I. CALL TO ORDER

Kristen Seatavakin, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at First 5 Marin at 5:37 p.m.

Commissioners participating online:
Kristen Seatavakin - chair
Kari Beuerman
David Bonfilio
Amy Eisenmann
Lisa Leavitt MD
Lucia Martel-Dow
Supervisor Dennis Rodoni

Commissioner/s Excused
Gabrielle Auguste – vice chair
Juan Rodriguez

Staff participating online:
Amy Reisch - executive director
Michelle Fadelli
Susanne Kreuzer

Guests participating online:
Tyson Jue – First 5 Santa Clara
Yzaida Miranda – Marin HHS

II. MEETING MINUTES

Kristen Seatavakin, commission chair, asked if there were changes, additions or corrections to the commission minutes for the last meeting on March 18, 2020.

Motion/Second: Rodoni/Bonfilio
The minutes of March 18, 2020 were unanimously approved.

III. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Rodoni announced that the Marin County Board of Supervisors successfully conducted their board meeting online, with public comments. He reported that the rental assistance program was overwhelmed with $1.4 Million in requests, with only $650,000 in available funds. The board will reconsider funding at the next meeting. Partnering with the Marin Community Foundation, and with federal stimulus match, we should have about $2 million available for COVID-19 response through the end of May. However, it is unknown how long the need will continue or what the resources should be; residents should plan carefully about how to use their stimulus checks and other funds. Thanks to Measure W, $100,000 has been made available for West Marin.

Commissioner Rodoni also noted that about half of the requests for assistance have come from the Canal.
* Commissioner Martel-Dow said that Canal Alliance is not a direct recipient of funds, but they are sending clients to Community Action Marin. She asked how do we know the accurate amount?
* Commissioner Rodoni reported that total requests for rental assistance from all sources were about $2 Million, but it was determined that many people had applied in multiple places. Total requests at this time total $1.4 million, but it’s an ongoing process and there is a waiting list.
* Commissioner Rodoni also reported that the county budget is taking monthly hit of about $7 Million. Rental assistance funds will not be reimbursable from federal funds, but food assistance is. The goal at this point is to maintain a flat budget.
* Commissioner Leavitt asked whether we should still be referring people for rental assistance.
* Commissioner Beuerman asked people not to call Social Services, as the waiting time is up to three hours. Callers should use the dedicated number: 415-473-7191.
  (See [www.coronavirus.marinhhs.org](http://www.coronavirus.marinhhs.org).) He added that the next Board of Supervisors meeting (on March 24th, 2020) would include an ordinance modifying evictions in Marin County as an emergency order; the cities are in agreement. He also announced that the County of Marin will be partnering with the Marin Community Foundation on response to the Coronavirus, each contributing $500,000.

Commissioner Beuerman reported that there has been a 500% increase in requests for social services (Medi-Cal, CalFresh, CalWORKS). They are dealing with a new population of residents applying for benefits for the first time. There is desperation. Referrals to In-Home Support Services and Adult Protective Services have skyrocketed. Contacts with Children and Family Services are down, which is very concerning; flyers are going out to teachers and mandated reporters about watching for signs of abuse during sheltering-in-place, and reporting out. For food distribution, $100,000 has been dedicated for isolated adults; 25,000 people in Marin are seniors living alone. Social Services has delivered 250 bags of food each week for the past five weeks. Staff are working hard; many are also serving as disaster workers.

Commissioner Bonfilio said his situation is much different, as he is retired. He has been meeting a lot of his neighbors; people want to talk. He noted that things are changing at the Grand Jury, on which he serves. They have two new reports and are reconsidering when and how to issue them. They are also reviewing whether and how to interview new jurors, or whether current jurors will continue serving another term.

Commissioner Eisenmann reported that she was furloughed from the Bay Area Discovery Museum the day after returning from maternity leave.

Commissioner Martel-Dow shared that working remotely has been a struggle. The Canal Alliance food pantry volume has more than doubled; there are 500 people in line stretching out through the Canal. County employees and North Bay Conservation Corps members are volunteering. Staff are putting informational flyers into the food bags, as that may be the only way many people will get official information. She also walked the waiting line, speaking with people and answering questions. Canal Alliance phones are busy; they are getting 150 calls per day and are not taking voicemail. Fundraising has been positive. $1.8 Million has been raised to provide financial assistance. About 1100 people have received support checks of $300 each. They are grateful for rental assistance, but also need cash in their hands.

Commissioner Martel-Dow also reported that she would be conducting public charge training on April 16th.

Commissioner Leavitt reported that there have been worries about the viability of Marin Community Clinics. They received some CARES Act money, but there is a loss of about $500,000 per month. The focus now is on “tele-health.” They are conducting 70-80% of medical visits by phone. The clinic sent a mass text to patients offering behavioral health services; they received about 400 immediate responses, who were contacted and scheduled. There is currently no billing to uninsured
patients. They are looking at how to provide blood pressure and glucose testing at home, and training patients to use the monitoring equipment. She also noted that there has been increase in accidental traumas, such as broken bones.

**Commissioner Seatavakin** reported that she has been working at the County’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and most recently she has been working virtually. Mobile care is being provided to residential care facilities for the elderly, with a focus on education, PPE and surge prevention. The County is also looking at how to provide medical care outside of the hospital. There is also a concern for screening and testing within the homeless population in Marin. She also noted there is an issue for people who do not have transportation to the point of testing, especially from the Canal neighborhood.

*Commissioner Martel-Dow responded that Canal Alliance can call a Lyft for them*

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The online guests introduced themselves: Tyson Jue from First 5 Santa Clara and Yzaida Miranda from Marin Health and Human Services.

**V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT** – In addition to the written report, Executive Director Amy Reisch added the following:

- The April Commission meeting is usually when a draft budget is first presented; however, there are too many unknowns at this point. A basic draft will be presented at the May meeting with continued funding for current programs, keeping expenses static. We know the budget will have to be amended; much will depend on when the new executive director starts and how much overlap is needed.
- First 5 Marin has a large amount of funds held in a cash account in its investment portfolio. As the market fell (recently), our financial advisor counseled to maintain cash funds rather than purchase investments until the market settles a bit.
- Commissioner Bonfilio asked how far behind our state funding is. Amy replied that they are almost caught up, and just one month behind in payments.
- At the last meeting, our consulting group, Luminare, presented a report on First 5 Marin’s core competencies; but due to COVID issues and concerns, we did not have full review and discussion. Amy said she would re-send their report by the end of April along with questions for consideration; we will plan to have a discussion during the May meeting.
- In partnership with the County of Marin and the Marin Child Care Council (MCZC), COVID-related supplies have been provided to family child care providers. First 5 Marin contributed $30,000 ($25,000 from an emergency grant and $5,000 from MCC’s First 5’s Impact matching grant).

* Susanne Kreuzer from the Help Me Grow Marin program reported that she has been reviewing webinars from the Help Me Grow national program.

**VI. CLOSED SESSION** – Commission chair Kristen Seatavakin adjourned the meeting to closed session for the Executive Director search update at 6:25 pm. Commissioner Martel-Dow and meeting guests ended their calls.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT** – Commission chair Kristen re-opened the meeting at 6:39 with nothing to report. The commission meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

**NEXT SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETING:**

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

5:30 p.m.

First 5 Marin conference room – OR online, as needed

1050 Northgate, Suite 130, San Rafael, CA

*** Please note that the meeting location is tentative. (If shelter-in-place orders remain active, this meeting will again be conducted by phone/video conference.)