



Marin Children and Families Commission
Meeting Minutes – April 6, 2011

I. CALL TO ORDER (5:45 pm)

Aideen called the meeting to order at First 5 Marin at 5:45 p.m.

Commissioners Present

Regina Archer
David Bonfilio
Aideen Gaidmore
Sister Joan Hanna
Cio Hernandez
Steve Kinsey
Heather Ravani
Sparkie Spaeth
Alicia Suski

Staff Present

Amy L. Reisch
Michelle Fadelli
Trish Brady

Representatives from the community

Marie Trejo, Children's Health Initiative
Victor Meneses, Children's Health Initiative
Molly Fivian, Easter Seals
Gary Ragghianti, attorney

II. MEETING MINUTES

Aideen asked if there were changes, additions or corrections to the March 2011 Commission minutes.

A correction was made to include Vice Chair Heather Ravani as present, and the minutes were approved as corrected.

III. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Aideen announced the **Children's Fair** at Northgate Mall on **Saturday, April 16th** from 11 am to 2 pm. This event is being held to celebrate the Week of the Young Child.

Cio announced a **community picnic** at the Health & Wellness Campus in San Rafael on **Saturday, May 8th** following the Marin Human Race.

Cio also reported that as of April 1, 2011 Marin County DHHS is no longer seeing maternity patients at the Health & Wellness Campus; these patients will now be cared for by the Marin Community Clinics. (Commissioner Suski noted that the Clinics have already seen five patients.)

Sparkie reported that Marin County has hired a new **Public Health Officer, Jason Eberhardt Phillips, MD, MPH.**

David reported speaking to the Marin Rotary Evening Program and receiving a children's book which will be donated to a children's program; he signed it, noting his First 5 Marin affiliation.

Alicia reported viewing a piece on PBS about Educare in Chicago.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Victor Meneses, from Children's Health Initiative, introduced himself.

Marie Trejo, also from Children's Health Initiative, introduced herself and reported that staff will be transferring children from CalKids to the Healthy Kids program in June. She noted that community meetings are being scheduled to inform and support families through the transition. (Heather stated that CHI has hired an eligibility supervisor to manage the transition while another staff member is out on leave.)

Molly Fivian, the new Director of Children's Services with Easter Seals, introduced herself.

Gary Ragghianti, attorney, was introduced by Amy.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORT

Amy introduced Trish Brady, First 5 Marin's new Finance Manager. She reported that Trish has been "flying the plane while building it" and has nearly completed conversion to QuickBooks. More importantly, we have a financial statement (see below) for the first half of FY1011. The commissioners introduced themselves to Trish and stated their affiliations.

Amy noted that the meeting handouts included an article from The New Yorker, "The Poverty Clinic."

Budget (FY 2010-11) – Amy presented the budget report (a handout) on the first six months of Fiscal Year 2010-11. She pointed out two items of note: 1) some first quarter contracts had not been paid during the first half of the year and will be reflected in the third quarter; and 2) that personnel expenses reflect one-time payments related to staff changes. Amy also noted that First 5 Marin had more cash on hand to begin the year than budgeted, but will likely receive less revenue than budgeted. Because contract payments for the year will be somewhat lower than projected, we should be "about even."

MarinKids – Amy reported that the Governance Committee is reviewing resumes for the Coordinator position that has been posted on CraigsList. She noted that applicants are extremely well (and over) qualified. Interviews and hiring will follow.

VI. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Budget (FY 2011-12) – Amy presented the first draft of the budget for FY 2011-12. She reported that our funded partners have created proposed reduced budgets, as requested. She reported that, in this budget, contracts have been reduced considerably. Other than EvenStart, which has always been scheduled to be concluded at this point, everything has been maintained except small grants and Nuestros Niños. Amy said that, hopefully, the Promotores coordinator will be funded in part by the Marin Community Foundation.

The draft budget does not include an allocation for First 5 Marin's annual breakfast. She reported that Commissioner Bonfilio had expressed concern about eliminating the event as it is a place where political leaders and a wide variety of community folks can actually come together and learn about our work.

The budget does include \$50,000 for MarinKids, a match for a grant from the California Endowment (and hopefully the Marin Community Foundation). Another \$50,000 is identified for CEI, the Community Enhancement Initiative; these funds may be used for the Summit, training, or technical assistance, and capacity building activities.

Amy reported that reductions will be seen in the evaluation contract, and that salary and benefits will probably be lower than currently projected. She noted a “wish item” for rent and utilities, and said she is still trying to reduce those costs.

Alicia asked about the cost of children’s healthcare premiums going up; Amy explained that the Healthy Kids program is more expensive, and comprehensive, than CalKids (which is being terminated).

Dave repeated his interest and concern that we maintain the annual breakfast; he said this is our only chance to speak (collectively) to meet with most of the elected officials, and that it is an important event. Dave also noted that the breakfast attendees are a different group than normal advocates, and that it’s important to expose the elected officials to this. There was some discussion and general agreement that we might change the venue to save some expense, but that a similar event would be important to maintain.

Amy reported that First 5 Marin staff is working on a “logic model” with Jara and Jill from JDC Partnerships mapping and framing our advocacy, organizing and policy related activities, to focus them toward short-term outcomes and larger goals. She noted that the model applies to commission activities as well as those of our partners, and that this is good preparation for our strategic planning process next year.

Amy concluded by reporting that the budget will be presented for action at the May 4th commission meeting; contracts will be signed once the budget is approved.

VII. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

The commission adjourned to closed session to discuss potential litigation, as noted on the agenda.

VIII. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION:

The commission reported from closed session; the following motion was made:

Motion:

First 5 Marin will file a lawsuit against the State of California, challenging the legality and constitutionality of AB 99 (2011), which requires the transfer of \$1 billion from First 5 Children and Families Commissions statewide to a new fund in the State Treasury. The Commission further directs its Executive Committee to manage the issue, with Commission Counsel, and report back to the full commission on a regular basis.

Motion: Bonfilio/Hanna

Yeas (9): Archer, Bonfilio, Gaidmore, Hanna, Hernandez, Kinsey, Ravani, Spaeth, Suski

Nays (0)

Abstain (0)

Absent (0)

IX. FINAL COMMENTS – Meeting adjourned 7:40PM

X. NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting

Wednesday, May 4th - 5:30PM

First 5 Marin 1101 5th Ave, Ste 215

San Rafael CA 94901

XI. ADJOURN