



Marin Children and Families Commission
Meeting Minutes – November 3, 2010

I. CALL TO ORDER (5:30 pm)

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

Commissioners Present

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

Commissioner Excused

Sparkie Spaeth

Staff Present

Amy L. Reisch
Michelle Fadelli
Tiffany Steeves

Representatives from the community

Barbara Siskin, Bring Me a Book Foundation
Jill Casey, JDC Partnerships
Jara Dean Coffey, JDC Partnerships
Harriett Gaines, Center Point
Julie Griffith, Neurology Health Center San Rafael

II. MEETING MINUTES

Cio asked if there were changes, additions or corrections to the October 6, 2010 Commission minutes.

Minutes were approved as submitted.

III. COMMISSIONER COMMENT

- Alicia Suski announced that the Marin Community Clinics opened a new dental clinic in Novato. The dental clinic is located next to the medical clinic on Redwood Blvd. Oral health services are available to children and adults. With support from Sutter Health's donor-advised fund administered by Marin

Community Foundation, low-income and uninsured adults are able to obtain oral health care services.

- Steve Kinsey complimented Aideen Gaidmore from Marin Childcare Council (MC3) for her quick response to the Governor's veto on Stage 3, rallying both parents and providers and bringing the community together to find a solution.
- Aideen Gaidmore informed the Commission that MC3 will not host this year's Striving for Excellence Conference on Saturday, January 29, 2011 at Embassy Suites. Instead, MC3 and College of Marin will possibly host a professional development day for people working in the childcare community. The details are still uncertain, but Aideen asked the Commission to continue to save the date

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORT

Amy Reisch provided the Commission with a brief overview of her written staff report. The following items were discussed:

▪ Ready for School

KOF – Alicia Suski inquired about the Marin Community Foundation (MCF) funded initiative. Amy explained that MCF and F5M will share in the cost of the assessment and School Readiness Coordinators and advocates have provided the support to teachers and parents to complete the assessments. The Summer Bridge children will now be tracked, along with all the other children in their classes, through 3rd grade. The four participating districts include Novato, San Rafael, Sausalito Marin City and Shoreline. San Geronimo Valley is not one of MCF's communities, but we did have the school there administer the KOF and their data will be included by ASR in the report. Amy stated that these assessments will help F5M see how Summer Bridge kids compare to children who attend regular preschool or who have no preschool experience prior to entering kindergarten.

Marin Country Day School - Amy met with officials from the Marin Country Day School (MCDS) to talk about the idea of their providing a Summer Bridge program on their campus this summer for children in the Corte Madera/Larkspur area. More meetings will follow to discuss the idea.

▪ Community Enhancement

Binational – Barbara participated in the Canal Health and Safety Day at the Health Campus in San Rafael. Binational Health Day at the Health Campus gave about 600 flu shots and had attendance of about 1,200 people.

Car Seats – Because so many parents don't know how to install car seats, Alicia Suski would like to see the car seat curriculum added to the Summer Bridge program.

▪ Public Policy and Communications

MarinKids – Michelle continues to work on media in preparation for the MarinKids launch set for

November 17th. Dana King will shoot a short video next week to promote MarinKids. The video will be posted on the MarinKids web site. Amy will be on *Newsmakers* Wednesday, November 10th (a Comcast Channel) to talk about MarinKids. Marc Levine and Cio Hernandez will also be on the *Bay Sunday CBS Channel 5*, along with Dana King, to promote MarinKids.

- **Other Activities**

Stage 3 Child Care – Amy and all of the First 5 Executive Directors worked on a response to the governor’s veto of Stage 3 Child Care. Michelle is working with the Marin Child Care Council and The Bay Area ED’s on media the responses to the cuts to Stage 3 childcare. Amy prepared a recommendation that would provide transitional assistance to families affected by cuts in Stage 3 child care. The legislature meets again in December to discuss the issue. (See agenda item under Commission discussion).

Annual Audit - Staff completed the FY0910 annual audit and the State report. (Agenda item below)

FY0910 Evaluation Report – Amy distributed the FY0910 Evaluation Report to the Commission. (Agenda Item below)

VI. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

- **F5M Independent Auditor’s Report**

Approved by the Finance Committee on October 14, David Bonfilio reviewed F5M’s FY0910 Audit Report with the Commissioners. David announced that although the audit is clean, there were management findings. The findings are noted on page 35, Section II - Financial Statement Findings, and are described as follows:

- 1) Transactions to reflect the accrual basis of accounting such as those related to capital assets, depreciation, capital leases and compensated absences were not yet recorded in MIP, the Commission’s new accounting system, as the related modules have yet to be implemented in the MIP system; and
- 2) FY2009 audited balances and FY2010 beginning balances per MIP were unreconciled particularly with respect to the net asset balance.
- 3) There wasn’t adequate review by management of the Commission’s financial statements.

