



DRAFT

Meeting Minutes – February 20, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

Kristen Seatavakin, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at First 5 Marin at 5:31 p.m.

Commissioners Present

Kristen Seatavakin – *chair*
Kari Beuerman
David Bonfilio
Amy Eisenmann
Lisa Leavitt MD
Lucia Martel-Dow
Supervisor Dennis Rodoni

Commissioners Excused:

Gabrielle Philippe-Auguste
Juan Rodriguez

Staff Present

Michelle Fadelli
Amy Reisch

Guests

Carol Barton, Marin County Office of Education
Ericka Erickson, Marin Child Care Commission

II. MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Seatavakin asked if there were changes, additions or corrections to the commission minutes for the last meeting on January 23, 2019.

Motion/Second: Bonfilio/Eisenmann

The minutes of January 23, 2019 were unanimously approved.

III. COMMENTS

Commissioner David Bonfilio shared that he had testified at San Anselmo and Corte Madera council meetings related to tobacco retail licensing. He was quoted in The Marin Independent Journal, representing the American Cancer Society and First 5 Marin. (Thanks for wearing your “First 5 hat” Dave!)

Commissioner Lucia Martel-Dow attended the Prevention Summit regarding child abuse prevention. There is an effort to create a prevention network in the county—prevention and intervention—with Children and Family Services. How can we better serve children and communities?

- **Amy Reisch** added that the focus is on primary prevention.

Commissioner Rodoni attended the Recovery Summit in Sacramento, hosted by the California Association of Counties. Butte County reported that 15% of their population was displaced in the recent fires.

- **Michelle Fadelli** mentioned that we have a potential October forum on emergency preparedness and communications.
- **Kristen Seatavakin** said we need a focus on resilience and preparedness.

Commissioner Beuerman reported that Marin County Health and Human Services held a town hall meeting in Marin City. 65-70 attended. A great deal of the talk was about the need for access to jobs and resources.

- **Kristen Seatavakin** said we need to use a sustainability lens.
- **Ericka Erickson** added that a focus was on inclusion.

Commissioner Leavitt attended the recent MarinKids board meeting. There is a new effort to analyze the county budget and develop/present a “Children’s Budget.”

- **Amy Reisch** added that Margaret Brodtkin and Ed Harrington, from “Funding the Next Generation” presented their work and experience in mounting revenue producing campaigns for children and in analyzing public budgets. She also noted that most counties spend most of their money on health and human services and law enforcement.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carol Barton from the Marin County Office of Education introduced herself. Her work is dedicated to quality standards and improvements for early childhood education providers.

Ericka Erickson from the Marin Child Care Commission introduced herself as the commission coordinator. She has been working on the child care needs assessment for Marin County.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Executive director Amy Reisch presented her executive director’s report and added:

- a. **Census 2020** – She has joined the “Complete Count Committee” for Marin County; the first meeting is March 8th. She and Michelle met with Jose Moreno, the regional director for the US Census count. According to the data for the last several censuses, the most under-counted group in California is children ages 0 to 5 and is historically one of the most undercounted groups nationally. Los Angeles has one of the lowest counts in the country. First 5 will be participating at the local levels and statewide. She added that there are handouts and gifts to be provided as incentives for participation. This will be the first digital count, which poses its own problem as many people do not have access to computers.

*Supervisor Rodoni mentioned that the county has received \$100,000 from the state fund to support the count and the Marin Community Foundation will be supporting complete count efforts as well.

VI. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

- **Child Care Master Plan, Marin County Needs Assessment and SEQUAL Project** – Ericka Erickson presented a summary of the child care needs assessment for Marin County which will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on March 13th:
 - A. **70%** of children in Marin have all parents working (compared to 63% statewide)
 - B. **25%** of families with children qualify for subsidized child care (compared to 43% statewide)
 - C. Center-based child care in Marin is **39%** higher than the state average; infant care is **28%** higher. (The average for an infant is \$21,105 and \$15,551 for a preschooler.)
 - D. The median family income in Marin is \$118,400—that’s \$4,611 above the ceiling for subsidized care.
 - E. The majority of child care requests are for infants and toddlers.
 - F. From 2014-17, there was an overall decline in child care slots of 7%, and a 10% decrease at centers. (There were some center closures during that time.) Family care increased during that time period.
 - G. Child care slots not available: 46% for infants/toddlers and 63% for school-aged children.
 - H. Of those children who qualify for subsidized child care, 60% are not receiving care. 54% of school-aged children are not receiving care.
 - I. Ironically, there is a surplus of full-time preschool slots, but also an unmet need.

