

**Executive Director/Staff Report
February 2018**

Public Policy and Communications

Annual Reports – First 5 Marin’s Annual Report to the community for FY 2016-17 is being distributed to our community partners. (If any commissioners would like extra copies for distribution, please pick up at First 5 Marin or contact Michelle@First5Marin.org.)

FIRST 5 MARIN:
COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS
IN EARLY CHILDHOOD



FIRST 5
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION
Annual Report 2016-2017

Breakfast – First 5 Marin’s annual policy breakfast is **Friday, May 11th**. We are pleased to confirm that the speakers will be **Congressman Jared Huffman AND Congresswoman Barbara Lee** from Oakland. They will be addressing us and our community partners “talk show style,” speaking about the impact of national politics on children and families.

Marin Communications Forum – Michelle has been busy making arrangement for a very robust start to the forums in 2018:

- **February 26th – Common Sense Media: Smartphones, Internet, Social Media & Safety**
Caroline Knorr from Common Sense media will lead a discussion about children and: smartphones, internet access, social media, cyberbullying, technology addiction, privacy and personal safety + issues for families with young children. She will be joined by Dane Lancaster from the **Marin County Office of Education** to respond to audience questions and concerns. Dr. Lisa Leavitt, chair of First 5 Marin, will be responding to issues about impacts on children’s health and development. [Maria Alvarez from Common Sense Media will also be presenting a summary of their website and programs en Espanol. (100 RSVPs)
- **March 26th – Race Counts: Advancing Opportunity for All Californians**
The Advancement Project will present the “Race Counts” report, which found that Marin County is #1 for disparities by Race; presenters are executive director John Kim and director of educational equity Karla Pleitez Howell (also a First 5 LA commissioner). We have invited the Marin Human Rights Commission to co-host this event and help with community outreach. (The response has been tremendous; we already have 150 RSVPs.) See www.racecounts.org.
- **April 30 – Childhood Poverty: How Safe is the Safety Net?** (presented by the Public Policy Institute of California)
- **May 21 – Early Childhood Mental Health** – presentation by Kadija Johnston, LCSW from the Parent-Infant Program at UCSF
- **June 25 – Building Latino Power, Presence and Purpose in Marin** – with the Latino Community Foundation and Canal Alliance.

Media –

First 5 Marin’s chair Dr. Lisa Leavitt is submitting a Marin Voice piece about the impact of media on children’s health and development, for publication in support of the February 26th Marin Communications Forum event.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Work continues on the planning for Help Me Grow (HMG) and the development of a full KSEP roll-out proposal (attached to the packet). We have a really good, engaged and knowledgeable leadership group for our HMG planning efforts and will be doing a poll of medical providers as well as of early care providers in the county and then focus groups with parents from various incomes, races, and ethnic groups who have been screened either in child care or by their pediatricians. We will then have a general sense of the extent to which screenings are being conducted for children 0-5 and in what settings. This will help us to determine where our efforts to educate and facilitate with those providers should concentrate.

Amy has also been continuing her work with Shirin Vakharia at the Community Foundation regarding training for legal services providers and lawyer around the rapidly changing regulations and directives regarding immigrants and refugees (e.g . public charge, and ending TPS and perhaps DACA). We attended a meeting of Bay Area Health Funders on February 13th to discuss how foundations and other funders can best invest in support for immigrant communities and their families as well as potential regional, collaborative funding efforts in this area. One priority we agreed upon was getting in front of issues which are rumored by actually developing strategies we can roll out should they come to be (as with the whole mine field of rumored public charge changes). Difficult work but so important.

The First 5 Association will be holding its Advocacy Day and Prop 10 20th Anniversary celebration in Sacramento on May 2nd See attached flier). We hope as many Commissioners can attend as possible. There is a great deal happening around early childhood legislatively and First 5 is right in the middle of it. Our reframing ourselves (all 58 counties, the State Commission and the Association) as the First 5 Network, speaking with one voice, has helped moved us to a more prominent role with other advocates, funders and the legislature. I will be presenting the First 5 Network concept, vision and goals at the March Commission meeting.

As part of the development of the Network concept, the First 5 Association will be conducting its first Leadership Training Institute for new, emerging and some seasoned leaders from commissions around the state. Michelle will be attending this institute and will, we hope, both learn and add her considerable expertise and knowledge to the mix. It is a big commitment (3, 3-day meetings in the year), but should prove to be incredibly valuable to all.

Finally, the Prop 10 Revenue forecast has been revised downward as a result of lower than expected e-cigarette taxes. This affected the expected backfill we would receive in FY1819 from e-cigarette taxes and would have been a very small amount of money in any event (was projected at around \$35,000 for Marin). As we discussed in after the new cigarette tax was passed, FY1718 revenue will be significantly lower (approximately \$250 -300,000) due to the expected reduction in cigarette purchases and the delay in calculating the backfill for Prop 10 until FY1819. However, revenue will go back to expected levels in FY1819 less an estimated 2.6%. That 2.6% is what the state expects reduction to be through FY2122.

Meetings

First 5 Association	Marinkids Board Meeting
ECE Work Group/Rise Together	Early Childhood Education Partnership
Marin Strong Start Coalition	HMG Planning Work Groups
Rise Together/First 5 Association Public Education Campaigns Roundtable	