



DRAFT

Meeting Minutes – February 15, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

Sister Joan Hanna, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at First 5 Marin at 5:31 p.m.

Commissioners Present

Sister Joan Hanna
Lisa Leavitt MD – *vice chair*
David Bonfilio
Amy Eisenmann
Heather Ravani
Supervisor Katie Rice
Juan Rodriguez

Commissioner/s Excused

Gabrielle Philippe-Auguste
Kristen Seatavakin – participated by telephone

Staff Present

Amy Reisch
Michelle Fadelli

Guests

Jenny Callaway, Marin Strong Start
Brian Godbe, Godbe Research
Ann Pring, Marin County HHS
Supervisor Dennis Rodoni
Sandra Rosenblum, Marin County HHS

II. MEETING MINUTES

Sister Joan asked if there were changes, additions or corrections to the commission minutes for the last meeting on January 28, 2017 (from the Strategic Planning Retreat).

Motion/Second: Bonfilio/Ravani

The minutes of January 28, 2017 were unanimously approved.

III. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Bonfilio asked about First 5 Marin’s annual reports. Print copies are now available; commissioners may take copies for display or distribution.

Commissioner Rodriguez shared a story about a student at Venetia Valley Elementary who is newly reunited with his mother—the student brings soap and toilet paper to school as a contribution. The mother has been advised not to fill out paperwork for health insurance and food assistance due to her legal status.

- **Commissioner Leavitt** said she is hearing the same thing is happening at WIC.
- **Commissioner Ravani** said that HHS has related media materials and information for parents.
- **Executive Director Amy Reisch** reported that people are working to bring the various Marin organizations together, in part to coordinate messaging.

- **Commissioner Rodriguez** replied that fears are strong and immediate. Parents are asking if it is safe at this school.
- **Michelle Fadelli** suggested that we might work with ExtraFood.org on food distribution to families who are afraid to provide personal information.
- **Commissioner Rice** noted that the Short School is doing a pop-up pantry; schools are a good place to provide food (and information).
- **Commissioner Leavitt** talked about supporting breastfeeding moms who need breast pumps; Amy Reisch mentioned partnering with Kaiser
- **Jenny Callaway** talked about the recent rumors of ICE raids, and noted that Congressman Huffman had a stakeholders meeting scheduled on February 21st. She noted that he does not receive advance notice of raids, but the office can get confirmation about those who have been detained. She noted that an old news clip about ICE raids (from 2007) was being posted online and that we need to verify information before sharing and raising concerns. She added that authorization is needed to check on someone's status. For those concerned about future raids and detention/deportation, an authorization form can be filled out and left confidentially with their office or with a trusted family member; if ever needed, that form can be used to verify any action. (She also noted that news about ICE action in Fortuna was misleading; they were called to a scene as backup to a drug enforcement action, and not for immigration purposes.)

Commissioner Leavitt reported she has attended recent Marin Organizing Committee meetings at St. Raphael's; most have been about tenant rights.

Sister Joan reported that the family of an alumnus of St. Raphael's Preschool has lost their housing to a mud slide.

IV. GUEST COMMENTS – Members of the public introduced themselves to the commission.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Amy Reisch submitted her written report, and added the following:

-The next Marin Communications Forum (March 13th) will be: “**Caring for Kids in Turbulent Times,**” with an introduction by Marin County Superintendent of Schools Mary Jane Burke and First 5 Marin Executive Director Amy Reisch and with opening remarks by Doctora Marisol Muñoz-Kiehne. (This forum will include an hour of small group sharing and discussion.)

-Amy joined the Marin Fair Housing Task Force, which will be meeting for the next 24 months. Convened by Marin CDA, the Task Force is a diverse group with good facilitation; it will be looking at how to meet HUD requirements for affordable housing in Marin.

VI. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

- **Election of Officers**

Commissioner Bonfilio made a motion to accept the recommendation of the nominating committee (Sister Joan Hanna, Lisa Leavitt and Heather Ravani) to nominate Dr. Lisa Leavitt as the next chair of First 5 Marin Children and Families Commission, and Kristen Seatavakin as vice chair.

Motion/Second: Bonfilio/Rodriguez

The nomination was unanimously approved.

Executive Director Amy Reisch thanked Sister Joan Hanna for her years of service.

- **Debrief Report for Strong Start for Marin Kids Initiative (Measure A) - Jenny Callaway**, representing Marin Strong Start, provided an overview of Measure A on the November 2016 ballot. She noted that opposition included a false argument about affordable housing. She added that the campaign certainly could have used more money.

Brian Godbe, from Godbe Research, presented a power point with a summary of election numbers. The margin of defeat was about 4%, or about 4500 votes. Vote by mail was about twice that of votes at polling places on election day. Research polls had indicated support for the measure at 69.1%. He presented election results by city, by supervisorial districts and in comparison with other local measures. He also presented turnout by party and by age.

