



## Meeting Minutes – March 15, 2017

### I. CALL TO ORDER

**Lisa Leavitt**, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at First 5 Marin at 5:31 p.m.

#### **Commissioners Present**

Lisa Leavitt MD – *chair*  
Kristen Seatavakin – *vice chair*  
David Bonfilio  
Amy Eisenmann  
Sister Joan Hanna  
Gabrielle Philippe-Auguste  
Heather Ravani  
Supervisor Katie Rice  
Juan Rodriguez

#### **Staff Present**

Amy Reisch  
Michelle Fadelli

#### **Guests**

Jill Casey, jdcPartnerships  
Ericka Erickson, Marin Child Care Commission  
Terri Green, Marin City Parent Leadership Academy

### II. MEETING MINUTES

**Commissioner Leavitt** asked if there were changes, additions or corrections to the commission minutes for the last meeting on February 15, 2017

**Motion/Second: Hanna/Bonfilio**

**The minutes of February 15, 2017 were unanimously approved.**

### III. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

**Commissioner Bonfilio** attended a meeting of the North Bay Leadership Council, and thanked Patty Garbarino for her work on Measure A. (He noted that NBLC executive director Cynthia Murray serves on the First 5 Sonoma commission.)

**Commissioner Hanna** attended the City of San Rafael planning commission, which denied an appeal related to the Dominican sisters' plans to provide transitional housing to two women with children at their convent in San Rafael.

**Commissioner Seatavakin** made a presentation about emergency preparedness to family child care providers; the event was hosted by the Marin Child Care Council, and Spanish translation was provided.

- Amy noted that a graphic designer we know worked on an emergency preparedness toolkit that might be helpful; Kristen said she used a toolkit from UCSF (which Amy thinks may be the same one).

- Michelle Fadelli added that the Marin Communications Forum in June will be about emergency preparedness and communications; we will have a segment on schools/preschools and on child care.

**Commission Leavitt** attended the recent Marin Communications Forum, “Caring for Kids in Turbulent Times” (with introductions by Marin County Superintendent of Schools Mary Jane Burke and First 5 Marin’s executive director Amy Reisch, and with opening remarks by mental health professional Dra. Marisol Muñoz-Kiehne PhD). Following the presented remarks, attendees broke into table groups of ten to share stories, information and ideas. (About 100 people attended.)

- Amy noted that a summary of the table discussions will be distributed shortly.
- **Commissioner Leavitt** added that behavioral health services are stretched thin (these days) at Marin Community Clinics.
- Michelle added that with people afraid to participate in WIC and food pantries, school meals become more important than ever.
- **Commissioner Bonfilio** asked if there is any support for doctors, teachers and others who are getting stressed out.
- **Commissioner Leavitt** added that WIC and lactation services are conducting focus groups with those who are reluctant to sign up for services or participate in support programs.

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

Ericka Erickson thanked the commission, especially Amy and Michelle, for the recent forum (on Caring for Kids in Turbulent Times). She said that the Marin Child Care Commission was happy to co-sponsor it, particularly because there have been many workshops about legal services but few about the emotional needs of children and caregivers. She asked about providing emotional support for parents and caregivers at the child care sites; Amy noted that the Early Childhood Mental Health program might be the program to expand to provide additional services.

Ericka also suggested that “Shore Up Marin” could be involved with the June forum and with emergency preparedness at child care facilities. She also suggested that the need for disaster preparedness training could be brought to the attention of the ECE Professional Development Collaborative.

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

-Sesame Street is working on a new toolkit for children and families about dealing with children’s fears (related to national politics, immigration and deportation issues). They contacted the First 5 Association (and several county ED’s) to review their draft materials and provide feedback. The final version will be shared with First 5 and available online.

- We still don’t have a breakfast speaker, as our recent invitations have been declined. We invited a speaker from the Children’s Defense Fund—California.

\* **Commissioner Rice** asked whether we had contacted Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom, who is working on a universal healthcare proposal. Amy shared that we had invited him first, but that the invitation was declined. (Katie said she would contact him to re-issue the invitation.)