David informed the Commission that the findings were in part why the audit was delayed. Management’s response is also contained in the audit and moving forward the Commission will use the full functionality in MIP and will hire a contract local CPA to provide quarterly financial oversight. The CPA will help to generate quarterly reports for the Commission and will prepare year-end financial statements for the audit.

- **CalPERS Health Benefits Program**

As F5M moves away from the County payroll system, we will need to contract with a health

insurance vendor for health benefits. As discussed in last month's Commission meeting, that vendor is CalPers Health Plan. CalPers health benefits package is similar to the County and is less expensive. Amy explained the terms of the contract as discussed in the resolution being presented for approval: F5M must agree to pay the minimum cost (\$108/month) of the enrollment for each eligible employee. The Commission is not limited to \$108, however, and will pay the full cost of enrollment. Should anyone retire from F5M, they may continue to get CalPers health benefits, but retirees will have to pay for their portion of the health benefit. The employer's contribution for each retiree starts at \$1 per year and increases each year until it reaches the minimum \$108. Any difference is the employee's responsibility. Only retirees receiving payments from CalPers retirement system are eligible. Amy noted that enrolling in CalPers is, however, optional for retirees. If F5M ends its contract with CalPers, then retirees no longer receive CalPers health benefits. Amy asked the Commission to pass the resolution provided by CalPers Health Plan to contract with CalPers for its health benefits.

Move to adopt CalPers resolution electing to be subject to public employees medical and hospital care act and fixing the employers contribution for employees and the employer's contribution for annuitant at amounts so indicated. (See attached Resolution)

M/S: Bonfilio/Ravani

Ayes (6): Gaidmore, Kinsey, Bonfilio, Suski, Hernandez, Ravani, Archer, Hanna

Nays (0)

Abstain (0)

Absent (3): Spaeth

▪ **Transition Bridge Loans**

Amy talked to the Commission about the Governor's \$256 million veto for funding CalWORKS "Stage 3" program—a child care services program that helps families who have moved out of TANF maintain school and/or employment as they stabilize financially. Amy confirmed that eliminating "Stage 3" will directly impact 253 children in Marin County. These are children of families that have successfully moved off of public financial assistance and are working, are full-time students or are permanently disabled. First 5s across California are being asked to provide financial assistance to the families affected by Stage 3 cuts. Almost every County is providing some kind of financial support.

To assist these families until they can make other arrangements, F5M staff provided the Commission with two funding scenarios, recommending the second. In this scenario, F5M will provide a forgivable loan for three months (November, December and January) to the local contractor for the voucher program, the Marin Child Care Council, for the purpose of providing all families with children infant to 5 years old currently on part of Stage 3 the transition time necessary to make arrangements for alternative care of their children. Should the proposed legislation restoring funding (with enough to pay back the loan provided) not be passed, about half of the cost of the loan should be covered within our current budget, requiring less of an impact on our long-range funding.

Motion: First 5 Marin Children and Families Commission authorizes the Executive Director to negotiate and execute a bridge loan agreement with Marin Child Care Council to provide families with transitional assistance as they seek other viable childcare options for their children ages birth to 5 as a result of the

elimination of CalWORKS Stage 3 childcare. The Bridge Loan contract for Transitional Assistance will be for the period of November 1, 2010 through January 31, 2011. Disbursements will be made monthly on the basis of invoices for licensed childcare services provided through the contractor for the families affected. The Marin Child Care Council will agree to reimburse First 5 Marin for any and all invoiced funds once, and if, those dollars are made available to them from the State of California. The loan provided shall not exceed \$180,000. The Commission will receive a full report from staff on Stage 3 funding in February 2011.

M/S: Bonfilio/Kinsey

Ayes (6): Kinsey, Bonfilio, Suski, Hernandez, Ravani, Archer, Hanna

Nays (0):

Abstain (1): Gaidmore

Absent (1): Spaeth

▪ **First 5 Marin Annual Evaluation Report 09/10**

Jara Dean-Coffey of JDC Partnerships provided a power point presentation to the Commission (see handout for full details) on "Advancing Community Led Change: Evaluation Report FY09/10 Highlights." This year's report highlights the real progress made by the Commission and its partners in community development, capacity building and sustainable community systems change.

VII. FINAL COMMENTS

- The Commission discussed the idea of discontinuing the Annual Breakfast. Amy asked if the Commission wanted to join a broader effort (like MarinKids "champion" event) or if they want to maintain the Annual Breakfast. MarinKids will not be a fundraiser event, but it will be possible for people to donate. David Bonfilio thinks the Annual Breakfast is a wonderful event that draws in a variety of people throughout the Marin community. The Commission agreed that F5M *will host* at least one more Breakfast. Possible speakers discussed include Delaine Easton and David Lawrence. Amy will reach out to these people to see if they are interested.
- Amy announced that the California Endowment has invited MarinKids to submit a full proposal for funding.

VIII. NEXT STEPS

IX. ADJOURN (7:30pm)

Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 5, 2010 - 5:30PM

First 5 Marin 1101 5th Ave, Ste 215

San Rafael CA 94901