Public Policy and Communications

Marin Communications Forum – The forum hosted two great events this summer and has a full schedule this fall.

Parenting: Attention, Behavior, Communication & Discipline – This June 25 forum was a panel discussion with Hilda Castillo from Family Works, Rommel Carrera from Parent Services Project, Shalek Chappel-Nichols from Parents Place and moderator Rona Renner. About 125 people attended. The video of this forum is available at: https://youtu.be/3Cp2r-02Cf0.

Education Equity – On August 29th, the forum welcomed Tony Thurmond, the California State Superintendent of Public Instruction as the keynote speaker for this event—and as a result, we had 475 RSVPs! (Actual attendance was about 450.)

Planned in partnership with the Marin County Office of Education, this forum included a data presentation from Marin Promise Partnership, personal stories from students/fellows with 10,000 Degrees, commentary from Marin County Superintendent of Schools Mary Jane Burke, and a closing presentation on equity from the Marin Community Foundation. (A panel discussion was skipped after Tony’s Q&A ran long!)

NEWS: “California schools chief, in Marin visit, promotes equity” – Marin Independent Journal
Save the dates for our next forums:

- **Census 2020: Make Marin Count** – Michelle is working with Liz Darby at the County of Marin on this informational forum about the census. After presentations from census officials, staff and community partners, there will be breakout sessions by community (to work on outreach planning). This event will include a welcome from Supervisor Dennis Rodoni and Supervisor Kate Sears.

- **October 7: E-Cigarettes and the Vaping Epidemic** – Michelle is working with Marin County Health and Human Services and the Youth Leadership Institute (YLI) on this forum. The agenda will include medical information about vaping from Marin County Public Health Officer Dr. Matt Willis, youth presentations, outreach/media campaigns and a presentation on parenting issues and dangers for children, youth and teens.

- **November 4: Literacy, Libraries and Raising a Reader** – rescheduled from June 3rd, this event will celebrate books, reading and literacy. Michelle is working in partnership with the Marin County Free Library and Parent Services Project.

- **December 9: Maternal Health and Wellenss** – Michelle is working with Marin HHS on this agenda, which will include discussion of pre-and post-natal care, emotional health, and health and healthcare disparities. (This event will be held at the Marin Health & Wellness Campus/ 3240 Kerner Boulevard)

**Mark your calendar for 2020!**

- **January 28, 2020: Making Ends Meet in Marin** – We are planning an important forum on the cost of living in Marin and the impact on families, with presentations by the California Budget and Policy Center & the Advancement Project. (This event will be held in the San Rafael City Council chambers.)

**Media** – Michelle worked with Sandra Rosenblum from the Marin Breastfeeding Coalition to place a “Marin Voice” piece for World Breastfeeding Week in August.
NEWS: MARIN VOICE: “For happier, healthier workers, promote breastfeeding in the workplace”

by Sandra Rosenblum

Oral 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.

The full Oral Health Work Group will be meeting on September 18th. There will be reports on access, education and communication.

The communications group has been working on key messages; and we developed a set of infographics that may be used as posters and flyers and shared on social media. These are draft samples:

Public Charge – Amy and Michelle continue working with the “Public Charge Coordinating Committee” on outreach and education. There are many informational materials available.

KEY RESOURCES:
- Protecting Immigrant Families (PIF) – www.protectingimmigrantfamilies.org
- National Immigration Law Center (NILC) - www.nilc.org
- Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) - www.ilrc.org
- California Immigrant Policy Center - https://caimmigrant.org/
- For more information, please visit the Marin County “Public Charge” page: https://www.marinhhs.org/public-charge

*** UPDATE from PIF:

The “Public Charge” rule will take effect on October 15, 2019

“The Department of Homeland Security has finalized its “public charge” regulation — a racially-motivated “wealth test” that rigs the rules against immigrants and their families who are on the pathway to a green card. Affected individuals and families will have until October 15th before it takes effect. See how “public charge” will impact you based on your immigration status, and what you should do.
OTHER ACTIVITIES

Amy spent much of the summer working on recruitment, review, and interviewing for the Help Me Grow (HMG) Coordinator’s position. With the help of a small group of volunteers from the Leadership Team, we successfully selected an excellent candidate. Susanne Kreuzer will begin October 1. We had 100+ applications, selected five candidates for first interviews and then did second interviews with two. Susanne was by far the most experienced and qualified for the position. We are thrilled to have her!

Amy also worked with Jill Casey (our evaluator) on incorporating Leadership Team input into a “framework for practice” which team members will “sign on to” and will become the basis for the practice approach identified in the MOU’s we develop with provider organizations who become part of the HMG referral and service system. We have, in addition, worked with the County Whole Person Care coordinator to use their data sharing agreement as a basis for our development of a data sharing agreement with the partner organizations.

Amy met with the MHSA Manager at DHHS to discuss HMG as well as First 5’s work and attended a the community input session for Prevention and Early Intervention for the next 3-year MHSA plan for the County. The state has called out primary prevention for child abuse and neglect, particularly for young children, as a priority for the next round and is currently developing implementation guidelines for the counties to follow. HMG is a critical part of the primary prevention process.

Finally, the Marin Community Foundation has approved a $75,000 two-year grant ($50,000 for the first year, $25,000 for the second) for HMG. We continue to explore potential funding from our other funding group members.

Work continues to address the recently issued final rule on Public Charge, as well as the other proposed regulations impacting many immigrants and their families. Amy will present on the new rule to the Power of Nine Committee for Rise Together on September 27th. In addition, we continue to provide any support we can to the Census 2000 effort that is being led by the County, Canal Alliance and CAM. The First 5 Association has provided some wonderful materials specific to the importance of counting the 0-5 population and we have shared that with the leadership of the effort in the County.

Finally, the audit is largely complete and there are, to date, no findings. And we are completing the data transfer of the State Commission’s Annual Report.

Meetings

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