



FIRST 5 MARIN

Learn. Grow. Thrive.

Commission Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Vice Chair Aideen Gaidmore called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Commissioners in attendance:

Kari Beuerman
Angie Evans
Aideen Gaidmore – Vice Chair
Dr. Jessica Hollman
Supervisor Eric Lucan
Kelly McKinley
Sandra Rosenblum

Commissioners excused:

Itoco Garcia – Chair
Lisa Raffel

Staff in attendance:

Maria Niggle – Executive Director
Michelle Fadelli - Manager of Public Policy and Communications

Guests in attendance:

David Bonfilio – Commissioner Emeritus
Leah Catching, Marin Child Care Commission
Kelly Howard, Marin HHS
Don McCrae, Your Business Legacy
Susan Whalen, Marin HHS

II. MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Gaidmore asked if there were changes, additions or corrections to the commission minutes for the last meeting of February 14, 2024.

Motion/Second: Lucan/McKinley

The minutes of February 14, 2024 were unanimously approved as submitted.

III. PRESENTATION: Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health: Community Needs Assessment

Commissioner Sandra Rosenblum, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Director, presented her Community Needs Assessment Report for Spring 2024. The report is conducted every three years and the findings are reported to the California Department of Public Health to help determine statewide priorities.

The report includes many notable findings:

- **Births in Marin** – the number of births declined from 2330 in 2021 to 2168 in 2023.
- **Birth: Race/Ethnicity** – Births of White children in Marin declined from 55% in 2014 to 47% in 2023. Births of Hispanic children increased from 29% in 2014 to 33% in 2023.
- **Parental Origin, 2022** – 38% of total births were to a parent born outside of the U.S.
- **Parental Education, 2022** – 18% of births were to a parent with less than a high school education.
- **WIC Support, 2022** – 20% of total births were to a parent who received WIC (Women, Infants and Children) support while they were pregnant.
- **Child Population 0 to 9 year olds** – the number of young children ages 0 to 9 declined from 28,508 in 2013 to 22,911 in 2023.
- **Ethnicity of Child Population, 2023** – 58.6% of children ages 0 to 9 were White; 2.4% were Hispanic; 9.1% were multi-race; 7.8% were Asian; and 1.8% were Black.
- **Child Poverty** – children living at or below the official/federal poverty rate declined from 8.9% in 2013 to 7.4 % in 2021. (There was discussion about the deceptive nature of this statistic due to the extremely high cost of living in Marin. **Commissioner McKinley** suggested “Equity Access” as a better source.)
- **Ethnicity of Children Living in Poverty, 2021** – 17.1% of Hispanic children were living at or below the Federal Poverty Level, compared to 13.7% of Black children; 8.7% of Multi-Race children; 3.9% of Asian children; and 2.7% of White children.
- **Cost of Living in Marin, 2024** – Federal Poverty Level for a family of four: \$31,200; CA minimum wage \$66,650/year; “Self-Sufficiency Standard” for a family of four in Marin: \$164,763.
- **Availability of Childcare** - 48.2% of children for whom child care spaces were available in 2021; 51.8% with spaces not available. (**Commissioner Gaidmore** noted that the total capacity in the county is 10,000 slots.)
- **Child Maltreatment Rates, 2013 to 2022** – allegation rates ranged from about 20 to 30 per 1000 children; substantiation rates ranged from 1.4 to 3.8.
- **Kindergarteners with All Required Vaccinations** - increased from 94% in 2017-18 to 97% in 2021-22.
- **Kindergarten Oral Health** – of the 51% of kindergarteners who submitted oral health assessment forms, 19% had untreated dental decay.
- **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), 2016-19** – 11.5% of parents reported their children had “2 or more” ACEs; 27% reported 1 ACE; 61.5% reported 0 ACEs.
- **Substance Use During Pregnancy, 2019-20** – 17.8% of pregnant women in Marin reported (any) alcohol use during 3rd trimester (vs 7.4% statewide). 6.2% of pregnant women in Marin reported cannabis use (anytime) vs 5.1% statewide.
- **Perinatal Mental Health, 2016-2021** – prenatal depression symptoms increased from 7.5% to 12.9%, and postpartum depression symptoms increased from 6.3% to 11.3%.
- **Risk Factors for Perinatal Depression:** age 19 or younger; low-income household; neighborhood poverty; (non-White) racial identity; lower educational attainment; having first baby. (**Commissioner Beuerman** asked whether having a partner was identified as a risk factor. **Commissioner Hollman** reported that doctors analyze mother’s charts at the hospital and Perinatal Case Managers screen for ACEs/depression. She said that moms often decline services or only go once; there are cultural obstacles... Michelle Fadelli said, “What if we call it something else—other than “mental health services.” It was asked how we can reach these families? How about church? ...Michelle suggested a church group might be formed to host support groups or counseling.
- **Breastfeeding, 2019-21** – 98.5% of Marin residents initiate breastfeeding in the hospital (compared to 93.4% statewide). Breastfeeding at three months (of any amount) declined to 86.5% for Marin residents (compared to 70.8% statewide; and exclusive breastfeeding at three

months declined to 50.1% in Marin (compared to 32% statewide). [It was noted that the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends exclusive breastfeeding for six months, with continued breastfeeding for one to two years as solid foods are introduced. There is an issue of lactation consultants in Marin.]

