Public Policy and Communications

Census –Michelle and Amy have continued working with community partners on the Census, sharing news and infographics on Facebook.

Facebook and Email Outreach during COVID-19 – Michelle continues finding video storytimes for young children in English and Spanish, as well as games, scavenger hunts, music videos and sing-a-longs and other activities. We are sharing this in emails at least three times each week and posting the best examples on First 5 Marin’s Facebook page. See examples at: www.Facebook.com/First5Marin.

Marin Communications Forum

All forums remain on hold. We postponed the March forum on “Social-Emotional Development” and will plan/hope to combine it with a session on “Help Me Grow Marin” in August. Our April forum for Child Abuse Prevention Month has also been postponed until 2021, but we posted content related to child abuse prevention during the month of April. We still have June 1st on the calendar with Common Sense Media, but we will contact them and postpone that as well.

For October, we are still planning on a forum about “Restorative Justice,” in partnership with the Marin County Public Defender and YMCA.

[On Facebook, the Marin Communications Forum page is sharing articles about working at home, teleconferencing and related topics. See www.facebook.com/MarinCommunicationsForum/]

Executive Director/Staff Report
Oral Health – The Marin Oral Health Advisory Committee had a virtual meeting on May 4th, with reports about dental care (and medical care) from Marin Community Clinics and Kaiser. The Committee is currently working on: a virtual Community Health Worker/Promotora/Health Educator train-the-trainer event; providing toothbrush kits and education at school distribution centers; and providing remote learning oral health curriculum to schools. Michelle continues working as chair of the Communications Group for the Marin Oral Health Project. The group developed infographics and other messaging for the months of May and June aimed at pregnant women and children ages 0 to 5. These will be posted on the “Healthy Smiles Marin” Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/Healthy-Smiles-Marin-372662556785470/ (and shared on First 5 Marin’s page). In addition, the group developed messaging specific to the COVID-19 situation, including the infographics above about emergency dental care. For more oral health information, see: http://marinoralhealth.org/

Policy Breakfast 2020 – As you know, we also had to cancel our policy breakfast scheduled for May 1st. Options for rescheduling this event will be discussed with the commission.

Public Charge – Amy and Michelle are staying connected with the “Public Charge Coordinating Committee” on outreach and education. The committee has been holding online meetings or calls, and is maintaining communication about community partners about current efforts, needs and
concerns. Amy is working in coordination with Commissioner Kari Beuerman from Marin Health and Human Services and Shirin Vakharia from the Marin Community Foundation to support the community organizations serving the immigrant community. [NOTE: On April 24th, the Supreme Court denied a request from New York to block the public charge rule during the COVID-19 pandemic.] For more information and the latest news regarding the public charge issue, please visit: https://www.marinhhs.org/public-charge

**Help Me Grow**

Susanne and Maritza continue to field calls from child care providers and families and to follow up with both resources and referrals as appropriate. In addition, they have worked very hard with our consultant on the development of the website for HMGMarin. Finally, we are waiting for word on our application to the County for MHSA funds to support the roll out of the centralized data base for screenings that all of the work so far is moving towards.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Amy spends most of her time on zoom calls with the EOC, HEAL Task Force COVID Response, child care pop-up logistics ad child care expansion, and First 5 Association meetings.

We gave the County a small grant for supplies for child care providers but have not yet been invoiced. Many of the needed items were not available, even through the county’s procurement process, so we will likely spend less than the $25,000 requested. We also awarded MCOE a small ($10,000) grant to expand their tk child care as more workers came back into the workforce. Finally, we have been working with Legal Aid of Marin on a possible small grant to support legal assistance for renters who are being faced with eviction now (in spite of the order forbidding it) and when the order expires.

The CDTFA has still not provided First 5’s with any estimate of revenue for the coming year, nor even with estimates for the remainder of this year. Most of the questions about new fees, back fees(?), etc., backfill formulas, ad admin the Association and State Commission had were either not answered or inadequately answered. As a result, the Association is contracting with an independent accounting firm to analyze the information sent by the Department. Our budget for FY2021 and our long-range financial plan will, at this point, contain a lot of guesstimates and will likely need significant revision later in the fiscal year. Revenues for FY1920 are significantly lower that originally projected by the state as well.

Amy and Michelle interviewed four candidates for the ED position. The Search Committee will bring forward two finalists for the entire Commission to interview in a separate closed session.

**Meetings**

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