Regarding the child care workforce:

- J. 75% of child care centers had at least one worker leave in 2014. 58% of those were teachers; 36% were assistant teachers.
- K. Publicly-funded centers had a 65% staff turnover.
 - Amy mentioned that the last master plan included a workforce analysis which was very helpful.
- L. 60% of ECE providers qualify for public assistance.
- M. Mean hourly wage for the highest paid teacher is \$25.46; the lowest is \$17.49. The mean highest hourly wage for assistant teachers is \$14.33; and the lowest is \$14.10.
 - **Commissioner Martel-Dow** asked if any other demographic information is collected about the workforce, such as neighborhood or community. Ericka replied this report only includes quantitative data. She added that there will be a public hearing on April 2nd at MCOE; and First 5 Marin is hosting a “Marin Communications Forum” on child care on April 8th.
 - **Commissioner Leavitt** asked if there were address on the waiting list. Ericka said that the Marin Child Care Council maintains the list, and that addresses are not mandatory.
 - **Commissioner Rodoni** asked about the \$20,000 expense mentioned in the SEQUAL proposal (discussed below). Ericka said that the Center for Child Care Employment conducts a statewide study; each county can buy-in for an “over-sampling” to get localized data. With this funding, the Marin Quality Counts Consortia will be obtaining local study results for center-based and family-based programs.

Next steps: the focus of the master plan is equity. It is informed by the needs assessment and will be presented to the Marin County Board of Supervisors on March 13th.

Carol Barton from MCOE presented on the SEQUAL project (Supportive Environmental Quality Underlying Adult Learning) with a request for financial support of \$11,606 from First 5 Marin.

Carol reported that “Marin Quality Counts” (MQC) – the local consortia working on QRIS (Quality Rating Improvement System)— which includes First 5 Marin, Marin Child Care Council, College of Marin, Marin Child Care Commission, Marin County Office of Education and other community partners— had voted to implement SEQUAL to learn more about the quality of Early Learning and Care (ELC) working environments and the impact of QRIS programs in Marin.

Carol noted that while child care workers are underpaid, more and more is being expected of them. Alameda County has a new report on their quality-rating system. We are hoping to reach every teacher; there will be incentives for responding to the survey. The information will be provided to child care directors and leaders.

- **Commissioner Bonfilio** asked about the total cost.

Carol reported that the total cost will be about \$71,000, depending on the total number of respondents. (The estimate of \$71,606 would cover 110 centers and 1,100 teaching staff.) Marin Quality Counts has financial commitments of \$35,000 from Marin Child Care Council; \$15,000 from the Marin County Board of Supervisors; and \$10,000 from IMPACT grant funds. The support of First 5 Marin would help enable the launch of the full countywide study.

Carol added that child care workers are facing additional stress with the QRIS assessors in the classroom watching them. There are increased demands to be “on” at all times; commissioners agreed it would be stressful to be monitored and analyzed all the time.

Commissioner Martel-Dow asked about state vs county funding, and whether there are best practices or models.

- **Carol** mentioned that San Francisco has a good example.
- **Amy** added that San Mateo had “Preschool for All. Los Angeles and Santa Clara also have good models.

Carol also noted that the high costs of child care don’t filter down to the actual provider or the ECE teacher.

Carol added that East Bay providers are in a union and are paid in parity with K-12 teachers. This is not true in Marin; preschool teachers are not protected.

Commissioner Bonfilio asked if unions are at the table. In Marin, the unions voted to exclude the ECE providers.

Commissioner Martel-Dow asked if there is an estimate for the total ECE investments needed in Marin.

- Carol** mentioned the Center for the Study of Childcare Employment.

Motion to contribute a grant of \$11,606 to complete the SEQUAL (Supportive Environmental Quality Underlying Adult Learning) study in Marin.

Motion/Second: Rodoni/Bonfilio

The motion was unanimously approved.

- **Legislation and Budget** – Michelle Fadelli presented a brief overview of the Governor’s Budget and of legislation related to children and families.
 1. **Governor Newsom’s Early Childhood Investment Proposals 2019** – Michelle shared an informational flyer from Early Edge California that summarizes the Governor’s budget proposals related to children and families. These include:
 - \$490 million for teacher training
 - \$245 million for early learning facilities
 - \$125 million for child care slots
 - \$750 million to expand full-day kindergarten
 - up to \$455 million for CalWORKs cash grants
 - \$100 million for maternal/infant/early childhood home visiting
 - and \$1 Billion for an expanded working families tax credit
 2. **Legislation** – Michelle shared the bill list from First 5 California and highlighted the bills they are supporting to date:
 - AB 23 (McCarty) – State Preschool and Transitional Kindergarten
 - AB 24 (Burke) – Child Tax Credit
 - AB 124 (McCarty) – Preschool Facilities Bond Act
 - AB 125 (McCarty) – Reimbursement Rates for Childcare and Preschool (First 5 sponsor)
 - AB 167 (Rubio, Blanca) – State funding for Early Start
 - AB 194 (Reyes) – Child Care Access
 - AB 197 (Weber) – Full-Day Kindergarten
 - AB 324 (Aguiar-Curry) – Retention Funding for Child Care Employees
 - SB 29 (Lara) – Medi-Cal Eligibility
 - SB 174 (Leyva) – Child Care Reimbursement Rates
 - ACR 1 (Bonta) – Resolution related to Immigration and Public Charge

[Michelle also shared the “Overview of the Governor’s Budget” from the Legislative Analyst’s Office; copies are available. Please email Michelle@First5Marin.org with any questions.]

VII. ADJOURNMENT – Commission chair Dr. Lisa Leavitt adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETING:

Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 5:30
 1050 Northgate, Suite 130
 San Rafael

Additional meeting dates for 2019:

April 17
 May 15
 June 19
 September 18
 October 16
 November 20
 (no meetings in July, August or December)