



Meeting Minutes – November 28, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

Lisa Leavitt, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at First 5 Marin at 5:36 p.m.

Commissioners Present

Lisa Leavitt MD – *chair*
Kristen Seatavakin – *vice chair*
Kari Beuerman
David Bonfilio
Lucia Martel-Dow
Gabrielle Philippe-Auguste
Supervisor Dennis Rodoni

Commissioners Excused:

Amy Eisenmann
Juan Rodriguez

Staff Present

Michelle Fadelli
Amy Reisch

Guests

Melissa Guerrero, MCOE
Vicki Harter, HHS Senior Public Health Nurse
Lael Lambert, Marin HHS
Raquel Rose, MCOE

II. MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Leavitt asked if there were changes, additions or corrections to the commission minutes for the last meeting on October 17, 2018.

Motion/Second: Bonfilio/Seatavakin

The minutes of October 17, 2018 were unanimously approved.

III. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Kari Beuerman announced a conference on child abuse and neglect in San Diego on January 26th through the 31st. 20 counties will be participating, with a focus on partnerships between public agencies and community-based organizations (CBOs).

*Amy added that the topics fits well with First 5 work on resilience and support.

*Commissioner Lucia Martel-Dow asked if there are numbers or data on child abuse available for Marin. Michelle Fadelli shared that information is available Kidsdata.org; you may search by county or by topic.

Commissioner Rodoni announced that the Marin County Board of Supervisors will have a hearing on “Just Cause Evictions” on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 5:30 pm. There will also be a hearing with Marin County Sheriff Robert Doyle on the “Truth Act” on Thursday, December 6th at 5:30 pm.

- **Lucia** mentioned that there will be a public rally in advance of that hearing.

Commissioner Lisa Leavitt reported that the Marin Community Clinics (MCC) just celebrated the 10 year anniversary of their facility on Kerner Boulevard in the Canal neighborhood of San Rafael. She said she was proud of the work the clinic has been doing as an active voice for their clients and in community partnerships. Staff talked with donors about the social determinants of health and the “public charge” issue. One provider talked about the importance of the clinic’s mission-driven work.

Lisa also reported that she met with First 5 executive director Amy Reisch and MCC’s CEO, Mitesh Popat about the “Help Me Grow” program. The clinic will consider applying for the call center contract.

Lisa also stated that, as the clinic’s community work and activism is increasing, they are considering becoming a member of the Marin Organizing Committee. (MOC)

Commissioner Kristen Seatavakin said she has been working on the Needs Assessment for the Healthy Marin Partnership, which is meeting on Thursday, December 6th.

Kristen is also working with a community group in Novato to submit public comments related to the proposed changes to the “public charge” rule for immigration. [For those who would also like to submit a comment, please visit www.ProtectingImmigrantFamilies.org; this site has directions and guidance for individuals submitting comments. Organizations are encouraged to submit at www.regulations.gov. (directly at: <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=USCIS-2010-0012-0001>; look for “Comment Now” tab in the upper right hand corner). All public comments are DUE BY Monday, December 10, 2018.]

- Amy noted that over 95,000 comments have been submitted so far. (As of 12-3-18, over 114,000 comments were submitted.)
- Michelle Fadelli said there are numerous news articles related to the public charge issue on the website being hosted by Marin County HHS: <https://www.marinhhs.org/public-charge>
- Amy added that recent news has included information about the impacts of the proposed public charge changes on business and the economy.
- Lucia said that 51% of families with at least one non-citizen member receive a non-means tested public benefit. She added that 73% are employed. CHIS has a new survey with more robust data; that is coming soon.
- Kari added that 80% of all those receiving public benefits are employed.
- Vicki Harter mentioned that a news story on public charge from PRI/The World mentioned First 5. (See: <https://www.pri.org/stories/2018-11-28/proposed-public-charge-rule-change-stirs-confusion-over-green-card-eligibility>)

Kristen said the recent panel discussion on public charge was really good. Commissioners Kari Beurman and Lucia Martel-Dow and executive director Amy Reisch did a great job presenting and with questions and answers.

Commissioner Gabrielle August-Philippe reported attending the United Way Leadership for Equity and Opportunity Training.

