



Meeting Minutes – October 17, 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*
Kari Beuerman
David Bonfilio
Amy Eisenmann
Gabrielle Philippe-Auguste
Supervisor Dennis Rodoni
Juan Rodriguez

Staff Present

Michelle Fadelli
Amy Reisch

Guests

Patricia Brawley, Parent Services Project
Jill Casey, Luminare Group
Balandra Fregoso, Parent Services Project
Lael Lambert, Marin HHS
Lucia Martel-Dow, Canal Alliance
Don McCrae, Your Business Legacy
Dan Monte, candidate for State Assembly

II. MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Leavitt asked if there were changes, additions or corrections to the commission minutes for the last meeting on September 19, 2018.

Motion/Second: Bonfilio/Rodoni

The minutes of September 19, 2018 were unanimously approved.

III. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner David Bonfilio reported that the East Bay Community Foundation is raising funds for “public charge” efforts in Contra Costa County.

Commissioner Leavitt reported that Marin Community Clinics is holding an open house on October 18th to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the clinic in San Rafael (which now sees about 300 patients daily for medical, dental and behavioral health services).

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director Amy Reisch presented her written report and shared additional information about the “Help Me Grow” program that is in the planning stage. The recent meeting was especially good, with partner organizations as well as parents in attendance. There was a strong consensus that the proposed call center cannot be a “county number.” The planning process has been very collaborative. An RFQ for operating the Call Center will be issued and will include ideas from the community.***Commissioner Beuerman** agreed that this has been a productive process

Report additions: Michelle Fadelli added that the Marin Communications Forum scheduled for November 19th is being cancelled, and will be rescheduled for early 2019. The October 29th forum on Health Equity has a full agenda, and we have well over 200 RSVPs.

V. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

- **Presentation of Annual Audit** – Finance Committee member David Bonfilio presented the annual audit of First 5 Marin (for Fiscal Year 2017-18). The audit this year is a clean audit and was approved by the Finance Committee. The Finance committee members are: David Bonfilio, Sister Joan Hanna, Roy Givens, Marin County Treasurer and Controller, and Brian Finnegan, CPA.

Motion to accept the audit as submitted.

Motion/Second: Bonfilio/Seatavakin

The vote to accept the audit of First 5 Marin for FY 2017-18 as submitted was unanimous.

-**Commissioner Leavitt** asked if this is the same auditor we had before. **Commissioner Bonfilio** said yes, this was the auditor’s second year with us.

- **Commission Vacancy** – Executive Director Amy Reisch introduced Lucia Martel-Dow, the Legal and Social Services Director from Canal Alliance, who has applied to serve on our commission. Her application was reviewed and she was interviewed at the last commission meeting, but due to the lack of a quorum, there wasn’t a vote. Amy asked for comments from any commissioners.

-Commissioner Rodriguez said it was great to hear about Lucia’s work in the Canal neighborhood of San Rafael, and all her efforts on social justice issues. She is conscious of the immigrant community. Her voice will be valuable at our table.

(It was noted that a judge from San Francisco blocked President Trump’s TPS terminations; one of the plaintiffs in the case is from San Rafael.)

Motion to accept the application of Lucia Martel-Dow for recommendation to the Marin County Board of Supervisors.

Motion/Second: Rodoni/Bonfilio

The motion to accept the application of Lucia Martel-Dow and to recommend her to the Board of Supervisors was unanimous.

- **Investment Policy** – Executive Director Amy Reisch presented language for a very minor change to the commission’s investment policy as suggested by our auditor. On page 4 of the policy, the language regarding “Bankers acceptances” in paragraph “f” under “Allowed Investments” should read “Bankers’ acceptances not to exceed one hundred eighty (180) days to maturity or at the time of purchase forty percent (40%) of the treasure fund balance.”

This change will delete the prior language which says 270 days.

Motion to revise the language in First 5 Marin’s investment policy related to “Bankers’ acceptances” as presented.

Motion/Second: Bonfilio/Seatavakin

The motion to revise First 5 Marin’s investment policy was unanimously approved.

