

Mandatory Reporting Task Force

Interim Committee Update - July 2023

BACKGROUND

In response to a September 2021 issue brief from the Office of the Colorado Child Protection Ombudsman, the General Assembly formed this task force with 19 directives to analyze the state’s mandatory child abuse reporting law and its impact on children, families and professionals.

HB 22-1240

Mandatory Reporting

Concerning enhancing mandatory reporting for people required to report child abuse, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

Analysis of Existing Law

- Need for additional studies
- Personal information of a child collected during a report
- Disproportionate impacts on underserved communities

Reporting Time Frames

- Definition of “immediately”
- Time frames for DV/SA advocates

Standardized Training

- Implicit Bias in Reporting
- Mandatory Reporters
- Licensed Professionals

Clarifications for Reporters

- Exemptions for staff employed by attorneys
- Process for 2+ mandatory reporters with joint knowledge
- Requirements when suspecting dating violence or sexual assault
- Duty to report remaining with observing party
- Reporting incidents outside professional capacity

Institutional Reporting

- Reporting medical child abuse
- Procedures to assist employees

System Improvements

- Benefits of creating a statewide electronic reporting platform
- Alternatives for families w/o child safety concerns
- Standardized thresholds for county assessments and investigations
- Communications processes and sharing outcomes with mandatory reporters

MEETINGS

DEC 07 2022	FEB 01 2023	APR 05 2023	JUN 07 2023
JUL 19 2023	AUG 02 2023	SEP 20 2023	OCT 04 2023
NOV 08 2023	DEC 06 2023	FEB 07 2024	APR 03 2024
JUN 05 2024	AUG 07 2024	OCT 02 2024	DEC 04 2024

All meetings are publicly streamed
*Additional meetings may be scheduled

PRESENTERS & PANELISTS

Doris Tolliver
Health Management Associates

Dr. Ida Drury
The Kempe Center

Sam Carwyn
Lived Experience Panel

Shayna Koran
Lived Experience Panel

Steve Ellis
Casey Family Programs

Dr. Jerry Milner
Children’s Bureau (Formerly)

Crystal Ward Allen
Casey Family Programs

Tara Doxtater
Lived Experience Panel

Heather Kaczmarczyk
Licensed Clinical Social Worker



Dr. Kathi Wells
The Kempe Center

Dr. Kelley Fong
University of California, Irvine

Nate Hailpern
Lived Experience Panel

Donna Wilson
WellPower



REPORTS


The Task Force will submit two reports to the General Assembly, Governor’s Office and CDHS.

First-Year Status Report: January 1, 2024

Final Report: January 1, 2025

TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

The Mandatory Reporting Task Force is made up of 34 members representing government agencies, non-profit organizations, professional associations and people with lived experience in the child protection system.

Dawn Alexander Early Childhood Education Association of Colorado	Yolanda Arredondo Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS)	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	Tess McShane Family Resource Center Association	Gina Lopez Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Criston Menz Licensed Clinical Social Worker	Michelle Murphy Colorado Rural Schools Alliance	Michael Nicoletti Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies	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	Meetings are independently facilitated by:	 KEYSTONE POLICY CENTER

TOPICS DISCUSSED

- Concerns with Law
- Law's Effectiveness
- Intentions of Reporters
- Family Services
- Terminology
- Impact of Race/Ethnicity
- Lived Experiences
- Reporting Data

STAY UP-TO-DATE

Email Director of Public Affairs & Legislative Liaison Michael W. Teague at mteague@coloradocpo.org OR visit the Task Force Website:



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FOR CHILDREN
& FAMILIES