



DRAFT

Meeting Minutes – February 21, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

Lisa Leavitt, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at First 5 Marin at 5:32 p.m.

Commissioners Present

Lisa Leavitt MD – *chair*
David Bonfilio
Amy Eisenmann
Sister Joan Hanna
Supervisor Katie Rice

Commissioners Excused

Gabrielle Philippe-Auguste
Juan Rodriguez
Kristen Seatavakin – *vice chair*

Staff Present

Amy Reisch
Michelle Fadelli

Guests

Jill Casey, Luminare Group
Ericka Erickson, Marin Child Care Commission
Melissa Guerrero, MCOE
Lael Lambert, Marin HHS
Maika Llorens, San Rafael School Board & Slide Ranch
Raquel Rose, MCOE
Heidi Tomsky, Fairfax-San Anselmo Children's Center/Marin Child Care Commission

II. MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Leavitt asked if there were changes, additions or corrections to the commission minutes for the last meeting on January 17, 2018.

Motion/Second: Bonfilio/Hanna

The minutes of January 17, 2018 were unanimously approved.

III. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Leavitt reported attending board meetings for MarinKids and the Marin Strong Start Coalition. She mentioned that the executive director of MarinKids, Meredith Parnell, asked to meet with pediatricians; she will be addressing the group at Marin General in April.

Commissioner Rice talked about speaking with constituents who asked how they might support equity efforts in the county; she referred them to MarinKids and Strong Start.

- **Commissioner Bonfilio** addressed the equity issue and mentioned reading the book, “We Were Eight Years in Power” by Ta-Nehisi Coates; he noted that it was hard to read as a white male.
- **Commissioner Leavitt** added that Marin Magazine just had an article about Javier Zamora, the San Rafael resident who was born in El Salvador and immigrated alone as a nine year old; he has a book of poetry out entitled, “Unaccompanied.” She also mentioned that the magazine included an article about “Enriching Lives through Music” (ELM) and that Jane Kramer had been nominated for the Marin Women’s Hall of Fame.
- **Commissioner Hanna** shared that she had talked about First 5 Marin with former students of St. Isabella’s (who are now adults!).

Michelle Fadelli mentioned that **Commissioner Leavitt** had been published in The Marin Independent Journal. Her Marin Voice commentary, “Concerns about Tech, Media and our Children,” was published on February 22nd.

(Link: <http://www.marinij.com/opinion/20180221/marin-voice-concerns-about-tech-media-and-our-children>)

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive director Amy Reisch announced dates and invited commissioners to attend the First 5 California Summit (April 10-12 in Glendale) and the First 5 Association’s Legislative Advocacy Day at the State Capitol (May 2nd). Commissioners interested in attending either may contact Amy (Amy@First5Marin.org).

-Revenue Forecasts: Amy reported that this year’s (tobacco tax) revenues will be significantly lower; perhaps \$200-\$250,000 less than last year due to the new age limit for tobacco purchases and e-cigarette sales. Also, the “backfill” for revenue losses will be delayed, which will make monthly revenues low until the backfill kicks in in 2019.

-Marin Community Foundation: Amy reported working with HHS, in partnership MCF (Shirin Vakharia) on continuing educational efforts with eligibility workers and certified enrollment counselors on any changes to risk, definition and eligibility for a variety of services, particularly for the immigrant community. Two trainings have been conducted for staff from the Dept. of Social Services. Joint funding has included bus posters and information for families (about what to do if information is shared). There are outreach workers in all clinics. Covered CA is state, not federal, money. We are working with the Immigration Legal Resource Center about trainings for lawyers on the legal issues immigrants may be facing, assuring the accuracy of information that is being communicated. This may need to be a regional effort, not county-by-county, as all immigration court appearances are in San Francisco. (Shirin will be invited to the next meeting to provide an update.)

-First 5 Network: the First 5 Association is continuing to develop a its identity as the “First 5 Network” with work begun at their summit last fall, and building to a statewide network. Amy will provide more information at the next commission meeting.

