



# FIRST 5 MARIN

Learn. Grow. Thrive.

## COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Zoom

5:15-7:15 pm

- I. **CALL TO ORDER (5:15)**
- II. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (5:20) – (Action)**
- III. **COMMISSIONER APPRECIATION (5:25) – Lucia Martel Dow**
- IV. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (5:35)**
- V. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORT (5:45)**
- VI. **COMMISSION DISCUSSION (5:50)**
  - \* State Budget Update – *Leah Catching, Child Care Commission (Info)*
  - \* Approve Strategic Plan – *Pegah Faed, First 5 Marin (ACTION)*
  - \* Approve FY22-23 Budget – *Pegah Faed, First 5 Marin (ACTION)*
- VII. **PUBLIC COMMENT (7:00)**
- VIII. **FINAL COMMENTS (7:10)**
  - \* Other Business + Community Issues/Events
  - \* Commission Directives/Next Steps for Staff
- IX. **ADJOURNMENT (7:15)**

**Next Meeting: September 21, 2022 (In Person- Location TBD)**

**\*Members of the public: please contact [michelle@first5marin.org](mailto:michelle@first5marin.org) for meeting details**



Copies of documents used in this meeting are available in accessible formats upon written request.

The agenda is available online at <http://www.first5marin.org>

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*DRAFT*

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## **Commission Meeting Minutes May 18, 2022**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

**Commissioner Chair Maria Niggle** called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. at the offices of Marin Child Care Council

**Commissioners in attendance:**

Kari Beuerman  
Dr. Jessica Hollman  
Maria Niggle – Chair  
Lisa Raffel

**Commissioners participating online:**

David Bonfilio – Commissioner Emeritus  
Supervisor Dennis Rodoni

**Commissioners excused:**

Itoco Garcia  
Kristen Seatavakin

**Staff in attendance:**

Pegah Faed – Executive Director  
Michelle Fadelli, Manager of Public Policy and Communications

**Guests in attendance:**

Paula Carrasquillo  
Angela Evans  
Diane Talo, EvalCorp

**Guests participating online:**

Kristen Donovan, EvalCorp  
Kelly Goods, EvalCorp

### **II. MEETING MINUTES**

**Commissioner Niggle** asked if there were changes, additions or corrections to the commission minutes for the last meeting on April, 2022. **David Bonfilio** asked what Pegah’s comments about “16-20%” meant; the complete statement is that “Pegah noted that 16-20% of positions at the Department of Social Services are vacant.” (Also, after the meeting, Lael Lambert wrote in with a correction, expanding her comments about emergency Medi-Cal for pregnant women. She said, “pregnant women who have Emergency Medi-Cal now have coverage for 365 days after the baby’s birth. Previously

mothers with this type of coverage were only covered 60 days from the birth of the baby. This change has significant impact on mothers being able to get medical care and treatment for postpartum depression for a year.” [Those corrections have been made.]

**Motion/Second: Gaidmore/Hollman**

**The minutes of March 16, 2022, were unanimously approved as corrected.**

### **III. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**David Bonfilio** noted that we were meeting at 555 Northgate and noted that this building was the location of the very first offices for First 5 Marin.

### **IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

**Executive Director Pegah Faed** presented the written report in the commission packet. In addition, she added Roy Givens has retired and therefore there was an opening on the Finance Committee. Mina Martonovich, the Interim Director of Finance will replace him. She added that, because David Bonfilio is now “commissioner emeritus,” we still need a voting commissioner on the committee; the main obligations will be related to the budget and audit.

Pegah also reported that our ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding was approved by the Board of Supervisors on April 26<sup>th</sup>, with thanks to Supervisor Rodoni. There will be \$1 million over two years, and First 5 Marin will serve as the fiscal agent. In response to concerns for staff obligations, she stated that we will be a “pass through” and there will be minimal obligations other than reporting to the County next year. In addition, the Marin Community Foundation (MCF) will be committing \$500,000 to support the child care system and infrastructure work.

Michelle Fadelli added a reminder to save-the-date for the **next Marin Communications Forum, honoring Immigrant Heritage Month: Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>** (tentatively 3 to 7 pm including dinner).

### **V. COMMISSION DISCUSSION**

#### **A. Summer Backpack Project**

Michelle Fadelli reported plans to continue our partnership with the Marin County Free Library, providing “summer learning backpacks” for young children in Marin. This summer, the Library has ordered canvas tote bags that will include the logos for both organizations. The request is for funding not to exceed \$25,000 to purchase school and art supplies to fill 1800 bags for preschoolers and another 200 sets of items appropriate for toddlers. The tote bags will be distributed in coordination with “The Learning Bus” as it makes stops around the County in June; commissioners will be invited to attend and help with distribution.

