Public Policy and Communications

Annual Report – Michelle is working on our annual report for 2018-19. The printed version will be available at the commission meeting in January.

Census 2020 – Amy and Michelle continue to be involved with plans for census outreach and education and logistics in Marin County—particularly related to outreach to families with young children. Amy is working with census leaders on structure and planning, and advising on outreach to the 0-to-5 community. And after partnering with the County of Marin on a census forum in September, Amy and Michelle are discussing the option of offering an additional forum focusing on 0-to-5, to coordinate and activate those partners working with families; this is tentatively scheduled for February 25th.

Executive Director Search Committee—Amy and Michelle have continued working with the “ED Search Committee” to support their work to announce and recruit a new executive director in 2020.

The Marin Communications Forum – Michelle is busy coordinating the December event and planning events for the new year. Since the last commission meeting, First 5 Marin sponsored the following event:

- Libraries, Literacy and Equity – About 75 people attended our November 4th forum on “Libraries, Literacy and Equity.” This Forum opened with commentary from Sara Jones, director of the Marin County Free Library. This was followed by a panel discussion with three community librarians (Raemona Little-Taylor, West Marin Libraries; Diana Lopez, Marin City Library; and Amy Sonnie, South Novato Library) who described the countless programs they offer for young children, students, seniors, adults of all ages that aim to inspire reading, literacy, skill development, professional development and lifelong learning. It was evident that the library is now so much more than a place to check out a book; it has really become a community center.

  This forum also featured a presentation on the P3 Initiative from the Marin County Office of Education and an interactive presentation about the “Raising a Reader” program. The program concluded with closing remarks from Chantel Walker about equity.

  The LINK to the video of this forum is at: https://youtu.be/QnpO1Sfn0iA

Save the dates for our next forums:

- December 12 - Legal Issues for Parents: from Pregnancy to Paid Family Leave – This forum will include a keynote presentation by Jennifer Reisch, Legal Director for Equal Rights Advocates, and a presentation about . (PLEASE NOTE THE NEW DATE and LOCATION! The meeting date has been changed from Dec. 9th to the 12th; the location will now be the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in San Rafael—just across from the First 5 Marin office.)
• January 28, 2020 - Making Ends Meet in Marin – We are planning an important forum on the cost of living in Marin (especially child care and housing) and the impact on families-- with presentations by the California Budget and Policy Center & The Advancement Project.
• February 25, 2020 - TENTATIVELY: Census 2020—Outreach to the 0-to-5 Community and Families with Young Children (location/s TBD)
• March 18, 2020 - Help Me Grow: Screening and Support for Developmental Delays and Disabilities
• April 8, 2020 – Child Abuse Awareness Month
• May 20, 2020 – Trauma-Informed Care/Mental Health Awareness Month

Public Charge – Amy and Michelle continue working with the “Public Charge Coordinating Committee” on outreach and education. The committee is working on renewed community outreach to encourage and urge residents to continue enrolling in programs for which they are eligible and continue utilizing benefits (especially those intended for children and families).

*** UPDATE from “Protecting Immigrant Families (PIF):

“Public Charge” Regulation BLOCKED by the courts

Update (10/11/19): Multiple federal courts have blocked President Trump’s Public Charge regulation from going into effect on October 15. This racially-motivated “wealth test” rigs the rules against immigrants and their families who are on the pathway to a green card...Families should continue to use the services for which you are eligible without fear.

[Please note that PIF has a new flyer, “PUBLIC CHARGE: DOES THIS APPLY TO ME?” UPDATED OCTOBER 24, 2019. Copies are available at First 5 Marin or on the PIF website at: https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org/.

There are many other 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

Oral Health – Amy and Michelle continue working with the “Oral Health Advisory Committee” coordinated by Marin Health and Human Services. The committee has subcommittees for Access, Education and Communications. Reports, information and materials for print are available on the website at: www.marinoralhealth.org.

