The Families First Prevention Services Act of 2017 (FFPSA) is the first major change in federal foster care policy in a generation, one that turns the focus of the child welfare system toward keeping children safely with their families through community-based support. California implemented FFPSA in state law in 2021 (Assembly Bill 153), ushering in an era of state and local reform to strengthen families and narrow the front door to the child welfare system. Most children or youth come to the attention of the child welfare system via mandatory reporting in which certain persons such as doctors and teachers must report suspected instances of child abuse and neglect (enumerated in Cal. Penal Code §§ 11164 et seq.). While the intention of mandated reporting is to ensure child safety and prevent abuse, data consistently shows that only a small percentage of reports are substantiated (CCWIP). Additionally, people who identify as certain racial and ethnic groups, particularly Black and Native American, are much more likely to be reported (CCWIP). There is growing consensus that creating a community pathway to support is essential to reform mandated reporting, address structural racism, and support child and family wellbeing. The June Child Welfare Policy Roundtable will examine this issue, including why the shift from mandated reporting to community supporting is critical, how we can leverage FFPSA, and recommendations for moving forward.

Panel:

a. The Paradigm Shift from Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting: Why this Matters and Why Now
   Katie Albright, Senior Advisor, katie.albright@safeandsound.org
   Safe & Sound, safeandsound.org

b. The Impact of Mandated Reporting on Children, Youth, and Families and How We can Better Support Them: A Parent Partner Perspective
   Amber Kopp, Parent Partner, akopp@rivco.org
   Riverside County Children’s Services, rivco.org

c. PEI Community Pathway Recommendations for Making the Shift to Community Supporting and Building a Community Pathway for Success
   Kathryn Icenhower, Co-chair, Prevention and Early Intervention Committee, kicenhower@shieldsforfamilies.org
   California Child Welfare Council, chhs.ca.gov/home/committees/california-child-welfare-council/#membership

d. Developing the State Plan and Taking the First Steps in the Shift toward Community Supporting
   Hillary Konrad, Bureau Chief, Office of Child Abuse Prevention, hillary.konrad@dss.ca.gov
   California Department of Social Services, cdss.ca.gov

e. Making the Shift from Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting in San Diego: A County Perspective
   Kimberly Giardina, Director, Child and Family Well-Being, kimberly.giardina@sdcounty.ca.gov
   County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, sandiegocounty.gov/hhsa

Open Discussion

Next Roundtable Meeting: July 7, 2023
   Topic: TBA

*The Child Welfare Policy Roundtable is held on the first Friday of every month unless it is moved to accommodate the legislative calendar or holidays.

**Meeting information and materials from past meetings can be found at: childrennow.org/cwroundtable

***Please contact Susanna Kniffen at skniffen@childrennow.org if you have suggestions for format or topics or would like additional information or to be added to the invite list for future meetings.