**There was a motion to approve the request for funding of Summer Learning Tote Bags, not to exceed \$25,000.**

**Motion/Second: Gaidmore/Hollman**

**The motion was unanimously approved.**

#### **B. Recommendation for New Commissioner**

Pegah Faed presented the application from Angela Evans, Director of Horizon Community School.

**David Bonfilio** shared that he had met Angela at the last meeting and looks forward to working with her. **Aideen Gaidmore** added that she was very impressed with her application and experience, and added that we're lucky to have her join the commission.

**There was a motion to recommend Angela Evans to the Marin County Board of Supervisors for appointment to the First 5 Marin Children and Families Commission.**

**Motion/Second: Beuerman/Hollman**

**The motion was unanimously approved.**

**Michelle Fadelli** asked about the application from Eric Schweninger; Pegah replied that his application did not meet the Board's deadline, but that he could apply for the next opening.

**C. Q3 Financials (FY 2021-22)**

**Pegah Faed** presented the financial statement for the third quarter of FY 2021-22 and asked if there were any questions. **David Bonfilio** mentioned that there is a \$250,000 cap per institution for insurance, and that some of our accounts exceed that amount. **Pegah** said she will look for any prior First 5 Marin policy and bring that back to the Commission in June. **David** also asked how far in arrears are we with (tobacco tax) payments from the State; **Pegah** said current funding is about two months behind.

**D. Budget Preview for FY 2022-23**

1. **Office Assistant - Pegah Faed** announced that she is considering the addition of a part-time office assistant. **Aideen Gaidmore** said this is a great idea; as executive director, it's important. **Michelle Fadelli** asked if this would be an hourly position or half-time with benefits, and suggested that we invite applications from students at Dominican University.

2. **COLA Increase – Pegah Faed** noted that the draft budget includes a staff COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) of 2% and asked the Commission for feedback. **Supervisor Rodoni** said the County is going with 2.5% and a \$2500 bonus for the first year. **Aideen Gaidmore** said the Marin Child Care Council (MC3) consulted the Non-Profit Survey and will be offering a 4% COLA to staff. **David Bonfilio** said First 5 Marin has usually followed the County. **Aideen** noted that First 5 Marin is an independent agency and not obligated to follow the County; she added that MC3 is providing a 5.5 to 6% increase for their contracts. **Maria Niggle** suggested we not take action tonight; and **Pegah** said she will bring this to the Finance Committee for a recommendation.

**E. Implementation Plan (for the draft Strategic Plan)**

In considering the implementation of our draft Strategic Plan, it was noted that the first year will be planning, with work supported with funding from ARPA and MCF. There will be more investments in the second year. **Pegah** said that most of our funded partners have requested the same funding levels as prior years, and asked if we want to commit to the same level or add a COLA. **Supervisor Rodoni** supported matching whatever we provide to staff; **David Bonfilio** agreed. **Maria Niggle** mentioned that many programs—like The Learning Bus and Parent Services Project—are mobile (driving to clients or different service locations) and have faced dramatic increases in the cost of gasoline.

**F. Strategic Plan**

Diane Talo from EvalCorp introduced her colleagues participating online: Dr. Kristen Donovan and Dr. Kelly Goods from EvalCorps. She presented the draft Strategic Plan for review, and reminded Commissioners that we would not be making a final approval tonight and she would bring back revisions in June. The goal for today is to prepare for

a vote in June (by identifying pages that are endorsed by all Commissioners and by noting any text that still requires review and edits).

1. **Carousel** – Commissioners and guests in attendance broke into small groups to review current pages from the draft Plan, compared to the prior version. Commissioners participating online conducted a separate review.

\* **Responses from Group A:** concerns with the Vision; concern for the lack of specific mention of English language learners, immigrants etc.

\* **Responses from Group B:** Concerns with the Vision and “every child”; is the Vision a dream or is it supposed to be achievable? They also asked about the photos. What about “system responsibility” rather than just parents/families? **Pegah Faed** said the Vision is a lofty goal, the big picture and hopes; the Mission describes how we are going to achieve the goal. **Maria Niggle** asked if we are stating an assumption that families are not nurturing? She also suggested that we make a positive, asset-based statement rather than negative. Strengthening. **Pegah** asked how we can say it without being patronizing to families. **Aideen Gaidmore** said it’s ok to say we *hope* all children will be in nurturing families—because some aren’t. **Angela Evans** said “thriving” is important for children and would be a good word to use. **Lisa Raffel** suggested, “Marin ensures that all children...”

