



**FIRST 5 MARIN**

Learn. Grow. Thrive.

## **A G E N D A**

### **Marin Children and Families Commission Regular Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 14, 2025**

**4:00-6:00 pm**

**Health & Wellness Center, 3240 Kerner Blvd. Room 109, San Rafael**

#### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89772227789?pwd=hmhC6wOmEZghVMZgWAd9isaB5EEi8D.1>

**Meeting ID: 897 7222 7789    Passcode: 413077**

Public Comment – Members of the public may comment on any item on the agenda during consideration of the item. Each speaker will be given 3 minutes for comment. A respectful dialogue that supports freedom of speech and values diversity of opinion is encouraged. The Commission may question the public, but no further action or discussion is allowed.

- I.    Call to Order & Roll Call (4:00 pm)**
- II.   Approval of minutes of the meeting of April 16, 2025 (4:03) - (Action)**
- III.   Public Comment (4:05) - (Information)**  
This is an opportunity for members of the public to provide comments on issues that are not on the Agenda. Three (3) minutes per speaker maximum.
- IV.   Funded Partners Project Update - Museum of the American Indian (4:10) - (Information)**
- V.    Executive Director/Staff Report (4:25) - (Information)**
  - 1. Update on Maternal Behavioral Health Initiative (Information)
  - 2. CalPERS Reconciliation Update (Information)
  - 3. Letter of Support from Help Me Grow Marin Leadership Team (Information)
  - 4. Quarterly Financial Expense Report: 07/01/24-03/31/25 - (Information)
- VI.   Committee Reports**
  - 1. Report from Retreat Committee - F5M Retreat scheduled on May 23, 2025 (Information)
- VII.   Commissioner Items (5:15)**
  - 1. Request to approve Richardson & Company to perform Audit FY 24-25 (Action)
  - 2. Consideration of new Budget Fiscal Year 2025-2026 - First Review (Information)
  - 3. Performance Review Update (Information)
- VIII.   Commission announcements & final comments (5:40) - Information**
- IX.   Adjournment (6:00pm) - Action**

**NEXT MEETING - June 11, 2025**

Copies of documents used in this meeting are available in accessible formats upon written request. The agenda is available online at [www.first5marin.org](http://www.first5marin.org). In accordance with the American Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance (i.e. auxiliary aids or services) in order to participate in this public meeting, please contact First 5 Marin by calling (415) 257-8555 or email [Michelle@first5marin.org](mailto:Michelle@first5marin.org) at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.

*DRAFT*



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## **Commission Meeting Minutes May 14, 2025**

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

Commission Chair Jessica Hollman called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. The meeting was held at the Health and Wellness Center located at 3235 Kerner Boulevard in San Rafael.

#### **Commissioners in attendance:**

Kari Beuerman  
Angie Evans  
Dr. Jessica Hollman – Commission Chair  
Kelly McKinley  
Lisa Raffel  
Sandra Rosenblum  
*Dave Bonfilio – Commissioner Emeritus*

#### **Commissioners Excused**

Aideen Gaidmore – Commission Vice Chair  
Itoco Garcia  
Supervisor Eric Lucan

#### **Staff in attendance:**

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

#### **Guests in attendance:**

Dennise Enriquez – Marin Child Care Council  
Rachael Greve, Museum of the American Indian

#### **Guests/Staff online:**

Kelsey Lombardi – Marin Child Care Commission & Marin Child Care Council  
Susanne Kreuzer – Help Me Grow Marin

- II. REVIEW OF MINUTES** for the commission meeting on April 16, 2025.  
**Commissioner Raffel** made a motion to approve the minutes from April 16, 2025;  
Commissioner **Beuerman** seconded the motion.  
**Motion/Second: Raffel/Beuerman**  
**The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously approved.**

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dennise Enriquez from the **Marin Child Care Council** reported on their Parents Café and Parents in Action; Pepe Gonzalez was scheduled to speak to them about bullying and special needs.

#### IV. FUNDED PARTNERS PROJECT UPDATE

Rachel Greve from **Museum of the American Indian** presented. They are developing a program focused on ancestral knowledge, nature/land-based learning, indigenous traditions. The kick-off will be June 14<sup>th</sup>. Play/learning groups will be Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10:30 to 11:30 for kids 0-to-5 and their caregivers at the museum in Novato.

**Dave Bonfilio** asked what about dads? They are welcome!

**Commissioner Rosenblum** asked about the cost. Rachel said the program will be free for indigenous and low-income children.

**Commissioner Beuerman** asked how they will deal with the developmental spectrum. Rachel said the program activities are age-adjusted, designed for infants up to five year olds; special education has been considered as well.

**Commissioner Hollman** asked about staffing. Rachel said there will be a teacher, two docents, the executive director, board members and an operations director.

**Dennise Enriquez** asked about Spanish language programming. Rachel said one staff member is Spanish-speaking; they also have indigenous speakers and ASL capabilities.

#### V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

##### 1. Update on Maternal Behavioral Health Initiative RFA

Maria reported that the behavioral health grant was successful and Marin was awarded \$3 Million! She thanked the commission for their vision and the commitment to mental health.