\* Amy noted that it has been suggested, if we could not get a speaker, that we follow-up the equity discussion from last year’s breakfast considering breaking out into small issue discussions after a keynote or opening remarks.

#### VI. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

- **Presentation of the First 5 California Annual Report** – Amy Reisch presented copies of First 5 California’s annual report for 2015-16, “Investing in a Quality System for California’s Children.”

- **Review of Suggested Investment Opportunities for Strategic Plan Update**

Executive Director Amy Reisch presented a chart summarizing suggested continuing and potential new investments, by strategy. The dollar amounts presented, totaling \$1.4 million, are annual and represent possible figures for FY 2017-18. Funded programs identified include (in addition to continuing partners): MarinKids, Marin Communications Forums, structure for community response to resource cuts, a “PTA” for 0-5 year olds, support for family caregivers, expanded public policy advocacy, support for outside advocacy groups, and support for new interventions to address widening gaps or emergency needs.

- **Commissioner Rice** asked whether there is any emergency funding; Commissioner Bonfilio concurred that this is important. Amy indicated that there are unallocated dollars in each strategy area, but that additional “contingency” or “emergency fund could certainly be set aside. We do have an emergency request protocol in place and can also initiate commission-run projects.

- Commissioner Leavitt** asked about playgroups. Amy indicated that expanding the availability of playgroups is included in the Partnership Strategy area.

- Commissioner Rice** suggested that we ask communities what they need. Amy replied that this was definitely part of the plan and that we are already hearing from service organizations in the community with whom we work presently as well as the general community at our forums.

- Michelle noted that the suggestion about Extrafood.org was mentioned at the forum on Monday—that they set up food pantries to serve those reluctant to use services that require personal information. **Commissioner Rodriguez** agreed that some programs can have so many strings attached, it is difficult for people to access and feel comfortable.

- **Commissioner Rice** then asked about MarinKids, and how people are feeling about its purpose and value.

- Commissioner Ravani** said we do need to get the information out; we need the data and advocacy.

- Commissioner Leavitt** added that it is needed and doesn’t duplicate other work; Michelle added that MarinKids should be/have been complimentary to Marin Strong Start.

- Commissioner Ravani** asked whether it can grow into what it needs to be.

- Michelle said that if we eliminate MarinKids, there will be no advocacy for the needs of children 0-18 to support future effort to develop a dedicated source of funding for children.

- Commissioner Ravani** asked if we could have more information by June (before the start of the new fiscal year).

- Michelle wondered whether MarinKids would be presenting the new Data and Action Guide to the commission. (There will be a presentation at the next Forum on April 17<sup>th</sup>.) Staff will request a presentation for April.

- **Legislative Update** – Michelle Fadelli presented the legislative chart from the First 5 Association. The commission reviewed about a dozen bills and took position on the following:

- AB 60** (Santiago and Gonzalez-Fletcher): Subsidized Child Care – SUPPORT

- AB 164** (Arambula): Food Assistance – SUPPORT

- AB 273** (Aguiar-Curry): Child Care Eligibility – SUPPORT

- AB 435** (Thurmond): Child Care Subsidies – SUPPORT

**Motion/Second: Hanna/Bonfilio**

**The motion to support AB 60, AB 164, AB 273 and AB 435 was unanimously approved.**

## **VII. FINAL COMMENTS**

Michelle reminded commissioners that the next Marin Communications Forum (on the MarinKids Data and Action Guide) will be on Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Rafael.

Michelle also mentioned the annual dinner for the Rosie the Riveter National Museum on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at the Mira Vista Country Club in El Cerrito.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT** – Commission chair Lisa Leavitt adjourned the meeting at 7:12 pm.

**NEXT SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETING:**

**Wednesday, April 19, 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 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**MEETING DATES FOR 2017:**

**April 19**

**May 17**

**June 21**

**September 20**

**October 18**

**November 15**