**David Bonfilio** said “thriving” sounds financial. (Note that Kaiser Permanente used “Thrive” for their major campaign about health.) **Michelle Fadelli** said she did not like use of the word “cultivate” which sound appropriate for plants or animals, but not for children.

\* **Responses from Group C:** regarding strategies, where does “informing” go (as in informing policymakers, partners, providers and parents)? Regarding roles, co-development with community voices. **Maria Niggle** asked about “accountability.” Goals and Objective do not include health or mental health (which are core objectives in Prop. 10 guiding our First 5 investments.) Inclusion of “dual language learners” and “immigrants” while important are too specific for a strategic plan. **Angela Evans** asked about support for teachers; Pegah noted that it can be detailed in our workplan. Also, the Goals and Objectives state that “the ECE workforce receives supports needed to provide and sustain high quality care to children.”

\* **Responses from the Online Group:** its suggested that page 6 be edited to say “Marin is *one of* the richest counties” and that “Marin is currently the second most racially-disparate county”—in order to keep the Strategic Plan more accurate through 2030. Page 6 mentions African American families but should also mention Latino families. For page 11, we need to include education and influence not just data. Page 13 should point to the related information on page 14. Also, we should add language about services being easily accessible to the Goals and Objectives.

Diane thanked everyone and said, that in the interests of time, Pegah would share the electronic voting survey by email.

## **G. Implementation Plan and Evaluation Framework**

Kristen Donovan from EvalCorps said that a strategic plan needs an implementation plan; it’s a roadmap for the Commission. The Vision is intended to attract other agencies and people that share that view. The Implementation Plan is a bridge from the Strategic Plan. The Implementation Plan should be reviewed annually, especially as this strategic plan goes out through 2030. The Evaluation Framework asks, “How successful are we?” We will use primary data and ask people; we expect this to change over time.

Kristen asked how do we increase the chances that our goals will be achieved? The Evaluation Framework asks us to learn, reflect and correct.

Kelly Goods said that **Implementation Plan activities will include:**

1. Information resource and referral - to connect families with services.
2. Marin Policy Action and Communication
3. Listen and Amplify Community and Family Voice
4. Countywide Data Strategy
5. Marin Children's Budget
6. Improved School Readiness
7. Child Care System and Infrastructure (Pegah said this will be MCF funding)
8. Support for ARPA Initiatives

**Pegah Faed** recommended that we embed the ARPA funding in our other strategies; **Michelle Fadelli** agreed. **Aideen Gaidmore** said she sees lots of gaps in this list, and asked if this is a draft. She agreed that we should embed the ARPA funding, but note that it is separate (partner) work. The Implementation Plan should articulate the First 5 role. **Michelle** suggested that we highlight health and mental health as a separate activity (like school readiness). It was noted that the activities were derived from the Goals and Objectives; we can add health to both.

Kelly asked if there were any missing activities. Michelle suggested COVID recovery. **Pegah** said "flexible response to emerging needs." **Maria Niggle** said that community engagement research could be helpful to the language we are using, and keep us and the document current. (She will send a document to Pegah.) **Jessica Hollman** asked about the school readiness/ECE/TK discussion; are we only concerned about kindergarten readiness or do we also care about social-emotional wellness and readiness. **Aideen** agreed and added that "Ready for School" de-values the work that the ECE community does with children.

**Evaluation Framework** – Kelly provided a brief summary:

- \* Goal #1: county-level family indicators
- \* Goal #2: ECE experiences

Kelly said EvalCorps recommends annual reports, an annual survey, and a tracking program toward initial goals. The timeline would be to establish base indicators, then survey/report in 2025, 2028 and 2030.

**Public Comment** – Paula Carrasquillo, a preschool parent, introduced herself and shared her background. Aideen suggested she connect with the Parent Voices of Marin group.

