Public Policy and Communications

First 5 Advocacy Day at the State Capitol – Michelle traveled to Sacramento on April 30th to represent First 5 Marin at First 5’s advocacy day. She and Angie Dillon-Shore, executive director of First 5 Sonoma, met with Assemblymember Marc Levine; later they joined others from the north coast counties at a meeting with State Senator Mike McGuire (above left).

First Partner Jennifer Siebel-Newsom (above middle and right) read to children gathered on the east lawn of the State Capitol, then she delivered a bilingual speech to First 5 commissioners, staff and community partners at the Capitol steps. Jennifer is a mother of four, and a truly committed partner of First 5!
First 5 Express – The “First 5 Express” visited the San Geronimo Valley Community Center on Friday, April 12 in support of “The Week of the Young Child.” There was music, bilingual singing, storytime and a bilingual library for preschoolers and lots fun!

Marin Communications Forum –

Children’s Oral Health – About 100 people attended the April 8th forum on oral health. Marin County Health & Human Services presented their new needs assessment and the strategic Oral Health Plan for Marin; a summary was presented at the March commission meeting.

All About Autism – 175 people attended the March 18th forum on autism. The speakers were excellent and the audience was very engaged. The video of this forum is available at: https://youtu.be/0vkMnOGbZNg. For news, research links and related autism articles, please see: www.facebook.com/events/1962683700707189/

Child Care: Early Care and Education in Marin – 90 attendees

For news, research links and articles related to child care, please see: www.facebook.com/events/592256141194449/

Save the dates for 2019:

• May 20 – Toxic Stress: Prevention and Intervention – We have 200 RSVPs for this forum which will include speakers from UCSF, Marin County Behavioral Health and Recovert Service and Marin City Health and Wellness; in addition, there will be a teen panel from the Marin City Academy of Health and Wellness High School. For event details, as well as news, research links and related articles please see: https://www.facebook.com/events/290438948261568/

• June 3 – Literacy and Libraries – Michelle is working with the Marin County Free Library on this event which will focus on their efforts to promote literacy for all.

• July 2019? Maternal Health - Michelle is working with community partners on a forum related to maternal health (with a highlight on black maternal health).

**MORAL HEALTH** – Amy and Michelle continue working with Marin County HHS and other community partners on the new oral health initiative. Amy is serving on the Oral Health Advisory Committee; Michelle is on the Communications Work Group and will be creating and compiling outreach materials for pregnant women and young children.

**Policy Breakfast 2019** – Over 200 people attended First 5 Marin’s annual policy breakfast is on Friday, April 26th with keynote speaker Patricia Lozano, executive director of Early Edge California. Patricia talked about their commitment to empowering early learning teachers, and promoting high quality early learning programs; the audience was especially interested in their work to support dual language learners. Thanks to the commissioners who were able to join us! Others may watch the video at: [https://youtu.be/txhhG1glqC7s](https://youtu.be/txhhG1glqC7s)

**Public Charge** – Amy and Michelle continue working with the “Public Charge Coordinating Committee” on outreach and education. The deadline for submitting public comments was December 10. The administration now must respond to those comments, before proposing to revise or enact the proposed changes. An update will be provided as soon as we hear from the Department of Homeland Security. For more information, please visit: [https://www.marinhhs.org/public-charge](https://www.marinhhs.org/public-charge)

**Re-Think Your Drink** – Michelle spoke before the Marin County Board of Supervisors in support of the “Re-Think Your Drink” statewide day of action (May 8th, 2019). The campaign encourages people to “Drink Water and Save Your Smile!”

Michelle reported that children and teens consume 17% of their calories from added sugars, and half of those are from sugary beverages like soda, fruit juice and energy drinks. (Soda is the worst because it has all the calories and no nutritional value.) As a result, children are increasingly getting “adult diseases” like type 2 diabetes, fatty liver disease and sleep apnea. Parents often serve juice assuming it is a healthy beverage choice, but the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children ages 1-3 drink no more than four ounces of juice per day (just one-half cup!); children ages 4-6 drink no more than four to six ounces; and children 7-14 drink no more than eight ounces (just one cup).

Of particular concern is the marketing of sugary beverages to children and communities of color. Latino and African American youth are being targeted with advertisements for soda, energy drinks and other beverages with high amounts of added sugar. There are correspondingly high rates of negative health outcomes in these communities. We can all do better by drinking and serving water!

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Amy has been working on developing plans for the implementation of the Help Me Grow Call Center (see memo for in the Commission packet), as well as exploring a space-sharing collaboration with the Marin Community Clinics.

Work continues on Marin’s response to the rapidly changing immigration rules landscape. With nearly daily announcements of harsher rules related to status changes and grounds for deportation, the need for support and reassurance, where appropriate, is growing. We anticipate the need for additional training for service provider staff, county and community, as well as for those affected themselves.

A number of key bills related to early childhood health, development and education are making their way through the legislature. We are awaiting the May revise and hope that much of what the governor proposed will remain intact, though we are sure some of the numbers will change. If there is anything significant to report by next week, we will do so at the meeting. Otherwise, we will update the Commission after the release.
### Meetings

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