



**Executive Director/Staff Report
March 2018**

Public Policy and Communications

Breakfast – First 5 Marin’s annual policy breakfast is scheduled for **Friday, May 11th** with **Congressman Jared Huffman AND Congresswoman Barbara Lee** as speakers. They will be addressing us and our community partners “talk show style,” speaking about the impact of national politics on children and families. (8:30 to 10 a.m. at the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Rafael.) RSVP to Michelle@First5Marin.

First 5 Express – coming to Marin on April 29th and 30th. Locations TBD.

Marin Communications Forum – the monthly forums continue!

- **March 26th – Race Counts: Advancing Opportunity for All Californians**
The Advancement Project will present the “Race Counts” report, which found that Marin County is number one for disparities by race among all California counties; 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 now have over **300 RSVPs** and expect to reach the room capacity at 350.) 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 –

- Dr. Lisa Leavitt, commission chair, had the following published: **“Concerns about tech, media and our children”** (Marin Independent Journal, February 22, 2018).
See: <http://www.marinij.com/opinion/20180221/marin-voice-concerns-about-tech-media-and-our-children>
- Amy Reisch, executive director, had the following published: **“Race and Equity in Marin”** (Marin Independent Journal, March 11, 2018) See: <http://www.marinij.com/opinion/20180310/marin-voice-race-and-equity-in-marin>

Presentations – We scheduled a **presentation to the Board of Supervisors related to our report, “Making Ends Meet in Marin”** on Tuesday, March 13th. Robin Sternberg, Rob Eyler and Jesus Guzman from the Marin Economic Forum presented, focusing on the economic impacts of unaffordable housing and the equity impacts. First 5 Marin’s executive director, Amy Reisch, introduced the item to the board and closed with a reminder about the extreme financial challenge faced by families with young children in Marin. (As an example, such a family can expect to pay \$3,000 per month for a two-bedroom rental and \$3,000 for licensed child care for one infant and one preschooler.)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Amy continued the work with Shirin Vakharia, MCF, around messaging and training for HHS and clinic staff, as well as planning for training for local legal service providers. Shirin will present an in-depth update at the March Commission Meeting.

Bay Area First 5 ED’s met and reviewed the early care and education related budgetary and legislative activity under way in Sacramento. Among them, possible funding First 5 CA for a consultant to be made available to counties to help develop strategies for directing a portion of local cannabis revenue to early care and education efforts.

Alameda Board of Supervisors has placed a sales tax measure targeting early care and education on the ballot. The funds will be administered by First 5 Alameda. They anticipate, should it pass, \$140 million a year.

The Affordable Housing Taskforce continues its work and hopes to be presenting its recommendations to the Board of Supervisors in May.

Focus groups and survey monkeys assessing the landscape for developmental screening have gone out and will be complete this month. The leadership team for Help Me Grow will meet on April 16th to review and incorporate into the design for a HMG hub.

Meetings

Bay Area ED’s First 5 Association	Marinkids Board Meeting
ECE Work Group/Rise Together	Early Childhood Education Partnership
Rise Together/First 5 Association Public Education Campaigns Roundtable	HMG Planning Work Groups
Bay Area Health Funders Network	Justice Funders (formerly BAJFN)
Affordable Housing Task Force	