## VI. ADJOURNMENT

**Commissioner Niggle** adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

### **NEXT SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETING:**

**Wednesday, June 15th**

5:30 to 7:30 pm

Location: TBD



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## Executive Director's Report

June 2022



### Public Policy and Communications

#### Marin Communications Forum

- **June 23: Celebrating Immigrants in Marin** – the policy forum will be 3 to 5 pm [including a panel discussion of the new report, “Advocating for an Equitable Pandemic Recovery in Marin” (with Canal Alliance, Community Action Marin, Legal Aid of Marin and North Marin Community Services)]; **that will be followed by a dinner celebration from 5 to 7 pm and community recognitions of some unsung heroes in the immigrant community (5:30 to 6pm)**. Thanks to the Marin Community Foundation for co-sponsoring this event with us.
- **UN-Affordable Housing in Marin & the Marin Housing Element** (pending)
- **August: Ages and Stages: Developmental Milestones in Young Children** (pending)
- **September 23 – Hunger Action Month** (with HHS and the HEAL program)

**Newsletter** – Michelle continues to produce a monthly newsletter to announce our events and programs. (If you have news to share, please email [Michelle@First5Marin.org](mailto:Michelle@First5Marin.org).)

**Summer Learning Tote Bags** – As approved by the Commission, Michelle is working with the Marin County Free Library to prepare 1800 tote bags filled with “pre-school” and art supplies and bilingual books. The bags will be distributed at Learning Bus stops and library storytime events throughout the County in July— ***commissioners will be invited to participate!***



- **WEBSITE:** The HMG staff continues to serve families and providers who have contacted HMG Marin. Once again, our website had the highest user rate at 1,120 users in May which gave us 1,268 sessions. 1,077 new users and 43 returning users. This represents 88.3% New Visitors with 11.7% Returning Visitors. Approximately 797 visited via a computer and 323 from phones. We are still experiencing many users from Spain, Chile, Argentina, and Mexico.
- **HOME VISITING PROJECT:** The Home Visiting Project that has received funding from First 5 California has applied to have the remaining \$3,600 carry over to FY 22-23. First 5 California will be sending new guidelines and grants out in late Fall 2023 for the next 3-year funding cycle. The Marin Home Visiting Collaborative wants to continue the work during the funding break from First 5 California. The collaborative will be looking for resources to support facilitation for the group for FY 2022-23. The collaborative will complete and update the action plan for upcoming work for the group in June 2022. A narrative summary of the work completed over the past 2 years will be produced in June/July and shared with the Commission.
- **PARTNERSHIP WITH MARIN COMMUNITY CLINICS:**  
Help Me Grow Marin and the Marin Community Clinics have had a natural partnership since the inception of Help Me Grow Marin. From 2002 to 2010 First 5 Marin funded the Special Needs Project to work with Healthcare agencies, preschools, school readiness programs to provide developmental and social emotional screening in Marin. As a result of this project, Marin Community Clinics embedded regular screening in their clinics. HMG Marin and MCC has been working together to serve joint families as well as look at ways to refine the work performed at the clinic. As a result of our collaboration HMG and MCC are looking at partnering in two adventures:
  1. Utilizing HMG Marin's STAR Database for case management and collecting data on developmental and social emotional screen performed at MCC and
  2. HMG Marin joining as one of 4 potential partners in a Practice Grant supported by the Preventing and Responding to Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) – Associated Health Conditions and Toxic Stress in Clinics through Community Engagement (PRACTICE). The goal, if funded will provide some resources for HMG Marin and focus on the following:

*With this funding we will strengthen our existing partnerships with Marin First 5/Help Me Grow Marin, Marin Head Start/CAM, and Healthy Families Marin. As a group we will agree upon mutual goals, primary contacts, meeting schedule, assess current partnership needs and referral process, better define criteria for referrals, develop bi-directional communication workflows, monitor*



*and assess success and failure of the program for further evaluation and improvement. The Clinics would seek to provide health and screening data for effective treatment and intervention, additional information to help prioritize children with the highest developmental and psychosocial needs as well as risk for ACEs, and to collaborate on developing health plans for children with complex medical or behavioral issues. The outcome will be effective and efficient referrals with ongoing collaboration and support to ensure appropriate care and case management for patients - as well as a sustainable system beyond the 11 months of this opportunity.*

- Staff continue their work by attending workshops and webinars with other HMG programs throughout the National Network.

### **VIDEOS From MC3 – Parent Voice:**

[I Care! You Care! We All Care For Child Care! on Vimeo](#)

[A Sacred Bond: A Love Letter to Our Child Care Providers](#)

[Complete Stand for Children 2022.](#)

The infographic features a blue background with a textured, wood-grain-like pattern. At the top, there are illustrations of a rainbow, a sun, and a hand holding a red tool. The text is in white and yellow. A red oval highlights the bottom item in the list.