- **Open Enrollment** – Executive Director Amy Reisch presented information in support of a request for an allocation for open enrollment outreach and provider training. Amy reminded commissioners that First 5 Marin has previously co-funded training with the Marin Community Foundation to support open enrollment outreach (FY1718). When the proposed changes to “Public Charge” were leaked last February, everything changed; we knew enrollment this year would be even more challenging. (Dr. Lisa Leavitt, our commission chair, is a pediatrician at Marin Community Clinics; she reports that families are already dropping coverage out of fear.)

In order to address the need to train eligibility workers and community assistants, as well as to conduct the intensive outreach and provide enrollment support during open enrollment, the requested allocation for FY1819 is for \$50,000. [Amy noted the proposed budget for staff work by Redwood Community Health Clinic (RCHC) alone was attached in the meeting materials. She noted that we would be splitting the costs with the Marin Community Foundation. (approximately \$50,000 by First 5 Marin; \$80,000 by the Marin Community Foundation)]

First 5 Marin and the Foundation want to work closely with the County of Marin and think long-term about systemic planning for addressing continuing service access and utilization issues for the immigrant community. What is the capacity? How do we provide critical services to our residents whether federal money is available or not?

-**Commissioner Bonfilio** noted that we are in the open enrollment period now, and asked whether the executive director might need authorization to spend allocated funds prior to the November commission meeting. Amy answered that the Foundation’s current grant period for RCHC runs through December.

Commissioner Bonfilio also asked if we were thinking of partnering with any senior groups on this issue. Amy replied that she has a meeting scheduled next week with In-Home Support Services (IHSS) and the Marin Child Care Council (MC3) to discuss child care challenges for senior care providers, a perfect synergy for the two demographic groups..

Amy noted that many IHSS employees are immigrants with young children; they often need to bring their children to the client’s home or leave them with little or no supervision. A coordinated solution will benefit seniors, staff and the children and their families.

Commissioner Leavitt asked if we will be training/re-training the same staff for how to address increased fear and uncertainty about accessing services? Amy replied that training would be for “enrollers” and for other staff. 43 people went to the first round of training; some will return for re-training, but others will attend for the first time.

Lucia Martel-Dow said we need to “train-the-trainer.” 40 people getting trained is not enough.

Supervisor Rodoni said that the executive director should be allowed to spend the allocation as soon as needed. Amy said she will bring a spending plan to the November commission meeting. She also noted that she is authorized to spend up to \$10,000, if needed, without a vote of the commission.

Commissioner Rodriguez asked if there was any information or data from last year's training. Amy reported that 2017 enrollment was up by 200. There were a total of 3,200 new or renewing ACA/Covered California enrollments —compared to 2,500 the prior year. Amy also noted that the Marin Community Clinics can do some outreach, but RCHC is funded to do community outreach at meetings and events. She added that the training is needed to inform enrollers about the public charge issue, especially to explain that the proposed changes are not yet in effect and that there are many exemptions.

-Commissioner Beuerman added that the training model is valuable; people understood their roles better.

Motion to approve an allocation of \$50,000 for open enrollment outreach and provider training, in collaboration with the Marin Community Foundation.

Motion/Second: Bonfilio/Seatavakin

The motion to approve the allocation of \$50,000 for open enrollment outreach was unanimously approved.

- **Aprendiendo Juntos** – Amy Reisch introduced Balandra Fregoso, the executive director of Parent Services Project, (and First 5's former school readiness coordinator in San Rafael) and Patricia Brawley, the coordinator and leader of "Aprendiendo Juntos" ("AJ," or "Learning Together"), the developmental playgroup funded by First 5 Marin. Amy emphasized that AJ is not just a playgroup; it has a developmentally-based curriculum designed to promote child development and school readiness.

-Balandra reported that Aprendiendo Juntos began as a meeting of parents and children one day each week; it is now held four days per week, with 1.5 hour sessions. Wednesdays are reserved for 4 and 5 year olds, with a greater focus on preschool skills.