-First 5 Marin Policy breakfast: Our breakfast will be held on Friday, May 11th from 8:30 to 10 a.m. The speakers will be Congressman Jared Huffman and Congresswoman Barbara Lee (from Oakland). We expect a full house!

V. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

1. **KSEP Proposal: “Kindergarten Student Entrance Profile” Pilot Program** – Raquel Rose from the Marin County Office of Education (MCOE) presented a formal proposal for the Kindergarten Student Entrance Profile pilot program-- a universal tool for valid research-based information to help teachers evaluate kindergarten students. How are students performing in the first four weeks of school? Are there areas of concern that warrant additional assessment.

As a reminder, the pilot program funded by First 5 Marin in the fall used ten teachers from five districts to test the “useability” of the tool. The teachers were trained by webinar and there was also a de-briefing in December.

The budget for the pilot was \$44,000; actual expenditures were \$26,000. (There were \$18,000 in residuals; Amy clarified that the \$18,000 has not yet been issued and is available for billing through this fiscal year should additional expenses be incurred.

The full proposal is for a countywide rollout over three years, with all teachers using the KSEP tool by the third year. (There are about 182 teachers and 2700 kindergarteners in total.)

- **Commissioner Rice** asked if there had been any feedback about the tool. Melissa Guerrero from MCOE replied that the teachers liked the “social-emotional” component very much.
- **Commissioner Hanna** asked if we will gather information about preschool. Raquel said yes, but only in the aggregate. There won’t be any information or assumptions about specific preschools.
- **Commissioner Hanna also asked about the ultimate goal of the KSEP tool. Will this be the standard for the State?** Raquel said we have heard that KSEP is much more manageable than the “DRDP” tool (which is 60 pages long). Amy added that the state doesn’t yet require DRDP and there are revisions underway. KSEP uses the same categories; it’s just a summary of the indices in the DRDP and easier to use.
- **Commissioner Eisenmann** asked who developed the KSEP tool. UC Santa Barbara.

Raquel noted that MCOE did try the “DRDP” tool, but it is too cumbersome.

- **Commissioner Bonfilio** asked about the availability of funding from other sources. Raquel replied that MCOE does not have massive resources. The Marin Community Foundation was “at the table” in the beginning of the discussion, and there is a relationship with Don Jen.
- **Commissioner Leavitt** asked if the training for the tool would be a half or full day. Melissa replied that it’s one day, with two half-day sessions.
- **Commissioner Leavitt** also asked about data. Raquel replied that we will need to purchase a database; this is part of the proposal.
- **Commissioner Leavitt** also asked why there is a mention of (potentially) piloting another tool in year three of the proposal. Raquel replied that new tools are often available; it was mentioned for transparency. (Raquel added that there is a standard of ongoing assessment, moving from grade-level, to school to district-wide. KSEP is validated because it’s research-based.

Amy Reisch noted that there is an intent to bring in resources other than First 5. By year three, others should be on board.

Commissioner Bonfilio asked about the cost of the database. Raquel said it’s a \$10,000 annual license fee.

Commissioner Rice asked what would not be supporting if we fund this? Amy replied that nothing would be eliminated by funding the KSEP proposal. As it is, we are not spending all available funds. There are other new items in the budget including the “Help Me Grow” program and programs related to immigration law.

Commissioner Rice asked when do we need to decide? Raquel said in order to be able to use the tool at the beginning of the next school year, we would announce and recruit by spring break and offer orientation in April.

Commissioner Rice asked about the Marin Community Foundation. We need a second funder. Can we say to MCF that we are in with a(n MCF) match? She then asked about the First 5 budget and programs with immediate impact versus others. Amy replied that we have core programs plus public education funding, with a 2-3% increase. About \$1.533 million in Project funding was approved for this fiscal year.

Commissioner Rice asked whether this (funding proposal) is the best alignment with our mission? And asked for Amy's recommendation. Amy replied yes, this is one of our core priority outcomes. It will help to build an infrastructure for "quality." Amy said she would recommend funding whatever portion of the full proposal the Commissioners agreed to and work with the Foundation and MCOE to seek additional funding. We can begin by funding for one year.

