



Marin Children and Families Commission
Meeting Minutes – June 1, 2011

I. CALL TO ORDER

Aideen called the meeting to order at First 5 Marin at 5:42 p.m.

Commissioners Present

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

Commissioners Excused

Steve Kinsey

Staff Present

Amy L. Reisch
Barbara Clifton Zarate
Michelle Fadelli
Trish Brady

Representatives from the community

Ethel Seiderman
Cecilia Castro
Molly Fivian, Easter Seals
Lucia Iglesias, HHS/CHWP
Yzaida Miranda, HHS/CHWP
Mayra Buener
Alexandra Danino, Promotores Marin
Florencia Parada, PSP
Vanessa Williams
Brenda Rivas-Camarena, CSR/BV
Marie Trejo, Children's Health Initiative
Victor Meneses, Children's Health Initiative
Ana Ortiz, Children's Health Initiative

II. MEETING MINUTES

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

The minutes of May 4, 2011 were approved.

III. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Heather talked about budget reductions at the County and the impact on the Children’s Health Initiative (CHI) outreach and enrollment positions. She noted that when county positions are eliminated, contractual rights allow union employees with seniority to bump those with less seniority or those who work as “extra hires.”

David asked if said the County is still committed to CHI, but that the work would potentially be done with other staff. Heather said yes, the County was committed to the program but that the work might be done by different staff, depending on the outcome of the personnel shifts due to “bumping”.

Heather recognized the people attending the commission meeting who have been doing this work for some time now and thanked and congratulated them for a very commendable job.

Aideen reported that Parent Voices had received support from Parent Services Project and the Marin County Child Care Commission and funding from the Marin Community Foundation for a work on developing a profile of community priorities for and support for children’s issues. She said that staff would be meeting with agencies and polling for responses regarding the possible creation of a dedicated funding stream for children. She said that the data and results from this poll will be valuable for Marin County. (It was noted that the “funding stream” would likely be a parcel tax.)

Cio announced a BBQ in the Canal on June 11th. She also reported that a matrix of summer opportunities in the Canal is now available, and urged that this be shared in the community as half of scholarships for last summer went unclaimed. The matrix is available at Pickleweed Community Center or by calling 2-1-1.

Aideen reported that the State Senate voted to restore a limited portion of child care funding; the Assembly voted to fully restore child care funds.

David said he is receiving too many newsletters and that it’s difficult to make time for everything. He added that it would be helpful if this information could be consolidated in some way. (Several people suggested using MarinKids.)

Alicia reminded commissioners that the Summer Solstice Celebration is June 15th and will honor Mary Jane Burke, Marin County Superintendent of Schools, and Judith Flannery, a pediatric nurse practitioner who is retiring after 20 years with the Marin Community Clinics. Alicia noted that this event is the largest fundraiser for children’s healthcare in the county.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Several members of the audience addressed the commission regarding the current CHI staff at risk of being bumped due to budget cuts. Those who hold those positions shared their experiences and their concern for families in the community. Several others spoke in support of the staff and the importance of having assistance from someone known to and from within the community. Relationships, trust, and continuity were emphasized as critical to successful outreach and enrollment

Several commissioners responded in support of the staff as well, and agreed that their community involvement and community connections have been invaluable. Heather stated that, although many things are still unknown at this point, the County is committed to making a smooth transition should new staff be put in place. She reiterated that negotiated union agreements have created the “bumping process.” She also confirmed that the Board of Supervisors has approved the positions becoming “limited term” (dependent on funding), providing benefits to the employees. It is anticipated that Human Resources will be moving forward soon with recruitment for these new limited term positions. These new jobs will then be filled through an “open recruitment” process and the positions will not be held or guaranteed to those who may hold them now or through the “bumping” process. She also noted that First 5 Marin’s contract is at this time only for one more year (FY1112).

After the guests had left, David said that, in listening to those who addressed the commission, he felt they were looking for some action. He suggested that the commission chair write a letter on the commission's behalf expressing support for the program and for its community-based outreach model, emphasizing that community relationships are the basis for successful outreach, and encouraging a continued commitment to that model. It was agreed that Aideen would send a letter to the Board of Supervisors, with a copy to Larry Meredith, Director of Health and Human Services.

