communities can add further training on top of. Trace agreed with that capture of the subcommittee's conversation.• Crystal said that there is a standardized online training for free provided by some states. She highlighted a focus on including trauma considerations and deconflating poverty and neglect.• Jennifer said that victim advocates are required to do annual training so there are models on how to do this.• Doris asked for comments on draft recommendation six. There were none.• Trace provided time for the task force to review draft recommendations.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Trace brought the task force back and asked for comments on recommendation 8; there were none.● Trace asked for comments on recommendation 9; there were none.● Trace asked for comments on recommendation 10; there were none.● Trace asked for comments on recommendation 12. Jennifer said that there are confidentiality requirements so child welfare departments cannot disclose this information. Aletha Jenkins said there is not a confidentiality problem if there are two individuals who witnessed the same situation; the child welfare department can disclose that there was a report about this situation. Jennifer said that this recommendation needs to be more clear about what duplicative knowledge is. Trace said that there would be a confirmation of a report being made about a specific case. Jennifer said that she agrees with that understanding of duplicative knowledge but child welfare departments cannot disclose this information currently.● Ashley said that this bullet should include the intention to provide clarity. She also suggested clarifying duplicative knowledge. She agrees with the recommendation but suggests clarity to make it actionable. Trace asked for Bryan's input. Michelle Dossey said that there is confusion about the way the statute is written; reporting together is often encouraged. She said that there are confidentiality laws that need to be addressed since child welfare departments cannot confirm or deny that a report is made; this is a disproportionality issue as well since it can be one situation that gets many reports. Trace asked her to say more. Michelle Dossey said that there should be clarification about the issue that the recommendation tries to address. Trace asked her to provide language on how this can be clarified.● Roshan said that the responsibility could be shifted to report takers to manage either duplicative knowledge or past knowledge. Michelle Dossey said that her draft language will include this.● Margaret said that the task force should figure out if the reporter's perspective has no additional information to the situation. She also highlighted educators and if they are protected from a failure to report if they do not have additional information to provide about a situation.● Jennifer said that she is not sure if there are protections for families with multiple reports on the same situation; she wants to provide clarity on the intention. Trace thanked her and said that the recommendation can include the reason behind it.● Trace highlighted Michelle Dossey's drafted language that she shared electronically.● Trace asked for comments on recommendation 13. Michelle Dossey said that this recommendation contradicts recommendation 12. She suggested clarifying that these recommendations are not connected by clarifying that these are two different topics.● Stephanie asked about the differentiator between these recommendations. She said that delegation is different from duplicative. She said that the recommendations are not duplicative. She said that there can be confirmation
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	<p>that a report has been made and that a report cannot be delegated. She said that these are two different issues and there can be clarification on this. Trace agreed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aletha said that the intention of recommendation 13 was to avoid reports from those without firsthand knowledge. Michelle Dossey said that these issues are separate and they need to be clarified this way. Trace thanked everyone. • Trace said that there were no requests for public comments. They asked for comments on recommendation 14. Dr. Kathi Wells said that the same clarification from recommendation 12 and 13 could be helpful in recommendation 14 as well. • Trace asked for more comments; there were none. • Trace read recommendation 15 and explained it. They asked for comments. Donna said that there can be edits to the training either when there are updates in knowledge or every few years, whichever comes first; this is to provide skill acquisition rather than compliance. • Trace highlighted Margaret's electronic chat about passive language; Trace said that the ongoing accountability would be for the entity that is responsible for the training. They said that there will be duplicated, clarifying language about the specifics of the training in each recommendation about training.
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public comment
Next Steps and Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trace adjourned the task force; the next meeting will discuss the remaining recommendations. • The task force adjourned at 11 AM; the next meeting is October 16th at 8 AM.

Appendix A:

Dr. Kathi Wells
 Michelle Dossey
 Carlos Castillo
 Aletha Jenkins
 Zane Grant
 Ashley Chase
 Kevin Bishop
 Jill Cohen
 Nate Bustamente
 Roshan Kalantar
 Adriana Hartley
 Jennifer Eyl
 Jade Woodard
 Donna Wilson
 Yolanda Arredondo
 Michelle Murphy
 Ashley Prow
 Gina Lopez
 Shawna McGuckin



Margaret Ochoa
Tara Doxtater
Sam Carwyn
Jessica Dotter
Stephanie Villafuerte