Commissioner Leavitt asked whether we can get everyone (all the teachers) on board in two years rather than three. Possibly.

Commissioner Bonfilio asked about the school districts in the pilot program. They were: Ross, Ross Valley, San Rafael and Dixie.

Commissioner Leavitt asked whether there are any (related) mandates from the state in the next two years. No.

Ericka Erickson from the Child Care Commission asked how or whether the data will be shared with the state. Raquel answered that the KSEP data would be for local information, not for the state. Amy added that the QRIS task force will look at KSEP results.

Heidi Tomsy from Fairfax-San Anselmo Children's Center said we need this at the kindergarten level. It will help the teachers identify where a more detailed assessment is needed (and additional interventions).

- Commissioner Hanna agreed that kindergarten is not where problems should be identified for the first time.

Jill Casey, First 5 Marin's evaluator from the Luminare Group, underscored that the KSEP proposal fits in with First 5 Marin's goals and values. You can impact individuals (and their personal school readiness) but also kindergarten school readiness overall. At the community level, KSEP data will help us speak to kindergarten readiness with aggregate data. There will be information for school readiness advocates, with shared accountability. She added that this fits with the commission's "Theory of Change" and "Theory of Action."

Commissioner Bonfilio said he liked the program but was uncomfortable being the sole funder.

Maika Llorens, San Rafael School Trustee, asked about assessment of English learners. Raquel replied that we need to look at the Spanish tool that is available; Sonoma has used it.

Raquel added that this tool will change how we educate. We are spending \$40 million on special education. Our parcel tax funding is about \$50 million. We need to adjust professional development to help teachers adjust to kindergarten needs. The first intervention is core instruction. How can we support those teachers? KSEP is one important tool.

Maika added that we are serving kids without universal preschool. Don't wait the entire year (to find out where weaknesses are and what they need).

Commissioner Bonfilio asked if MCF would pay half—or \$75,000. Amy responded that she did not know, but that MCF has a big commitment to the PreK-to-3 program. They would like a standardized tool across the county.

Raquel suggested that we could go for 100% funding but only for 50 slots (teachers using the tool). Katie replied that year one is critical and sets the stage for (other teachers coming on board for) the next year. Commissioners agreed that a full program was preferable, with shared funding.

The motion to accept the proposal from the Marin County Office of Education for the implementation of a three-year assessment of kindergarten readiness using the Kindergarten Student Assessment Profile (KSEP), with funding of up to \$107,000 contingent upon an equal match from the Marin Community Foundation and/or other funders, was unanimously approved. It was agreed that if additional funding was not secured, a revised rollout of the program would be necessary and acceptable.
Motion/Second: Bonfilio/Rice

2.AB 435 (Child Care Pilot Bill) Implementation Plan– Heidi Tomsy, chair of the Marin Child Care Commission, and Erick Erickson, commission coordinator, presented a funding request to implement AB 435, the child care pilot bill impacting Marin County.

This program will allow high-cost counties like Marin to adjust income eligibility rates (for families to qualify for child care subsidies) and reimbursement rates to providers (for state contracted child care).

[As an example, a two-parent household in Marin earning \$14/hour and \$12/hour would not qualify for a subsidy.]

In order to participate, a needs assessment is required and must be approved by the California Department of Education.

The Marin Child Care Commission had submitted a request for up to \$10,000 to fund the needs assessment to be conducted by “Mission Analytics Group, Inc.” An implementation plan must be submitted by May 1st.

Commissioner Bonfilio noted that the Statement of Work for Mission Analytics identified two cost estimates-- \$8,800 (for a needs assessment and plan) and \$11,470 (for the needs assessment, plan and write up). Commissioners agreed that the full scope of work should be funded.

The motion to allocate \$11,470 to the Marin Child Care Commission to fund the proposal from Mission Analytics was unanimously approved.
Motion/Second: Rice/Hanna

VI. FINAL COMMENTS

VII. ADJOURNMENT – Commission chair Dr. Lisa Leavitt adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETING:

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

5:30 p.m.

First 5 Marin conference room

1050 Northgate, Suite 130, San Rafael, CA