Meeting Minutes – June 20, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER
Lisa Leavitt, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at First 5 Marin at 5:34 p.m.

Commissioners Present
Lisa Leavitt MD – chair
Kristen Seatavakin – vice chair
Kari Beuerman
David Bonfilio
Amy Eisenmann
Supervisor Dennis Rodoni
Juan Rodriguez

Commissioners Excused
Gabrielle Philippe-Auguste
Juan Rodriguez

Staff Present
Michelle Fadelli
Amy Reisch

Guests
Laura Byse, Community Action Marin
Rachel Kaloian, Community Action Marin
Maria Niggle, Marin Promise
Raquel Rose, Marin County Office of Education.

II. MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Leavitt asked if there were changes, additions or corrections to the commission minutes for the last meeting on April 18, 2018.

Motion/Second: Bonfilio/Rodoni
The minutes of April 18, 2018 were unanimously approved.

III. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner David Bonfilio said “Yay” for the letter sent by the Marin County Board of Supervisors to the Secretary of Homeland Security opposing the separation of children and parents at the border. Amy thanked Dennis for making the letter happen and for the same-day turnaround.

Commissioner Seatavakin reported that the workshop she’s been planning about emergency preparedness at early childhood education facilities has been rescheduled from last fall (due to the wildfires) to July 28th and August 4th. (For more information, email kseatavakin@marincounty.org.)
Commissioner Leavitt reported attending First 5’s Advocacy in Sacramento (with Michelle Fadelli) on May 2nd. She joined 120 First 5 representatives from around the state in legislative visits; Marin joined neighboring counties in visiting Assemblyman Marc Levine and State Senator Mike McGuire. Commissioner Leavitt is also serving on the “Help Me Grow” committee.

Commissioner Beuerman was pleased to report that the state budget included so much good news in the health and human services area, including a 10% boost in CalWORKS benefits.

Commissioner Eisenmann reported that the Bay Area Discovery Museum is working on STEM program for early childhood; they are also working with the California State Library on a toolkit.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Laura Byse reported that Community Action Marin (CAM) will soon be welcoming a new executive director, Chandra Alexandre. Her email will be calexandre@camarin.org.

Rachel Kaloian said she will be working to expand the donor base as the new development director at CAM.

Maria Niggle introduced herself as the new community outreach coordinator for MarinPromise. (Maria once worked with First 5 Marin’s school readiness program.)

Raquel Rose from the Marin County Office of Education was on hand to report on the Kindergarten Student Entry Profile program.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director Amy Reisch presented her written report and added the following additions:

-Help Me Grow: the recently scheduled meeting is being postponed to July/August; the backbones for the “call center” are well underway; and there is potential state funding pending for early childhood developmental screenings.

-Public Charge: “public charge” is a part of immigration law in which people applying to enter the country or applying for a permanent residency status or green card are screened for existing or potential reliance on government support; current public charge criteria refer only to receipt of cash assistance or long-term institutionalized medical care. The Trump administration has proposed changes that would significantly expand the criteria for being considered a public charge, including but not limited to WIC, CalWORKs, Head Start, SNAP (food stamps) Section 8 housing, and energy assistance. In addition, services accessed by citizen children would also qualify for public charge designation.

Amy is serving on a multi-agency public charge work group, chaired by Commissioner Beuerman. Michelle is leading the communications subcommittee. (They are drafting informational materials for clients, staff and policymakers. If you are interested, please email Michelle@first5marin.org.)

-HEAL (Healthy Eating, Active Living) – Michelle is serving on the communications subcommittee for “HEAL 2.0” and is helping on new collateral materials and a new website. (These will be released at the September 24th Marin Communications Forum on Hunger Action Month.)
VI. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

- **Revised Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-19** – Executive Director Amy Reisch presented the revised proposed budget for FY 2018-19. She noted that expenses remain the same as the draft budget approved by the commission in April; however Prop. 10 (tobacco tax) revenues have been revised downward.

Amy announced that this budget fully supports continuing support of First 5 Marin’s strategic plan.

With the availability of May numbers for the investment account, Amy also presented the long-range financial plan. Should spending and annual reductions in Prop 10 revenue continue as projected in the plan. Significant reductions in our funding will be required by FY23-24.

Given this reality for all First 5’s, there is a statewide effort to ensure that the critical efforts that First 5 is funding will continue. We are using the First 5 structure to augment county and non-profit programs and initiatives for children and families.

*Commissioner Bonfilio asked about the proposed funding for “Public Policy and Advocacy” in the Long Range Financial Plan, noting that two years (FY 2019-20 and 2020-21) show a different amount. Amy replied that we are anticipating a potential significant countywide advocacy effort at that time.

**Commissioner Bonfilio** made a motion to accept the revised budget for Fiscal Year 2018-19 as submitted.

**Motion/Second: Bonfilio/Seatavakin**

The revised budget for FY1819 was unanimously approved.

- **Update on KSEP Rollout (Kindergarten Student Entry Profile)** – Raquel Rose from the Marin County Office of Education (MCOE) presented an update on the KSEP program, beginning with a review of how the program originated (when First 5 Marin executive director Amy Reisch talked with Raquel and Superintendent of Public Instruction Mary Jane Burke about a universal tool to examine school readiness).

Raquel said this is standards-based tool developed at UCSB to screen children at kindergarten entry (in the first four weeks). It is not a diagnostic tool, but provides screening that could identify the need for further assessment. So far, 30 teachers from eight school districts have volunteered.

As a reminder, First 5 Marin had approved $107,000 of the estimated $200,000 program cost.

There was an informational meeting for teachers in May; the training will take place on August 13th. It will be a combination of webinar presentation with an in-person training by someone who has used the tool. The training will be recorded; this will allow other teachers to join the program before school starts.

The tool will be used over four weeks in August and September. Analysis will take place in October/November, and MCOE will report back to the commission in December/January.
*Laura Byes from CAM asked about information on the students’ background. Raquel said
the tool will report whether the child attended preschool, but not which preschool.
*Commissioner Rodoni asked if KSEP is just being funded for one year. Amy replied yes, but
that it is expected that this needs to be a multi-year program.
*Commissioner Beuerman asked if the tool will be administered in English and Spanish;
Raquel confirmed that the tool is bilingual. Amy also noted that there is a parent portion to the
tool that can be considered for the future.

- **Update on the California State Budget and other Legislation** – Michelle Fadelli and Amy
  Reisch provided an update on the $200 billion State Budget (signed and to the Governor) and
current legislation being tracked by the First 5 Association. Related materials may be requested
from Michelle@First5Marin.org.

VII. **FINAL COMMENTS**

Michelle Fadelli reminded commissioners about upcoming dates for the Marin
Communications Forum:

  *July 17 – Legal Services for Low-Income Families and Children – *just scheduled!*
  *August 27 – Transition from ECE to Kindergarten*
  *Sept. 24 – Hunger Action Month*
  *Oct. 29 – Health Equity*
  *Nov. 19 – Help Me Grown (tentative)*

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT** – Commission chair Dr. Lisa Leavitt adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**NEXT SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETING:**

**Wednesday, September 19, 2018**
5:30 p.m.
First 5 Marin conference room
1050 Northgate, Suite 130, San Rafael, CA

Remaining commission meetings in 2018:

  October 17
  November 21
  (no meetings in July, August or December)