Commissioner David Bonfilio remarked about Dick Spotswood’s column in The Marin Independent Journal today related to housing, which included the following information: Between 2010 and 2015,

the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward census area built only one new home for every 6.8 new jobs created. (See: <https://www.marinij.com/2018/11/27/dick-spotswood-prepare-for-another-round-of-battles-over-suburban-housing/>)

David also reported seeing a family with children living in and SUV near his home in East San Rafael.

- Gabrielle said through her work at Homeward Bound of Marin, she has learned that families are splitting up, some living with friends and the others in a shelter.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Amy Reisch presented her written report. She said that after the audit meeting, Finance Committee member and County Treasurer Roy Given recommended that First 5 Marin pay off its unfunded liability for retirement. This would be about \$300,000. (At the time of the audit, the figure was \$270,976.)

*David Bonfilio, also a member of the Finance Committee, also recommended this action for the health of the organization and for the employees.

* Amy added that the issue would be put on the Commission's agenda for January or February.

Amy also noted that we have invited Assemblyman Tony Thurmond to speak at our annual policy breakfast in April; he was recently elected as California State Superintendent of Public Instruction. (*Commissioners—please save Friday, April 19 and 26, 2019; a final date will be confirmed soon.*)

V. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

- **Nomination of Vice Chair** – Commission chair Lisa Leavitt reported that the nominating committee (Lisa, Amy Reisch (ex officio) and Kristen Seatavakin) have recommended Commissioner Gabrielle Auguste-Philippe to serve as the next vice-chair of the commission.
*Amy noted that Lisa's term as chair expires in January; and as is customary, the current vice-chair Kristen Seatavakin would become the chair.

*Kristen said that the nominating committee agreed that Gabby's community service, work on the front lines with the homeless in Marin, and her leadership were all important qualities and would be valuable in her work with the commission.

Motion to appoint Commissioner Gabrielle Auguste- Philippe as the next vice chair of the First 5 Marin Children and Families Commission.

Motion/Second: Bonfilio/Rodoni

The vote to appoint Commissioner Gabrielle Auguste- Philippe as the next vice chair of the First 5 Marin Children and Families Commission was unanimous.

- **Open Enrollment and Outreach** – Executive Director Amy Reisch presented the proposal from the Redwood Community Health Coalition (RCHC) as an informational follow-up to the Commission's allocation made at the October meeting. This proposal is for continuation of the work on healthcare outreach, enrollment and insurance retention for the most vulnerable populations in Marin County. The proposal for First 5 Marin's portion of the contract is \$25,567.

***David** asked about the "in-kind" dollar amounts (\$3,750) on the proposed budget sheet. Amy said this is staff time at RCHC.

***Lisa** said we have got to keep the children enrolled, and emphasized how important that is to the survival of Marin Community Clinics.

* **Amy** mentioned that the California Healthcare Foundation has a report out on the impact of the proposed changes to the public charge rule on healthcare providers. (See

<https://www.chcf.org/blog/public-charge-rule-prompt-thousands-kids-need-care-leave-medical/>)

- **KSEP Update** – Raquel Rose from the Marin County Office of Education (MCOE) provided a brief summary of the “Kindergarten Student Entry Profile” (KSEP) project, currently underway. She reminded commissioners that this project began with a pilot of the kindergarten readiness tool. They began with a small group of teachers to review use of the tool, and involved schools not involved in the PreK-to-3 Initiative (Dixie, Ross, Ross Valley and SRCS). They received very positive feedback.

The KSEP tool was more fully utilized this year, with 11 school districts, 51 teachers and nearly 1000 students participating.

Melissa Guerrero from MCOE provided a summary of the KSEP project for the current school year. There were two training dates in August, with site visits and a video of the training also available. The project takes place in the first four weeks of school. The first three weeks of KSEP involve student observation; during the fourth week, teachers complete the student rubric.

The KSEP tool includes six social-emotional characteristics and seven cognitive skills, for a total of 13 items reviewed for each child. There are four levels of “ratings,” from “immediate” (as in the student has not yet mastered the skill) to “ready” for kindergarten.