The campaign included mailers, yard signs, phone banks and walking, robo-calls, GOTV calls, Marin Voice pieces and letters to the editor.

Ballot arguments against relied on arguments linking the initiative to causing the production of more affordable and high-density housing.

Jenny Callaway talked about the opposition and mood around the election. Hillary was the primary interest. There were illegal signs. Opposition to housing in Marin is not going away, and now there are renewed anti-immigrant sentiments. (Brian added polling numbers for people opposed to affordable housing are in the high 30's to mid-40's.) Jenny also noted that we need to hone our messages to seniors.

Jenny reported that The **Marin Strong Start Coalition** is looking at the best way to re-position this proposal—what form and fashion? (Preschool for all or preschool for the highest need?) We need focus groups to ask what people care about most. It wouldn't be useful to return with the same measure. No special election. If countywide, how to work with other measures. Another sales tax or something else? (A general tax plus advisory measure?)

-**Commissioner Rice** asked about using the Marin County Office of Education as a “school district.” No, can't be done. [San Francisco was previously authorized to issue bonds... El Cerrito (Contra Costa County) has increased their sales tax cap too.]

-**Jenny** added there was a question about who would be getting child care subsidies. That is making clear that it is not just the very low income families, but families with two working parents making above poverty wages. (We need senior votes.)

-**Commissioner Leavitt** asked if there is any recourse over illegal signs. Can we take on the argument? Not really. Jenny said we need to get back to grassroots, and knock on doors.

-**Commissioner Eisenmann** asked how do we connect the needs of children to the “national noise” out there? There is good community organizing happening—how do we capitalize on that?

-**Jenny** said we need a “State of the State” for kids. It needs reinforcement. We need to keep up on advocacy.

-**Commissioner Ravani** added that we need to continue the message of equity, and explain why investment in needy children makes the community better for all.

-Amy talked about the cost of living in Marin, and the possibility of “graduated assistance” for working families.

- **Commissioner Ravani** said that many two-parent working families are struggling, and we didn't address their perspective.

-Jenny said that a focus group can tell us what message/s resonate within “the noise.”

- **Commissioner Rice** added that anti-tax rumblings will continue. There are pension issues...

- **Commissioner Leavitt** asked about campaign finances. Jenny replied that we had about \$150,000; the budget was a (scaled-down) \$225,000. We were competing with donations to other campaigns—local school measures plus national campaigns. We need \$300,000 and we need to build a coalition of non-profits. **Brian Godbe** added that the library had \$170,000 in the bank before the first poll.

-**Jenny** added that advocacy work is non-political; focus groups are public outreach and education. **Brian** said the “sooner the better”... (Tam is already out there.) We should focus on San Rafael, Corte Madera and Larkspur. Jenny noted that we will need about \$30 to \$35,000 for focus groups.

- **Review of Summary from January 28th Strategic Planning Retreat** – The “Strong Start” discussion merged into review of the commission’s strategic planning retreat.
 - **Commissioner Bonfilio** suggested that staff bring back information on funding our next steps.
 - Executive Director Amy Reisch** said that we have a number of opportunities in the community. For instance, (while we can’t fund “preschool for all”) we can expand evidence-based playgroups, and MarinKids etc. There are also opportunities for new partnerships, such as with legal organizations like the ACLU. (Staff can provide an outline for review.)
 - **Commissioner Ravani** suggested we have a data and media communications plan.
 - Amy Reisch** wondered whether health investments (for example coverage should Medicaid be cut) will be needed, and talked about how we can partner with those who can provide services and meet immediate needs (like breast pumps, as mentioned earlier in the meeting).
 - she added that work is being done by the Marin Advocates Network to assist families with work-arounds. We can explore assisting those effort with technical assistance and/or resources.

VII. FINAL COMMENTS

Amy Reisch noted that the **Marin Communications Forum** is increasingly seen as a venue for both education and information-sharing, but also as a first step in a community organizing effort around the issues covered in the particular forum.

We are also still looking for a *breakfast speaker*, as Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom is not available. Commissioner Bonfilio suggested the NBLC speaker, Brian Stevenson, and then suggested Johnathan Logan from the Marin Community Foundation (who served as the moderator of our last breakfast.)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – Commission chair Sister Joan Hanna adjourned the meeting at 7:19pm.

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETING:

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

5:30 p.m.

First 5 Marin conference room

1050 Northgate, Suite 130, San Rafael, CA

SAVE-THE-DATE: First 5 Marin’s Annual Policy Breakfast: Friday, May 5th.

MEETING DATES FOR 2017:

March 15

April 19

May 17

June 21

September 20

October 18

November 15