**SOS** SAVING OUR STATE

**\$18.1 BILLION INFLATION RELIEF PACKAGE**

- ✓ \$11.5 BILLION FOR TAX REFUNDS TO HELP ADDRESS INFLATION
- ✓ \$2.7 BILLION FOR EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE
- ✓ \$1.4 BILLION TO HELP CALIFORNIANS PAY UTILITY BILLS
- ✓ \$933 MILLION FOR HOSPITAL AND NURSING HOME STAFF
- ✓ \$750 MILLION FOR FREE PUBLIC TRANSIT
- ✓ \$304 MILLION TO MAKE HEALTH COVERAGE MORE AFFORDABLE FOR FAMILIES
- ✓ \$439 MILLION TO PAUSE THE DIESEL SALES TAX
- ✓ \$157 MILLION TO WAIVE CHILD CARE FEES FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

**1 MORE YEAR OF CHILD CARE FAMILY FEES WAIVED!**

PARENT VOICES

THE CALIFORNIA BLUEPRINT



## First 5 Association

### 2022-23 Legislature State Budget Summary

The Assembly and Senate jointly released a Legislative Budget on June 1, 2022. The budget includes \$37.5 billion in General Fund Reserves and \$52 billion in discretionary spending. The budget must be passed by the Legislature and sent to the Governor by June 15, 2022.

#### Overall Help for Families

- **Young Child Tax Credit.** Adopts the Governor's proposals to provide the existing Young Child Tax Credit to zero-income filers and to create a Foster Youth Tax Credit to provide a \$1,000 credit to young adults who were in the foster care system.
- **Better for Families Rebates.** Includes \$8 billion for the Better For Families (BFF) Rebates plan to provide relief to Californians from the impacts of high gas prices and other growing costs due to inflation. The BFF rebates provide \$200 per taxpayer and dependent for tax payers with up to \$250,000 income for joint filers and \$125,000 for single filers. In addition, grants will be provided for CalWorks and SSI/SSP recipients as well as other low-income Californians who do not file taxes.

#### Childcare

- **Childcare Workforce and Development Block Grant.** Provides \$120 million in one-time funding, and ongoing federal Child Care and Development Block Grant funding, for the Childcare Workforce and Development Block Grant.
- **Stabilizing Investments in the Child Care System.** Provides \$1.3 billion ongoing general fund, and \$494 million ongoing Proposition 98, for increases in rates for the child care system. Starting January 1, 2023, increases the child care reimburse rates to the 85th percentile of the regional market rate (RMR), and applies a cost of living increase to the county RMR for all provider rates. In addition rates for three year olds are increased to a higher toddler rate, and a set aside is created for provider benefits.
- **Child Care Pandemic Response Policies.** Adopts Governor's proposals to continue actions taken during the COVID-19 pandemic to waive family fees for childcare and create hold harmless policies for the 2022-23 fiscal year
- **Child Care Infrastructure.** Adopts Governor's proposal to invest \$200 million in additional child care facilities, with amendments to allow for expenditures on new construction.

#### Pre-K Education

- \$1.3 billion ongoing general fund, and \$494 million ongoing Proposition 98, for increases in rates for the child care system.

#### COVID Response: Hope Accounts



- Creates the Hope Account Program to provide trust fund accounts for low-income children who have lost parents or caregivers to COVID- 19 and for children who have experienced long term foster care. These funds would be available when a child turns 18 and provide additional financial stability for children who may lack other family support.

#### **Medi-Cal**

- \$10 million in 2022-23 and \$20 million ongoing to support continuous Medi-Cal coverage for children ages zero to five. \$100 million (\$50 million General Fund) to further support early childhood-focused efforts, including grants focused on encouraging health care provider integration with other early-childhood focused programs.

#### **Cannabis Tax Reform.**

- Adopts cannabis tax reform with legislative amendments as follows:
  - (1) sets cannabis cultivation tax rate to zero;
  - (2) keeps the cannabis excise rate at 15 percent for three years;
  - (3) allows the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, in consultation with the Department of Finance and the Department of Cannabis Control, to adjust the cannabis excise tax rate that takes into consideration additional revenues received by December 31, 2025;
  - (4) require an economic study that measures the impacts of tax reform on revenues;
  - (5) sets the minimum baseline for Allocation 3 at \$670 million;
  - (6) additional relief for equity operators;
  - (7) adds additional enforcement tools against the illicit cannabis market and worker protections, including enforcement of labor peace agreements;
  - (8) sets aside \$150 million General Fund to backfill any revenue loss and counts existing balances that departments are carrying to meet the minimum \$670 million baseline, and
  - (9) adds reporting requirements for the Cannabis Tax Fund.