

**Executive Director/Staff Report  
June 2018**

**Public Policy and Communications**



**First 5 Express** – Celebrating the **20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of First 5** with a **Healthy Family Fun Day – Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at McNears Beach Park**. First 5 Marin is partnering with Marin County Parks to plan free event for children and families, with the “First 5 Express” and fun activities including puppets, a bilingual preschool library, karaoke for kids, and resources for parents. Marin County Parks will bring their “Roving Ranger” and we are contacting community partners to host additional activities such as: rock painting (Marin City Library), arts & crafts + pumpkin decorating (Family & Children Law Center). We will also contact local agencies about health screenings and healthy activities. More details to come!

**Commissioners**-- *Let us know if you have a friend or know an organization that might like to host: face painting, balloons, bubbles, musical performances, puppets etc. Contact [Michelle@First5Marin.org](mailto:Michelle@First5Marin.org).*



**Kit for New Parents** – Michelle distributed about 100 “Kits for New Parents” at the WIC celebration in San Rafael on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Marin Community Clinics ordered another 90! First 5 California has updated the kits by including all the free giveaways in a reusable tote bag: a DVD with important “Advice for New Parents”; a great medical reference book called, “What to Do When Your Child Gets Sick,” a bilingual flyer on brain/child development, and a bilingual children’s book called, “Puppy and Friends.” The Kits are available in English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean & Vietnamese. Commissioners—if you’d like to order/distribute the kits, email [Michelle@First5Marin.org](mailto:Michelle@First5Marin.org).

**Marin Communications Forum** – the monthly forums continue with strong attendance and a very positive response from the community. Recent forums included:



**Building Latino Power, Presence and Purpose in Marin** –First 5 Marin partnered with the **Latino Community Foundation** and **Canal Alliance** on this important June forum at the San Rafael City Council Chambers. The Foundation shared current initiatives, including mobilizing the Latino vote and Latino Giving Circles. Canal Alliance shared some of efforts, including the “New Americans” campaign for citizenship. 125 people attended.

**The Transition from Early Childhood Education & Pre-K to K-12** –Amy and Michelle worked with staff at the Marin County Office of Education on this August forum exploring a child’s development and preparedness for kindergarten, including: social-emotional development, language and communication skills, and high quality early childhood education environments. 200 people attended.

**COMING SOON:**

- **September 24: Hunger Action Month/HEAL** – Michelle is working with staff from Marin County Health and Human Services and other community partners on a forum addressing hunger, food insecurity and “missing meals” in Marin. This event has a very robust agenda: opening statement from the San Francisco-Marín Food Bank; the launch of “HEAL 2.0” by Marin County Health & Human Services (a new initiative focused on reducing missing meals); the launch of a “Food Now” app; and the showcasing of community food systems reducing hunger in Marin, including: Marin Child Care Council; San Rafael City Schools; Covia; Marin Interfaith Council; ExtraFood.org; Ceres; Agricultural Institute of Marin; and Marin City Health & Wellness. This forum will be 8:30 am to noon at the Embassy Suites Hotel. RSVP to [Michelle@First5Marin.org](mailto:Michelle@First5Marin.org).
- **October 29: Health Equity in Marin** – Michelle is working with Marin County Health & Human Services to develop an agenda that will highlight health disparities in Marin, by ethnicity and by income level. We will also feature county and community programs working on health equity and working to improve health outcomes for all. RSVP to [Michelle@First5Marin.org](mailto:Michelle@First5Marin.org).
- **November 19: Help Me Grow: Developmental Screening, Intervention, Education & Support** – Amy and Michelle are tentatively planning this forum to present the early childhood “developmental screening” process, and to present and potentially launch the “Help Me Grow” program for Marin County. Help Me Grow is a comprehensive program the follows pediatric screenings with referrals for intervention and follow up, as well as parent education and support.

First 5 Marin is supporting the planning work with multiple agencies, led by an organizing consultant. RSVP to [Michelle@First5Marin.org](mailto:Michelle@First5Marin.org).

- **December 14<sup>th</sup>: Legislative Updates with Assemblyman Marc Levine and State Senator Mike McGuire** - Marin’s state representatives will address the Marin Communications to report on the last legislative session and to preview bills they plan to introduce in 2019. RSVP to [Michelle@First5Marin.org](mailto:Michelle@First5Marin.org).
- **January 28, 2019: Oral Health** – Michelle is working with Marin County Health and Human Services and will be pre-planning this forum to promote “Children’s Dental Health Month” in February. *Save-the-date!*

**Public Charge** – Amy and Michelle continue working with community partners on the “public charge” issue. Public charge is a phrase used in immigration law that allows federal authorities to deny legal status changes (entry to the United States or issuance of a “green card” for permanent residency) to people receiving certain types of financial benefits (cash assistance or long-term institutionalized medical care). The Trump administration is proposing significant changes to the “public charge question” that could impact many more people receiving many more types of public benefits (such as WIC, CalFresh, MediCal, Section 8 housing and Head Start); these changes are expected to be posted at any time. Amy has been collaborating with leaders from Marin County Health and Human Services, Marin Community Foundation and other partners to develop strategy and coordinate a community response. Michelle is heading the Communications Subcommittee, which has developed an informational flyer, FAQs and talking points; a website/landing page is under development. [This work continues as we wait for official publication of the proposed changes and a public comment period.]

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Amy continued work on both Help Me Grow and the Public Charge and related issues through the summer.

The Foundation and First 5 continue to collaborate around potential Public Charge changes and related enrollment and retention issues. (See memo for updates regarding this work).

For Help Me Grow, Luminare Group (our evaluation consultants) and Amy are working on mapping both screening efforts and data platforms around the county in preparation for our October 8<sup>th</sup> Leadership team meeting. Amy met with senior HHS staff to review and update them on the work to date, legislation pending (and now passed or on the floor) that supports the development of Help Me Grow efforts throughout the state, and potential funding partners for the long term here in Marin.

The Marin Equity Initiative, convened by Marin Community Foundation, continues to meet to prepare an Equity Vision and action agenda for Marin. Staff participate in a number of committees as well as in the planning and coordinating efforts.

Rise Together, the United Way’s regional anti-poverty effort and its Early Childhood Education Roundtable met over the summer and continue to work on integrating action on there 3 strategy areas: Housing, ECE, and Workforce issues. Amy is on the Power of Nine leadership committee and the ECE Roundtable.

**Meetings**

Bay Area ED’s First 5 Association	Marinkids Board Meeting
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ECE Work Group/Rise Together	HMG Planning Work Groups
Food Now Task force and Stearing Comm – HEAL	Protecting Immigrant Families
Public Charge Work Group	Marin Equity Initiative