- **Pregnant Women Coming Late to Prenatal Care, 2013-23** – increased from 12.8% in 2022 to 22.6% in 2023. 21.7% of Blacks and 17.5% Hispanics were late to care; 10% for Whites and 11.6% for Asians.
- **Low Birth Weight 2019-21** – 5.4% of Marin babies were at a low birth weight compared to 7.1% statewide.
- **Teen Births** – There were 42 teen births in 2023 (11 to US-born moms; 31 to foreign-born moms) compared to 28 teen births in 2022 (11 US-born and 17 foreign-born). 92.2% of teen births 2019-23 were among the Hispanic population—which was only 23.9% of the total population.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Maria Niggle provided some updates on the RFP program and noted that four proposals have been submitted (as of February 14), and 16 were pending. She also mentioned the Help Me Grow conference that was very successful and that VIVA consulting offered support; the director from Help Me Grow national made a very strong presentation. Maria also reported that we are working on Medi-Cal systems of care and CalAIM funding. There is a grant-funding position available for a children's funding coordinator for child care and children's health; she is working with the County Administrator's office. She also reported that Aliados Health will be handling billing and audit capacity for Help Me Grow enhanced fee-for-service care. (Commissioner Emeritus Dave Bonfilio said the breakout sessions at the Help Me Grow conference were excellent. Michelle Fadelli said the conference discussions emphasized the need for Help Me Grow services.

Michelle Fadelli reported on two upcoming forums: Advancing Racial Equity in Marin on April 5th (with 250 expected in attendance) and Maternal Mental Health on May 2nd (with a keynote by California Surgeon General Dr. Diana Ramos).

It was also reported that two technical assistance sessions were conducted online to answer questions about the RFP process.

V. COMMISSION ITEMS

1. Request to Approve First 5 California's Annual Report

Commissioners were presented with a hard copy of First 5 California's Annual Report for FY 2022-23 for review and approval.

Eric Lucan made a motion to approve First 5 California's Annual Report.

Motion/Second: Lucan/Evans

The motion to approve was unanimous.

Commissioner McKinley said she was struck by First 5 California's report and Sandra's presentation. Is there any connection between the activities to the need? What do the numbers tell us? What's the value? She said that future RFP reporting will help us document the programs we fund and the outcomes.

2. **Request to Reconvene the Finance Committee** – Maria asked that we formally approve the reconvening of First 5 Marin’s Finance Committee. David Bonfilio and Supervisor Lucan are members. Commissioner McKinley was asked if she would like to join the committee; she needs to consider as she has just been added to another board.

Motion/Second: Gaidmore/Evans

The motion to reconvene the Finance Committee was unanimous.

3. **Letters of Support for the Fairfax-San Anselmo Children’s Center** – Commissioners had been presented with draft letters of support for a “Congressionally Directed Spending Request” of \$2.5 million for the Children’s Center; the letters are addressed to our congressional delegation: Senator Laphonza Butler, Senator Alex Padilla and Congressman Jared Huffman. **Commissioner Emeritus Dave Bonfilio** said the letters were well-written, but he suggested there was an issue of deferred maintenance at the property. **Commissioner Lucan** noted that 17 support letters had been sent. **Commissioner Gaidmore** said that the Marin Child Care Council sent a letter and she stated that no mismanagement had occurred at the Center.

Motion/Second: Hollman/McKinley

The motion to approve the letter of support was unanimous.

VI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Hollman reported that she had called the Postpartum Support Center from the hospital for a family in need of support, and the response was immediate. She also noted that someone in the IT department at the hospital liked First 5 Marin and was very positive about their experience. **Commissioner Gaidmore** reported on infrastructure grants: 42 were for child care centers and 24 for family child care providers. She also reported that the Marin Child Care Council held an online child care forum on February 27th with 90 attendees. (She added that 71% of providers say that TK/transitional kindergarten has a negative impact on child care. Leah Catching added that districts were not prepared for TK. **Commissioner Evans** said that some TK students are repeating curriculum in kindergarten.) **Commissioner Beuerman** reported that March is Social Workers Appreciation Month.

Commissioner Gaidmore reminded commissioners that there are two meetings in April: the regular commission meeting on Wednesday, April 10th and the “special meeting” on Tuesday, April 30th to review recommendations for RFP funding.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Gaidmore adjourned the meeting at 5:43 p.m.

NEXT SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETING:

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

4 to 6 pm