



DRAFT

Meeting Minutes – March 21, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

Lisa Leavitt, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at First 5 Marin at 5:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present

Lisa Leavitt MD – *chair*
Kristen Seatavakin – *vice chair*
Sister Joan Hanna
Supervisor Katie Rice

Commissioners Excused

David Bonfilio
Amy Eisenmann
Gabrielle Philippe-Auguste
Juan Rodriguez

Staff Present

Michelle Fadelli

Staff Excused

Amy Reisch

Guests

Aaron Alarcon, In Home Support Services Public Authority
Kari Beuerman, Marin County Health and Human Services
Jill Casey, Luminare Group
Doug Cooper, League of Women Voters of Marin County
Connie DelRosal, Your Language Center
Lael Lambert, Marin County Health and Human Services
Rosario Navarro, Your Language Center
Dennis Rodoni, Marin County Supervisor
Shirin Vakharia, Marin Community Foundation
Ann Wakely, League of Women Voters of Marin County

II. MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Leavitt asked if there were changes, additions or corrections to the commission minutes for the last meeting on February 21, 2018. Sister Joan offered a small correction to page two of the minutes: she spoke about First 5 Marin to former students of St. Isabella's (rather than St. Raphael's).

Motion/Second: Hanna/Rice

The minutes of October 18, 2017 were unanimously approved.

III. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Rice reported that First 5 Marin's report, Making Ends Meet in Marin, was recently presented to the Board of Supervisors (in cooperation with the Marin Economic Forum), emphasizing the combined financial hardships of housing and licensed child care in Marin.

Commissioner Leavitt mentioned that Alameda will be having a ballot measure to support children/child care. (Also San Francisco;

see: https://edsources.org/2018/measures-to-fund-child-care-reach-the-ballot-in-two-california-counties/595019?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ballot-325-18

Commissioner Rice said that a 20% quota for affordable housing "just keeps us even."

- **Michelle Fadelli** mentioned that it was just reported that Marin Housing will have its funding reduced by more than \$4 million next year.
- **Commissioner Rice** noted that's only a possibility, but that there are about 100 people with housing vouchers out there who need to find housing before any "freeze" is put in place.

Sister Joan asked if we could have an update on proposed cannabis funding (for First 5/children's issues) at the next commission meeting.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Michelle Fadelli presented the executive director's report in Amy's absence.

V. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

- **Welcome to Supervisor Dennis Rodoni; Farewell to Supervisor Katie Rice and to Sister Joan Hanna** – Commissioner Leavitt welcomed Supervisor Rodoni to the commission; he will begin serving as of April 2018, replacing Supervisor Rice.

Supervisor Rodoni thanked Supervisor Rice for her service on the commission. He noted that he was a former school teacher, who had difficulty making ends meet on a teacher's salary. He added that he's been interested in "Strong Start" and First 5 Marin, and he's looking forward to serving on the commission.

Commissioner Leavitt thanked Supervisor Rice for her years of service on the commission. **Supervisor Rice** encouraged commissioners to stay focused on kids—healthcare, school readiness and child care.

Commissioner Leavitt also thanked Commissioner Hanna for her service on the commission and added that she's really been a pillar for First 5 Marin, as well as a personal inspiration and role model.

Michelle Fadelli distributed commemorative plaques to Commissioners Rice and Hanna, that were personalized with thanks for their years of service to the children and families of Marin County.

Commissioner Leavitt then recognized Kari Beuerman, Director of Social Services, who will also be joining the commission soon. Kari noted that her job deals with child welfare, CalWORKs, West Marin services, eligibility and more. She formerly worked for the Golden Gate Regional Center and also has been a preschool teacher. Kari noted that while the bulk of her Social Services experience being at the opposite end of the age spectrum with Adult

and Aging Services, she also has a fondness and passion for work with youth and families.

- **Presentation of First 5 California's Annual Report** – Michelle Fadelli presented the printed copy of First 5 California's Annual Report; it was passed around the table for commissioner's review.
- **Update on Collaborative Work with the Marin Community Foundation**
Shirin Vakharia, Director for Health and Aging at the Marin Community Foundation, reported on the work she has been doing with Amy Reisch on behalf of the Foundation and First 5 Marin.

She noted that since the rhetoric that began during the presidential campaign in 2016, there has been a lot of fear in the community. She and Amy have been working on several projects to address some of the issues being faced by immigrant families.

-Immigrant education and legal services – these efforts are intended to help immigrant families know their rights and to provide training to attorneys and legal staff who are advising immigrant families.

-Public benefits – many immigrant families are reluctant to use public services or benefits available to them (for fear of providing personal information, being put on lists etc.) The Marin Community Foundation connected with First 5 Marin to help address this.

