



FIRST 5 MARIN

Learn. Grow. Thrive.

Marin Children and Families Commission

MINUTES

November 8, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Having established a quorum, the Marin Children and Families Commission meeting was called to order by Dr. Garcia, Chairperson, at 4:08 pm. The meeting was held at the First 5 Marin offices located at 1050 Northgate Drive, Suite 130, in San Rafael, California.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Kari Beuerman

Aideen Gaidmore

Dr. Jessica Hollman

Dr. Itoco Garcia

Eric Lucan

Sandra Rosenblum

Dave Bonfilio, Commissioner Emeritus

ABSENT:

Lisa Raffel

Angie Evans

STAFF: Maria P. Niggle, Michelle Fadelli, and Beatriz Duran

GUESTS: Avo Makdessian, Amarantha Silva, Carol Barton, Isobel Shaw, Iris Marin, Kelly McKinley, Jose Rodas, Dave Cort, Don McCray

III. MINUTES

The Minutes of the First 5 Marin Meeting held on October 18, 2023, were recognized at this time and approved by Commissioner Hollman and seconded by Commissioner Gaidmore. No further discussion or public comment was made, and the motion carried unanimously with all in favor.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were made at this time.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORT

Ms. Niggle advised that she requested an extension for the submission of the annual report to First 5 California which was due on October 31st. She noted that Susanne Kreuzer and Maritza Barahona of Help Me Grow were at a "Be Strong Families" session in Bolinas.

Michelle Fadelli reported that she has received 150 RSVPs for the upcoming forum of November 17th; the Jewish Family and Children's Services will be presenting information on positive parenting at the December forum; and the Children's Summit is scheduled for January 25, 2024.

VI. FUNDED PARTNER PRESENTATION

Isobel Shaw, Project Specialist, and Iris Marin, ECE Project Supervisor, for the Marin County Office of Education, gave a presentation on the Marin County Office of Education Evidence-Based Data Exchange Project. They noted that the purpose of the project is to reduce bias by connecting preschool, TK, and Kindergarten teachers with families of young children entering the school system

in focused and facilitated conversations around sharing valuable data about individual children as they transition from their preschool program to their new classroom. This year, data is being shared on 152 children in Marin County. Ms. Shaw remarked that MCOE would like to continue further expansion of the program and increase participation. Further discussion continued about the difficulty in having to measure implicit bias' from teachers and other educators and how elevating the early childhood workforce has been a big part of this project.

VII. CONNECTING WITH THE FIRST 5 ASSOCIATION

Avo Makdessian, Executive Director for the First 5 Association of California, provided an overview of the work that the First 5 Association is currently engaged in and the work the association is doing on behalf of First Five Commissions. Mr. Makdessian commented on the association's priority areas, which are: asserting policy leadership at the state level; facilitating member learning and engagement (webinars, work groups, other engagement opportunities); centering race, equity, and inclusion in everything being done by the network. He provided data on declining revenue, which is close to \$400,000 million statewide through 2030 (a 23% decline). Mr. Makdessian remarked that the association is working on sustainability centered on direct funding for programs and operations; building and sustaining early childhood programs throughout the state; and sustaining the child outcomes that are in place as revenues decline. He stressed that First Five will be making a direct ask of funds to the state - a 100,000 million dollar ask. A session of question-and-answers regarding leveraging funds, building stronger communication among legislators, impacts as a result of the pandemic, and the Prop 10 formula for the distribution of funds.

VIII. COMMISSION ITEMS

1. Request to Approve the County of Marin Professional Services Contract for the provision of prevention and early intervention services: Ms. Niggle sought approval for the contract with the County of Marin for \$40,000 beginning July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025. A motion to approve the contract was made by Commissioner Gaidmore and seconded by Commissioner Beuerman. Having noted no further discussion or public comment, the motion carried unanimously with all in favor.
2. Request to Approve the Contract with First 5 Sonoma County Commission for the Home Visiting Regional TA Project: Ms. Niggle explained that the funds for the Home Visiting project are provided by First 5 California; however, First 5 Sonoma will be serving as the administrator. The contract cycle is July 2023 through June 2025 for \$125,976 and she is seeking approval of the contract.

Commissioner Emeritus Bonfilio commented that he is in favor of approving the project but not the contract itself as it needs correcting. He recommends correcting the requirements made on having F5M be subject to the Sonoma Strategic Plan, the requirement for an audit of April 30th which is not this F5 fiscal year, and determining who will pay for an audit if it is required.

A motion to approve the contract with First 5 Sonoma County Commission for the Home Visiting Project with the recommended amendments was made by Commissioner Gaidmore and it was seconded by Commissioner Hollman. Having noted no further discussion or public comment, the motion carried unanimously with all in favor.

IX. INTERVIEWS WITH COMMISSION APPLICANTS

At this time, Commissioners acknowledged the three candidates seeking a position on the Board: Kelly McKinley, Jose Rodas and Dave Cort. They established a process for the questions and the selection of the candidate and moved forward with the interview. Having finished, Commissioner Garcia encouraged the candidates to stay engaged regardless of the outcome and thanked them for their interest in First 5 Marin. Commissioner Gaidmore advised that vacancies on the Commission open frequently and that candidates should keep applying; she mentioned that she was not selected the first time she applied.

After much deliberation, a motion was made by Commissioner Gaidmore and it was seconded by Commissioner Beuerman to recommend Kelly McKinley for appointment to the Marin County Board of Supervisors. Commissioners thanked all applicants at this time and voted in favor of the motion.

X. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Emeritus Bonfilio thanked Ms. Fadelli for her issue on race matters that was published on Sunday.

Commissioner Rosenblum announced that the perinatal group met recently and talked about training new doulas and getting them paid for services.

Commissioner Gaidmore talked about the new reimbursement rates for families; she commented on the importance of advocacy made by parents; she announced that there are 17 new family childcares open in the county; and noted that MC3 will be conducting a workforce study.

Commissioner Hollman announced that all clinics are now participating in the library program and are providing free books to children and families that are age appropriate.

XI. FINAL COMMENTS

Ms. Niggle advised that Megan Joseph from Impact Launch will be facilitating an RFP 2024-2025 workgroup on December 13th; this is being proposed as an ad-Hoc meeting but can be modified if enough Commissioners are interested in participating. They will be listening to partners and other interested parties and gathering recommendations for the new RFP. A proposed timeline and further updates will be brought back to the Commission on the new RFP process.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, Commissioner Garcia adjourned the meeting at 6:10 pm. Commissioners were reminded that there is no meeting scheduled in December.