-Patricia agreed and underscored the fact that AJ is much more than a playgroup. She n reported that parents learn about child development stages, and that they are their child's first teacher. Unlike a casual playgroup, AJ asks for consistent attendance and timeliness like real class. Children strengthen their social-emotional development as well as language, cognition, math, literacy as well as gross and fine motor skills. **"Every class, every book, every song is intentional."**

-Aprendiendo Juntos currently serves 180 families per week. Most are isolated families, of diverse cultures. They are mostly low-income families, and the children have no preschool experience. (Without AJ, they would enter kindergarten without any preschool experience.)

-Patricia noted that the parents also enjoy the art and activities (perhaps filling a need in their own lives).

-Patricia said that the goals of Aprendiendo Juntos are: to prepare children for school with the support of parents and caregivers; to connect families with community resources; to improve health and healthy behaviors; to connect families with other families; to educate families; and to build a safe and supportive community.

-Commissioner Bonfilio asked if the program is for moms only. Patricia replied that many dads participate, and grandparents too.

-Patricia added that they teach the "Five Protective Factors," which is a framework for strengthening families and includes: parent resilience, social connections, concrete support in times of need, knowledge of parenting and child development, and the social-emotional

competence of children.

-Patricia shared how she has seen significant behavioral improvements in children who attend AJ for just an hour and a half each week. **Michelle Fadelli** added that AJ is good for the children and for schools; without AJ, many children would have arrived at kindergarten with disruptive behaviors. Others noted that the program is good for the families too.

-Balandra shared that Parent Services Project was founded by Ethel Seiderman. In addition to Aprendiendo Juntos, other programs include: Raising a Reader, Family Engagement, Parent Leadership; Resources and Referrals (Earn It! Keep It! Save It!, the Passport Project, Medi-Cal enrollment, and Triple P/Positive Parenting).

-Balandra said that PSP needs include: mental health services; expanding preschool literacy programs through 3rd grade, promotores and expanded playgroups.

-Commissioner Rodriguez said that with the failure of Measure A, it is so important to support this program. He shared his frustration with the importance of meeting the needs of all of our children.

-Don McCrae suggested that First 5 Marin approach companies about donating space for playgroups. There were suggestions about approaching the County or the City of San Rafael. Balandra said she would ask Pickleweed about the availability of meeting space on Mondays and Tuesdays. (She added that we need data about school readiness. Amy said there should be information available from the PreK-to-3 programs for San Pedro and Bahia Vista Elementary Schools.)

-Don McCrae said that photos and video could be powerful in telling this story. Desire to Inspire Studios does this kind of work and might be available.

-Commissioner Leavitt said she refers patients and families to AJ. Aprendiendo Juntos is a win-win! Let's brainstorm about how to expand the program for more children and families.

- **Annual Evaluation Report** - Jill Casey from the Luminare Group, First 5 Marin's evaluator, presented the annual evaluation report for Fiscal Year 2017-18. She asked commissioners to think about: What are our top accomplishments? Why does it matter? What works well and what needs improvement?

She noted that this year's report is integrated, commission/staff and funded partners are reported together.

Under "Public Education," you'll see MarinKids, the policy breakfast, forums and social media. Under "Policy and Advocacy," you'll see Parent Voices, Legislative Advocacy/Stand for Children Day, Marin Voice. Under "Grassroots Capacity Building," you'll see KSEP (Kindergarten Student Entry Profile), public charge, and Help Me Grow. Under "Partnerships for Change," you'll see F:AGship, playgroups, Summer Bridge, Pickleweed Preschool, and Quality Counts.

VI. FINAL COMMENTS – reminder that we will not be meeting on the third Wednesday in November, per our normal schedule, as that is the day before Thanksgiving. The meeting has been moved to **Wednesday, November 28th**

VII. ADJOURNMENT – Commission chair Dr. Lisa Leavitt adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETING:

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL NOT BE MEETING ON OUR REGULAR DATE IN NOVEMBER!

Wednesday, November 28th, 2018

5:30 p.m.

First 5 Marin conference room

1050 Northgate, Suite 130, San Rafael, CA

Save the Date for 2019:

Wednesday, January 16th at 5:30