

**Executive Director/Staff Report
September 2017**

PUBLIC POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Annual Report to the State & Annual Report to the Community – both reports are underway.



First 5 Express – The First 5 Express returned to Marin in August with stops at Pickleweed Park and Rocky Graham Park in Marin City. Additional visits are being planned for mid-November.

Marin Communications Forum – The Forum recently hosted the following workshop:

- **Emergency Preparedness and Communications** – representatives from the **Marin County Sheriff's Office, Marin County Fire and the Office of Emergency Services presented about emergency preparedness and response**; a Marin County public information officer reported on emergency notifications and communications; directors of Canal Alliance and the Canal Welcome Center reported on Spanish-language communications; and the **Marin County Office of Education and Commissioner Kristen Seatavakin** and reported on emergency programs in schools, preschools and child care.
- **Social-Emotional Development** – presented by Kara Dukakis of Too Small to Fail and The Opportunity Institute. This session opened with research-based evidence and long-term benefits related to a child's social-emotional development. The main presentation covered: the feelings behind behaviors; setting limits with love; and parenting as a process. Resources are available at www.TalkingIsTeaching.org.

COMING SOON to the Marin Communications Forum:

- **September 18 – UN-Affordable Housing in Marin: The Impact of Homelessness and Precarious Housing on Children and Families**

This session will include a panel discussion with: Debbi La Rue (from the Marin County Community Development Agency); Lisa Schwartz (Marin County Office of Education) and First 5 Marin Commissioner Dr. Lisa Leavitt (Marin Community Clinics). The panel will be moderated by Meredith Parnell (Marin Organizing Committee and executive director of MarinKids). *Over 100 people have RSVP'd for this event.*

- **October 16 – Financial Literacy (presented by SparkPoint)**

This session will include presentations on money management, debt and credit; career coaching; housing and food support; tax preparation and the Earned Income Tax Credit.

- **November 20 – Cannabis: Issues for Families and Children (Bob Curry/Marin HHS)**
- **December 4 – Making Ends Meet in Marin (presented by Marin Economic Forum)**

Media –

- **Univision** – work continues with Univision about opportunities for a regional media buy on this Spanish-language network. Michelle is leading efforts among the regional communications staff; a presentation will be made to Bay Area Region Executive Directors in November.
- [**Pandora** – Michelle met with staff from the online music provider Pandora about customized outreach to parents in Marin.] The regional communications committee will look into these opportunities and report back to the commission and the regional executive directors.
- **Opinion Editorials** – Commission chair Dr. Lisa Leavitt submitted her commentary on children with “toxic stress” to the Marin Independent Journal-- including the anxiety related to the fear of arrest, detention and deportation in the Latino community.

New Parent Kits – Kits are available in English and Spanish as well as Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean and Vietnamese. If you know of a preschool, clinic or office that serves families with young children, please email Michelle@First5Marin.org. (The kits are free and can be mailed directly to offices or to individual families.)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The audit preparation is complete and a draft will be delivered to the Finance Committee for review on September 26th.

Amy continued preparations for the Help Me Grow convening on September 13th. We are expecting between 24 and 30 people (some RSVP's are still out). More information on the input received from the stakeholders and plans for moving forward will be presented at the Commission meeting.

MCOE, MCF and First 5 have been meeting over the summer to design and propose a pilot of KSEP, the kindergarten readiness assessment used by a number of counties in the state, in preparation for a county-wide assessment of preparedness of children entering kindergarten. Please see memo and proposal in your Commission packet.

Amy has been meeting with Shirin Vakharia at MCF to discuss the mental health needs of immigrant children, gaps and opportunities for collaborative funding, and leveraging and utilizing federal and state resources in County Departments. They attended a meeting in West Marin to discuss concerns around access there as well. A piece of the concern around this issue was also raised by Marin Community Clinics

and JFCS with the discontinuance of Mental Health Services Act funding of Triple P. Amy met with clinic and JFCS staff to discuss the loss of what they feel is an invaluable service for their families. Amy asked for a proposal for continuing the services. Should this seem appropriate, the Commission may review at a future meeting.

Finally, we convened 25 stakeholders to hear a description of Help Me Grow, the potential for such a collaborative, and the pieces we already have in place. There was unanimous agreement that developing this care coordination and data gathering system would be invaluable in Marin. Chairperson Lisa Leavitt also attended. We will report more at the September meeting.

Marinkids newly constituted board met in August and welcomed the new Executive Director, Meredith Parnell. The Commission will meet Meredith at the September meeting.

Meetings

First 5 Association Executive Committee
First 5 Association Advocacy Committee
Marinkids Board Meeting
Assessment of Fair Housing Steering Committee
Marin Quality Counts
Early Childhood Education Partnership
HEAL 2.0 Steering Committee
Marin Health Funders Meeting