



Meeting Minutes – September 20, 2017

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*
David Bonfilio
Sister Joan Hanna
Gabrielle Philippe-Auguste
Supervisor Katie Rice
Juan Rodriguez

Commissioners Excused

Amy Eisenmann
Heather Ravani

Staff Present

Amy Reisch
Michelle Fadelli

Guests

Jill Casey, Luminare Group (formerly jdcPartnerships)
Melissa Guerrero, Marin County Office of Education
Meredith Parnell, MarinKids
Raquel Rose, Marin County Office of Education

II. MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Seatavakin asked if there were changes, additions or corrections to the commission minutes for the last meeting on May 17, 2017.

Motion/Second: Bonfilio/Hanna

The minutes of June 21, 2017 were unanimously approved.

III. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commission Leavitt – asked if everyone had completed their evaluations. Jill Casey will follow up.

Commission Bonfilio reported on attending a meeting about parking in East San Rafael. He noted that the lack of housing is at the heart of the problem. We need to move our policymakers on this; it affects everything that we do.

- Lisa noted that we just held a Marin Communications Forum on this issue.
- Michelle Fadelli shared that a library employee had his August rent raised by \$1000 per month.
- Lisa added that housing supply, vacancy rates and rents are all part of the problem.
- Amy Reisch added that a videographer for our forum shared with us that he's living in his truck.

Commissioner Rodriguez shared that he was invited to join the board of MarinKids, along with Commissioner Leavitt. He said he is looking forward to keep children 0-to-5 at the forefront of their work.

Commissioner Leavitt then presented an urgency item regarding ACA Open Enrollment. **Executive Director Amy Reisch** reviewed the situation: large numbers of people are dis-enrolling from ACA (out of fear for their personal information and fear of arrest/detention etc.), legal advisors and advocates are asking local **enrollment assistants (assistors)** complex legal questions, and all parties are in need of information and clarifications. Amy asked for authorization to spend up to \$50,000 from our “Other Health” funding allocation for staff training and support, legal training and assistance, and educational materials regarding re-enrollment.

Motion to Accept the Urgency Item

Rice/Bonfilio

Motion approved unanimously

Amy noted that 900 children had been on emergency Medi-Cal and were transferred to regular Medi-Cal when the State of California extended coverage. She emphasized that families have to actively renew their coverage. We need to inform people that these are “State dollars”—a state program, not a federal program.

- Katie asked where the information was from. Amy has been working with **Shirin Vakharia** at the Marin Community Foundation, Redwood Community Health Centers, and Mark Herbert of Small Business Majority. The information is directly from assistors at Marin Community Clinics and Redwood Community Health Centers.
- Lisa added that schools would be a good venue to distribute information.
- Commissioners agreed that other funders should contribute.
- Katie asked if the promotores would be involved in outreach. Amy said they are. The assistors are part of the promotores network .

Motion to approve up to \$50,000 in “Other Health” funds to support ACA open enrollment.

Motion/Second: Rice/Rodriguez

The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

- **Baseline Kindergarten Readiness: Proposal for Pilot Program for Marin County**

Raquel Rose from the Marin County Office of Education (MCOE) presented to the commission, with Melissa Guerrero in support, with a proposal for “Kindergarten Assessment School Entry Program” (or KASEP).

-KASEP is a 13 item screening tool: six social-emotional items and 7 school readiness (knowledge-based) items.

-Sonoma County removed an alphabet question and added a parent question.

-the KASAP screening tool is designed to be administered four weeks after the start of school

-the tool is evidence-based and research-validated.

-MCOE would look for five to ten teachers countywide to participate in the pilot program; their feedback will be critical to decision to move ahead. (PreK-to-3 schools will not be targeted, but won’t be excluded if they express interest.)

-Activities include: training, tool implementation, data collection (input, interviews, discussion) and an executive summary

-Budget: MCOE staff, teacher stipends; materials/supplies, contracts (trainers, database)

*Request is for \$44,411, up to \$50,000.

-Benefits: we will receive a single, countywide metric; data will help us to direct resources, and track the impact of expenditures; we can work in partnership with at-risk students, and use diagnostic monitoring.

*Sister Joan asked about Sonoma County's experience.

*Katie asked how many years had the tool been in use.

*David asked about Fresno, which has been using the tool since 2012. He noted it looks like "Ages and Stages" and Amy agreed.

Raquel added that the former "DRDP" tool was cumbersome, including 30 pages of questions for each child.

