



Marin Children and Families Commission
Meeting Minutes – March 2, 2011

I. CALL TO ORDER (5:30 pm)

Aideen called the meeting to order at First 5 Marin at 5:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present

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

Commissioner Excused

Alica Suski
Steve Kinsey

Staff Present

Amy L. Reisch
Michelle Fadelli
Tiffany Steeves

Representatives from the community

Jackie Tarantino, MAEYC

II. MEETING MINUTES

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

Minutes were approved as submitted.

III. COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Cio announced that on March 15 there will be a small health fair at the First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael from 10-2pm.

Sparkie announced that the Department of Health and Human Services is moving forward with the car seat program. Sue Severin from the County met with the School Readiness staff to share tips and her experience installing seats countywide.

Aideen presented the Marin Childcare Council's quarterly newsletter and annual report. She also informed the Commission that Parent Voices is working to get funding for families in need of childcare in Marin. Leah is responsible for working on the program.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORT

FY1011 Budget Update

Amy told the Commission that a lot of time has been spent on weekly budget calls with the Association and Bay Area Executives as they continue to work on scenarios for next year's budget.

As part of the work, Amy met with all of the funded partners on Thursday, February 24. The goal of the meeting was to let the funded partners know about the budget situation, and ask that they draft 20% and 25% reduced budgets for FY 201112. She explained that although they would not necessarily receive that level of cuts, the exercise would enable them to think very closely about what is critical to the integrity of their programs. In the meeting Amy asked the funded partners to consider the following questions as they draft their budgets:

1. How closely tied to/related to safety net services is your program? (e.g. Children's health insurance is directly related).
2. Can any other organization, group, institution pick up the program? That is, not only do they have the resources, but are they willing? Do they have the expertise? Does it jibe with their mission?
3. What can you/your organization do to reduce the cost of the program while maintaining core functions of the program? Is it worth (that is, is it cost effective) to continue the program with 20-25% less funding? (In considering this last, think about how any children/families you serve and if and/or how they intersect with other services in your community).

The funded partners thanked Amy for being so upfront and clear, and for giving them the guidance and support they need right now. Amy noted that F5M will try to fund as much as it can for another year, but as it gets closer to FY1112 it will be more difficult. Organizations must submit their budgets by Friday, April 1st.

Amy plans to meet with Jara and Jill from jdcPartnerships to revisit the FY0910 evaluation (i.e. narrative and program description) to provide another layer of input into budget determinations for partner agencies.

Amy also shared with the Commission the Association's thinking about how to get to the billion dollars that the governor is seeking. The final determination, will, of course, be made by the legislature and the governor. Our hope is that the smallest counties will not be included in the take-away.

Amy is also working on ways to reduce Commission expenses at the same time as she is working with our funded partners. She hopes to have a preliminary budget in time for the April 2011 Commission meeting.

Sparkie asked if there is an opportunity for collaboration. Amy said that First 5 Marin has always been about collaboration. All of our programs have been collaborating for many years, but of course can do more. There will need to be more deliberate attention to sharing resources. In the coming year First 5 will facilitate meetings to assist them in doing that.

David Lawrence Dinner

Sister Joan has reserved a beautiful spot the Gathering Place of the Dominican Sisters Center for the David Lawrence on May 12th from 6-8pm. Michelle and Amy will provide the catering. Amy noted that we already have 27 RSVPS and expect between 30-35 people. Amy said that Commission will only have to spend about \$2000 on the entire event.

VI. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Presentation of First 5 California Annual Report FY200910

Amy presented First 5 California's 200910 Annual Report to the Commission. It is available to the public and will also be available online.

Reallocation of Portion of SNMH Grant to support Early Childhood Training Collaborative

Funding for Easter Seals, one of the agencies which is part of the SNMH Initiative, changed this year. There will be approximately \$35,000 in savings as a result. Much of the work that is represented by this reduction was related to inclusions training and support for child care and other service providers in Marin. The Early Childhood Education Partnership has been working with the Child Care Commission on the development of a county-wide training collaborative which would jointly develop and schedule a variety of training for the early child care workforce and related providers. The Commission identified a representative committee which is working on this. At the same time, Head Start received a training grant and hired a project director for this work. It makes the most sense to expand on the Head Start Program Director's position and include hours for her to staff the committee developing the county-wide training collaborative. This is a one-time funding request for \$10,000 and the collaborative will be staffed and housed under other auspices following the completion of the work outlined in the attached description.

Staff recommends approval of the reallocation of funds from the SNMH Initiative to the staffing of the development of a county-wide training collaborative for early care providers. This will enhance the community capacity to coordinate, share and make widely available a variety of training opportunities for early care providers in the years to come.

Motion to accept the staff recommendation to reallocate a portion of the SNMH funds (\$10,000) for FY2010- 11 to develop a county-wide training collaborative for providers:

Motion: Speath/Bonfilio

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

Nays (0)

Abstain (0)

Absent (1): Suski

VII. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

VIII. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION: Nothing to Report

IX. FINAL COMMENTS – Meeting adjourned 7:10PM

X. NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting
Wednesday, April 6 - 5:30PM
First 5 Marin 1101 5th Ave, Ste 215
San Rafael CA 94901

XI. ADJOURN