

Mandated Reporter Commission

Work Plan

September 15th- Definition of Abuse and Neglect

- proposals to revise the definition of child abuse and neglect to ensure a standard definition among state agencies
- rewording of statute to provide clarity to mandated reporters/others, substance exposed newborns, situations screened-out as non-caretaker

September 22nd- Definition of Abuse and Neglect continued- Responses and DA referrals

- definition discussion continued
- the department of children and families' responses to written reports filed under said section 51A of said chapter 119, including offenses that require a referral to the district attorney
- DCF collaborations with medical professionals

October 5th- Accountability, Inter-agency Collaboration/Notification

- accountability and oversight of the mandated reporter system including, but not limited to, procedures for a mandated reporter to notify the person or designated agent in charge and responses to reports of intimidation and retaliation against mandated reporters
- the feasibility of developing an automated, unified and confidential tracking system for all reports filed under said section 51A of said chapter 119

October 15th- Penalties, Expungements

- review and make recommendations to penalties section
- review and make recommendations that tie penalties to licensure/certification
- review the effect of a DCF record on abilities to become employed, remain employed, and other effects- make recommendations

October 27th- Exclusions of Categories of Persons from Mandated Reporter List

- Meeting will be dedicated to in-depth discussion of possible exclusions of non-attorneys who work on civil and criminal defense teams

November 10th – Training and public awareness announcements

- mandated reporter training requirements for employees, including employees of licensees or contracted organizations
- agencies and employers responsible for training mandated reporters
- the frequency, scope and effectiveness of mandated reporter training and continuing education including, but not limited to, whether such training and continuing education covers retaliation protections for filing a report as a mandated reporter and the fines and penalties for failure to report under section 51A of chapter 119 of the General Laws
- whether agencies and employers follow best practices for mandated reporter training, including profession-specific training for recognizing the signs of child sexual abuse and physical and emotional abuse and neglect
- options for designating an agency responsible for overseeing the mandated reporter system or aspects thereof, including developing and monitoring training requirements for employees on mandated reporter laws and regulations and responding to reports of intimidation and retaliation

November 17th - Training & PSAs continued

- options for designating an agency responsible for overseeing the mandated reporter system or aspects thereof, including developing and monitoring training requirements for employees on mandated reporter laws and regulations and responding to reports of intimidation and retaliation
- consideration of offering technical trainings

December 3rd- Review of Issues Outstanding & Review of First Draft of Commission Report

- Make recommendations for moving forward on any issues that have been tabled
- Review any issues that have not yet been reviewed by the Commission
- Review first draft of Commission Report and make recommendations

Last Meeting: December 15th- Full Review of Commission Report