Help Me Grow

Activities:
• Designed materials to support the work of HMG Marin while data base is being constructed
  o HMG Marin logo
  o Letter head
Consulted with consumers

Families
- Five year old child with severe language delay
  - Contacted First 5 through Facebook/mother emailed Amy.
  - Consulted with mother via email as per mother’s request
  - ASQ-3 In process
  - Networked with Speech Pathologist to gain updated information on
    Speech/Language providers in area who work with young children and also may
    take insurance payments.
  - Follow-up in progress, waiting for ASQ-3 Results

- Twin boys, Age 4 years 6 months
  - Phone Consultation with mother, referred by preschool teachers
  - Phone consultation with preschool teachers regarding boys behavior
  - ASQ-3 and ASQ SE-2 in process with teachers and a second with mother
  - Classroom observation
  - Follow-up in progress, waiting for information from school

Child Care Providers:
- Consulted on phone with 2 private preschool providers regarding behavior of twin boys
- Observed interactions with teachers and boys at private preschool. Provided some
  strategies they could use immediately to support the boys experience at the school. Will
  have follow-up meeting with school personnel and parents once all information is
  gathered.
- Consulted with private preschool provider regarding licensing and regulations around
  immunizations for children in preschool settings. Preschool has children co-enrolled with
  Office of Education that currently do not have immunizations, have not turned in forms
  with medical release. Discussed importance of policies and procedures to use with
  collaborative partners and parents and referred them to licensing regulations that
  articulate need for immunization and or signed waiver in order to participate in the
  preschool. Referred them to discuss with licensing for further help.

- Established domain name, email for call center
- Investigated various options for call center phones. Decided on Verizon. Purchased 2 cell phones
  and a central phone number for the call center which is 415-720-1283. Phone numbers should be
  live sometime in the first week of November
- Revised and posted Bilingual Call Center Coordinator on indeed, posted on Facebook and did an
  email blast. While we have received 15 responses most applicants do not have child development
  background or have worked with children. There are a handful of individuals that we will have
  informational interviews to learn more about their skills and experiences. Recruitment will
  continue
- Reviewed all current HMG programs in California. Who houses them, how many clients they
  served, are they stand alone or part of another system like 211. Looked at their websites to see if
  they were easy to navigate, were they bilingual, were they user friendly. Found many good things
  to consider as we move forward in building our website.
• Met with Jill Casey to review and discuss the STAR Data base. Currently working with Sarah Jones on what modules and configurations we want to include in data base.

• Attended the State Wide Help Me Grow meeting in Fresno. Networked with many HMG staff at the local and state level. Learned about the National HMG program. Picked up samples of HMG materials used by other HMG programs.

• Completed the National HMG Fidelity Assessment

• Reviewed the National HMG Messaging Tool Kit and Completed California’s HMG survey regarding whether Marin would adopt it as stated or want to work with California HMG affiliates on refining the messaging for California. While there were many valuable statements that could be aligned, there were some references that would not be well received in California such as the National HMG Frameworks reference to a power grid metaphor to describe the HMG system. HMG Marin agreed to be a participant in the development of the messaging that will be used in California.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Amy continued work with Luminaire on the finalization of the practice framework for Help Me Grow. We are also working with the county to reinstitute the Commission and a match source to draw MediCal Administrative Activities funds as well as EPSDT funds for Help Me Grow and for other funded projects.

We are working with CAM and Canal Alliance on completing a strategic plan for Census 2020 outreach and education in the 0-5 community. This plan will enable the two lead organizations to receive a small grant from the First 5 Association which will contribute to the resources for the outreach and events in the various census tracts with large numbers of 0-5 kids and families.

Our new phone system – with a separate number for Help Me Grow – will be up and running by the time of the Commission meeting on the 20th. It is an internet, web-based system and is far less expensive than adding a number to our current, land-line AT&T system. And our phone number has not changed.

Amy is working with Luminare Group on a retrospective report for the Commission as our leadership change approaches.

**Meetings**

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