*Lisa asked about non-English speakers and parent info, noting that many of her patients had parents who were monolingual Spanish speakers and "functionally illiterate" with regard to completing questionnaires. Raquel said that bilingual materials and personal bilingual assistance would be part of the program. Amy added the PreK-to-3 program uses assistants at ESL schools. Raquel added that this was a good issue for the pilot program.

*Lisa asked about what other challenges were expected? Not all preschools are "high quality." Teachers may ask why they are doing yet another assessment.

*Katie asked about the "5-to-10" teacher range, adding that we would need results from at least ten teachers. Raquel said she would push for 10 (and would invite 15, expecting some attrition).

*Katie asked about this Fall or next? Raquel would like to launch the pilot this Fall, although they would be screening students after the four week timeframe, in order to have results in time to use Spring 2018 to prepare for a full, countywide launch in Fall of 2108.

Raquel emphasized that KASEP is a screening tool, not a diagnostic tool.

*Katie said it will be good to have universal assessment.

*David added that this will fill a data gap. He asked where this fits in our budget; Amy said under "Training/Technical Assistance."

There was a motion to approve up to \$50,000 to fund the KASEP pilot program, with a minimum of ten teachers

Motion/Second: Bonfilio/Hanna

The motion was unanimously approved.

- **Commission Meeting Schedule**

Executive Director Amy Reisch noted the commission currently meets nine times per year, with no meetings in July, August and December. The Fall meetings tend to be full with the audit, and evaluations; Spring meetings have budget issues.

*Commissioner Rice noted that some meetings don't have action items and suggested in-person meetings might not always be necessary.

*Commissioner Bonfilio suggested that meetings could be canceled and/or information shared by email if there aren't any action items.

*Commissioner Leavitt said for continuity she didn't think nine meetings is too many. Also, we are in a volatile political situation and may need to be available.

*Amy agreed that she can work with the commission chair to consider cancelling meetings without action items, and provide advance notice to commissioners.

- **Help Me Grow**

Executive Director Amy Reisch reported on “Help Me Grow,” a model for coordination of care and services particularly for early assessment/intervention with young children. A core group of early education/early childhood folks was first assembled to review and consider the program.

Help Me Grow involves universal developmental screening, data collection, one database for screening/intervention/follow up, and centralized phone access for providers and families (with trained resource and referral staff). In addition to providing optimal care for each child, the goal is to collect data which can move policy statewide.

A recent meeting was held with about 25 local providers, with a presentation by Heather Little from the First 5 Association. She reported that 17 counties in California are currently “Health Me Grow counties,” and four more are joining this year. By 2020, they expect 85 of the children in California to live in Help Me Grow counties. This is a national effort, with programs all across the country.

Amy added that we have to apply to be accepted into the program. At the next commission meeting, she will present a budget for anticipated costs during this fiscal year (including a facilitator for planning). For future years, this program will require additional contributions from other providers as well. Securing the buy-in and support from other funders is a piece of the planning process.

*David asked who would be collecting the data. Amy said providers who conduct developmental screening, like Marin Community Clinics, would “collect” the data. All data would be entered into a data base, e.g. Persimmony or another data tool, then analyzed on a quarterly basis and shared.

*David also asked about data security “in the age of the Equifax breach.” Amy replied that the Help Me Grow program would have the same level of security as “electronic medical records.” Lisa added that personal information is “scrubbed out” and a “unique identifier” is assigned to each person.

*Katie asked “who does what” with the information? Amy replied that staff “screeners” would review the results of all developmental screenings, contact families for follow up, make referrals for support/intervention with the Golden Gate Regional Center or other appropriate agency. (Katie asked, “then what?”) Amy replied that the program is a comprehensive system of data collection and communication that focuses on follow up, allowing for tracking of “yellow-flagged” kids to ensure that they get support and are not lost in the system.

- **Introduction of Meredith Parnell, MarinKids executive director**

Meredith introduced herself and shared some responses to the issues discussed during the meeting. Lisa welcomed her and said we are all very happy to have her on board.

V. FINAL COMMENTS

Marin Communications Forum – Michelle Fadelli reported on the most recent forum on “Un-Affordable Housing” (with 100 people attending) and announced the last three forum events for 2017:

October 17th – Financial Literacy

November 20th – Cannabis: Issues Affecting Children and Families

December 4th – Making Ends Meet in Marin (wages, poverty, affordable housing, child care)

*Amy noted that some First 5's are talking about funding opportunities related to cannabis sales. More information to come.

VI. ADJOURNMENT – Commission vice chair Kristen Seatavakin adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETING:

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

5:30 p.m.

First 5 Marin conference room

1050 Northgate, Suite 130, San Rafael, CA

REMAINING MEETING DATES FOR 2017:

November 15