The cumulative results were very positive:

- **50%** of students were rated as ready for kindergarten
- **34%** are almost ready, and need a quarterly check-in
- **14%** need improvement, and a monthly check-in, and
- **2%** have not yet mastered the skill/s and need immediate check-ins.

Overall, the school readiness results were as follows:

- **44%** were deemed “ready” with social-emotional characteristics
- **67%** were found to be school-ready in cognitive abilities

Raquel stated that these results were not what were expected. It is generally believed that social-emotional skills helped promote cognitive learning. Michelle Fadelli suggested that parents might be pushing cognitive skills in home learning situations.

Raquel said the big takeaways are:

1. Social-emotional is an important focus/need.
2. Pre-kindergarten programs/learning may be focusing on academics
3. 84% of the (1000) students involved in the KSEP study were ready or almost-ready for kindergarten (combining the 50% ready and 34% almost ready).

Melissa reported that 92% of the teachers involved in the KSEP study participated in a post-survey, and 30 teachers attend an in-person de-briefing meeting. Teachers advocated increased use of “friendship groups” in the classroom and more work with counselors.

Commissioner Seatavakin asked whether parents knew their children were participating. Raquel said, they though they considered a specific notification about the KSEP, but concluded that since all children are screened for school readiness in some fashion at every school each year, the KSEP tool is just an alternative and did not require separate notification. The results, however, will be shared with the parents.

Raquel reviewed the KSEP budget with the commission, reporting that the total project estimate was for \$214,582 to use KSEP countywide. First 5 Marin granted a total of \$107,291. Raquel stated that the actual costs thus far are \$54,505 (for the Fall of 2018).

Commissioner Bonfilio asked about recruitment. Raquel said the hardest part was the timing. It will be much easier next year.

Commissioner Leavitt said she would like to get information on the demographics (for those students/schools participating) at some point. Raquel said they may prepare an executive summary. Commissioner Martel-Dow concurred with interest in the demographics.

Amy Reisch said we'd like a way to share the results. Raquel said they will be presenting the results to the County Board of Education, and will notify First 5 Marin of the meeting date.

Raquel said she recalled hearing the First 5 hashtag "Talk-Read-Sing" after her daughter was born, and it impressed upon her the importance of interacting with her baby long before school or preschool.

Raquel concluded with the following recommendations:

1. Continue with the KSEP pilot
2. Use the remaining funds to promote and expand the project
3. Aim for an increase of at least a 25% increase in the number of participating teachers.

Commissioner Leavitt asked whether teachers will receive a stipend again. Raquel said that though they may be needed next year, is not sustainable for the long-term. Amy said they are still probably needed for the next two or three years. Raquel explained that the purpose of the stipends was to encourage teachers to try something new and to get trained with the tool. An option for the future, rather than a financial stipend, would be a day off work to complete the student assessments. Amy added that we should give stipends when we need the teachers to engage parents for the family survey.

Next steps:

- Executive Summary
- Board of Education presentation in December or January
- Planning for the 2019-20 school year

VI. FINAL COMMENTS – Commission Chair Lisa Leavitt asked whether we can do anything for the victims of the Butte County fires. Amy reported that the First 5 Association has established a GoFundMe campaign to support children and families in the affected counties. The funds "will be directed (100%) to counties for recovery services such as: mental health supports for evacuated families, supplies for damaged family child care homes and preschool, additional family programs to support children affected by the fires, and temporary child care supports. All donations to this specific fund will be used by First 5s in their communities for recovery efforts focusing on the needs of children 0-5 and their families." About \$6800 has been raised to date. To donate, go to: https://www.gofundme.com/2018-ca-wildfire-recovery?fbclid=IwAR1L3IG_fm5EfM5hrTCuweS03BR_4FeGsFEMKZOsELTy3OlsIF59iSqpKLE

Michelle Fadelli reminded commissioners about the last **Marin Communications Forum** of the year, with **State Senator Mike McGuire** and **Assemblyman Marc Levine**. This event will take place on Friday, December 14th from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 101 McInnis Parkway in San Rafael (with refreshments served at 9:30 a.m.).

VII. ADJOURNMENT – Commission chair Dr. Lisa Leavitt adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETING:

Wednesday, January 16th at 5:30
1050 Northgate, Suite 130
San Rafael