-Health coverage – DACA is in flux and with ICE enforcement, the community is concerned about public benefits. At a recent Covered CA meeting, there was heavy concern from the community. Intake workers can't allay all the fears.

In response, the Marin Community Foundation and First 5 Marin worked collaboratively to fund and coordinate:

1. **National Immigrant Law Center** – provided training for eligibility workers and counseling staff, regarding public benefits and immigration status. 63 people attended the training; 53 county employees and 10 clinic staff members. The training also made a good connection between Marin County Health and Human Services and Marin Community Clinics.
*Kari agreed that it's good for eligibility workers and certified enrollment counselors to interact and learn together. They want to do the right thing, but they're not always sure what that is. Shirin responded that we don't want people guessing.
2. **Redwood Community Health Coalition** – provided training and technical assistance for enrollment counselors as well as public education campaign (Spanish language media, bus ads for open enrollment and ongoing MediCal). FYI, Marin County had the highest gains during the study period following.

The Marin Community Foundation and First 5 Marin agreed that it was critical to maintain the gains that had been previously made in healthcare enrollment.

3. **Training for the Business Community** – For a variety of logistical and other reasons, no grants were made for training the business community. However, Redwood did send informational materials to business members.
4. **Legal Services Training** – provided legal training related to public benefits and immigration law to legal staff working with the immigrant community. (As an example of the problem with misinformation, some attorneys were advising clients not to enroll or

participate in any programs and had actually been calling counselors to ask why they had enrolled clients in Covered CA.)

What's Ahead?

- a. **Public charge** – Those applying for entry into the United States are being examined for whether they will be a “public charge”— whether they will cost the American public. Immigration is looking closely at a person’s ability to pay for and care for themselves (and their children). They are looking at all potential benefits, including cash grants and long-term care (as well as the Earned Income Tax Credit/EITC, health insurance subsidies and other non-cash public benefits).

[The proposed changes would apply to those seeking immigration visas, or legal permanent residency, such as a foreigner with an expiring work visa.]

It was expected that the proposed rule change would be published by the end of March, and that there would be a 60-day public comment period. If posted, these rules could potentially go into effect in July.

[Note: The Washington Post reported the following on March 28th: ‘children would be considered a negative factor for caseworkers evaluating whether an immigrant is likely to use some form of public assistance or benefit.

“An applicant’s family status is a factor that must be considered when an immigration officer is making a public charge determination,” the proposal states. “DHS will consider whether the alien being a dependent or having dependents . . . makes it more or less likely that the alien will become a public charge.”

The proposal notes that “the receipt of noncash benefits tended to increase as family size increased in 2013.”

*Kari mentioned that the “public charge working group” in the county was meeting Friday (March 23rd).

* Commissioner Leavitt asked about the health hubs and whether they are taking names for food handouts. (While the SF-Marín Food Bank may collect information from recipients, there are programs that do not, such as Extrafood.org and the Sparkpoint food pantry.

Shirin also mentioned the National Immigration Law Center has a “**Protecting Immigrant Families Campaign**.” And the California Immigrant Policy Center is coordinating California’s response to the proposed rule changes. They are scheduling a presentation in Marin.

Shirin noted that the feds have to respond to every comment submitted to the proposed rule changes. Advocacy groups are encouraging participation in the public comment period. Also, the final rules are subject to litigation.

Meetings are being organized with members of Congress; some rules can’t be changed without Congressional approval.

There is also a public education campaign underway to explain the impact on constituents and on the state budget (e.g. if those in need do not receive or take federal benefits, the need for programs and services will impact state programs).

Finally, there is also the question about whether benefits in question in the public charge discussion are federal only? State benefits? Local?

*Sister Joan asked about the **Protecting immigrant Families Campaign**. We will send information to all commissioners.

*Michelle Fadelli mentioned that there is a link between these bigger/broader community issues and First 5's focus on children and families; we cannot serve children without addressing them.

*Shirin said you can't separate immigration status from other issues, like healthcare or child care.

*Kari added that children are being traumatized when separated from their family members.

*Shirin closed by saying that there is hope—and that is the level of collaboration between the Marin Community Foundation, First 5 Marin and Marin County Health and Human Services.

- **Presentation of the First 5 Association's "Network Concept"**-- Michelle announced that this item will be moved to the April 2018 agenda, when executive director Amy Reisch will present it upon her return.

VI. FINAL COMMENTS

Sister Joan asked if there would be an update on the "KSEP" (Kindergarten Student Entry Profile) project at the April meeting

VII. ADJOURNMENT – Commission chair Dr. Lisa Leavitt adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETING:

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

5:30 p.m.

First 5 Marin conference room

1050 Northgate, Suite 130, San Rafael, CA

Remaining commission meetings in 2018:

May 16

June 20

September 19

October 17

November 21

(no meetings in July, August or December)