Alicia said it would be nice to recognize the people doing the application assistance work, and suggested that a community organization might do that. Cio suggested the possibility of some recognition during Bi-National Health Week in October.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORT

State Budget - Amy reported on the Governor's "May Revise" of the State Budget. She said that while the May Revise no longer included the \$1 billion from First 5, the Governor did not repeal AB 99. As it stands, First 5 Marin still owes almost \$3 million to the State Treasury. However, First 5 LA has joined Marin and several other counties in filing a lawsuit over AB 99; the multiple lawsuits are likely to be consolidated in Fresno County. The First 5 Association has been working with Senate and Assembly staff on this issue.

Amy also reported on recent meetings of the Senate and Assembly budget subcommittees. The Senate subcommittee adopted the Governor's proposal on Prop. 10 – to remove the funds from the budget but not to repeal AB 99. The Assembly Subcommittee *rejected* the Governor's proposal and instead voted to restore the \$950 million to local commissions (and repeal related provisions of AB 99) contingent upon commissions entering into "voluntary" MOUs to offset \$500 million (of General Fund costs) at the local level. The Assembly proposal would maintain the \$50 million transfer from the State Commission. Amy stated that the county executive directors are discussing the situation and that there will be a conference call the week of June 6th.

Audit – Amy reported that we have received a letter from the State Controller's office confirming that, after a site-visit and review of corrective actions taken, the audit finding/s in our FY0910 audit have been fully addressed.

MarinKids – Amy responded to an inquiry about the hiring of a coordinator for MarinKids. She stated that a contract has not been signed yet, but that a top candidate was selected. The candidate has a strong background in national and international public policy work, community organizing, and is a great writer. She will attend a future commission meeting.

VI. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

First 5 Marin Budget (FY 2011-12) – Amy presented a preliminary budget-to-actual report for fiscal year 2011-12, which includes "actuals" through May 2011 and an estimate for June. Amy noted five points of interest: (1) Prop. 10 revenue estimates are probably low, and will likely be about \$1.85 million; (2) if revenues are higher, less would be required for transfer from our investment account; (3) contracts reflect no small grants, a reduced Easter Seals contract, and a reduced expenditure for the Public Policy and Education Initiative; (4) personnel costs are lower due to staffing changes; and (5) professional fees may actually be higher depending on our legal fees related to the AB 99 lawsuit.

Long Range Plans – Amy presented two long-range financial scenarios, one with and one without the "AB 99 transfer" (of \$2,966,622 to the State Treasury). She noted that both scenarios also assume: a decrease in Prop. 10 revenues of 8% per year through FY 15-16 (and then a 6% decline); no salary increases until 2013-14 and then a 2% increase/year; and successful reduction of our lease obligations.

Amy and David stated that, as part of the new GASB 54 requirements, the commission must formally adopt the long-range financial plan as part of its official commitment of fund balance dollars for specific projects and future needs.

Amy presented two motions for commission action; the first states we are committing our fund balance, as part of our budget process each year, to fulfill our Strategic Plan; and the second approves two long-range financial scenarios, dependant on the final disposition of AB 99 transfers.

Motion 1:

First 5 Marin Children and Families Commission's fund balance policy is that it will set aside dollars as committed fund balance for projects and operational support which further the Priority Goals and Outcomes of its Strategic Plan. The dollar amounts will be determined as part of its annual budget process, which includes its long-range financial plan.

Motion: Suski/Gaidmore

Yeas (8): Archer, Bonfilio, Gaidmore, Hanna, Hernandez, Ravani, Spaeth, Suski

Nays (0)

Abstain (0)

Absent: Kinsey

Motion 2:

First 5 Marin Children and Families Commission approves the two long-range financial plan scenarios as presented. The operative scenario will be determined by the outcome of litigation of AB 99. Should the Commission be required to provide half its FY 09-10 fund balance to the State at the end of FY 11-12, the Commission will develop and implement a revised Strategic Plan and long-range financial plan to support it.

Motion: Spaeth/Bonfilio

Yeas (8): Archer, Bonfilio, Gaidmore, Hanna, Hernandez, Ravani, Spaeth, Suski

Nays (0)

Abstain (0)

Absent: Kinsey

VII. FINAL COMMENTS – Sparkie thanked Sister Joan Hanna for hosting First 5 Marin and our guests for the May 12th dinner with David Lawrence Jr. at the Sisters Gathering Place. She also thanked staff for their efforts. Alicia asked Amy if David Lawrence had any parting thoughts about First 5 Marin. Amy stated that he was very impressed with the creation of MarinKids and he was also very complimentary about First 5 Marin's funding process through use of the initiative process (rather than simply funding RFPs).

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

IX. NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 7, 2011 - 5:30PM

First 5 Marin 1101 -5th Avenue, Suite 215

San Rafael, CA