##### 2. CalPERS Reconciliation

Maria reported that an employment attorney has been recommended, and a meeting had been scheduled. She will present final recommendations to the commission on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

##### 3. Help Me Grow Marin: Letter of Support from the Leadership Team

There has been a question about where Help Me Grow Marin should “live” or end up; it’s agreed that First 5 Marin is the best organizational fit for now. Maria said First 5 Marin’s support is committed through 2026.

**Commissioner Hollman** asked about the pros and cons. Maria said the pros are: data analysis, Medi-Cal billing, connection to First 5 California, the established relationship, countywide service area, community views the connection, and the opportunity for funding. The cons are: First 5 has not been a direct service provider, there is the 0-to-5 age limit, revenue diverting, three years is not long, and there could be a conflict of interests.

**Dave Bonfilio** noted that while First 5 revenues are declining, First 5 won’t totally end.

**Commissioner Hollman** said, as a pediatrician, the 0-to-5 age group is where we find the majority of developmental delays. Can’t think of a better place for Help Me Grow to be.

##### 4. Quarterly Financial Expense Report

Maria presented the financial report for July 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025 (through the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the fiscal year), noting that revenues are unpredictable. She referenced the \$3 Million (expected) from the state behavioral health grant, noting that there will be some administrative costs, up to \$250,000; the planning phase begins in July (2025).

**Dave Bonfilio** asked whether funding will be available during planning. Yes.

**Commissioner Raffel** said it's exciting that Maria figured out how to get payment for systems work.

**Commissioner Rosenblum** noted that a lot of Marin's work with the Child-Parent Institute has been applied to the behavioral health grant application; Maria Niggle added that the collaboration of six agencies on the application was significant, and it builds on CalAIM work.

**Commissioner Hollman** said that a lot of families fall through the cracks. If a (diagnosis or) situation is not high risk, a parent may not engage. Pediatricians try to refer to counseling and parenting classes.

**Dave Bonfilio** asked if there has been a drop in the number of people requesting support or assistance. **Commissioner Rosenblum** added that WIC (programs for Women, Infants and Children) participation remains stable. **Commissioner Hollman** added that she hasn't seen any fear of accessing services.

## **VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS: Retreat Committee**

The retreat committee reported on plans for the commission retreat on Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Marin Art and Garden Center.

## **VII. COMMISSIONER ITEMS**

### **A. Request to Approve Richardson & Company as Auditor for FY 2024-25**

**Commissioner Rosenblum** made a motion to approve Richardson & Company as First 5 Marin's auditor for FY 2024-25; Commissioner **McKinley** seconded the motion.

**Motion/Second: Rosenblum/McKinley**

**The motion to approve Richardson & Company as First 5 Marin's auditor for FY 2024-25 was unanimously approved.**

### **B. Consideration of New Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26—First Review**

**Executive Director Maria Niggle** provided a presentation of the proposed First 5 Marin Budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Maria began by outlining the projected revenue sources, which include vital funding streams such as Proposition 10 funds, Proposition 56 revenues, the cigarette electronic excise tax, and income from investment funds, alongside other miscellaneous revenues. She specifically addressed a decrease in grant revenue, emphasizing that two of the three currently held grants are slated to end in December 2025, leaving only six months of secured funding. Maria recommended maintaining full funding for all current funded partners for the entirety of the new fiscal year; this would amount to a total allocation of \$1,011,526. She further assured Commissioners that comprehensive performance metrics from all funded projects would be made available and presented at the September 2025 Commission meeting, allowing for a thorough review of the outcomes and impact of the financial allocations. Maria also presented a detailed summary of the anticipated operational expenses for the upcoming period. This comprehensive overview included line-item breakdowns for various costs associated with day-to-day activities, such as supplies, utilities, and maintenance. Discussion continued regarding Salary and Benefits, Maria referenced the exhibit included within the budget which proposes three distinct salary options for consideration of the Commission and she noted that, historically, the Commission has generally adopted a practice of aligning salary adjustments with the County's Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), and in some instances, has even exceeded those adjustments.

**Commissioner McKinley** asked whether there is a provision stating that the Commission will match the County COLA or more even if the Commission (initially) approves less in the budget.

Commissioners were informed that the budget would be formally considered and voted upon as an action item during the next scheduled meeting, making their informed input crucial for the decision-making process.

**Commissioner Evans** asked whether the newly-funded partners are guaranteed three years of funding. Yes; but contracts now allow us to terminate for non-performance.

**Dave Bonfilio** noted that there was a lack of enforcement in previous contracts.

**Maria** also referenced the “Flexible Response Dollars” in the budget for emerging needs; **Dave Bonfilio** noted that no one has asked this year, and the dollars can roll over to the next fiscal year. The budget discussion concluded with a reference to the history of the flexible response funds. **Commissioner Raffel** asked if there was information about this on the website. Commissioner McKinley asked for a separate budget memo on this.

**Commissioner Raffel** said the whole commission meeting packet looks great (with good updates following the Commission’s request for summary information).

**Commissioner McKinley** asked that we put the funded projects on the website.

- C. **Performance Review Update – Commissioner Hollman** reported on a recent meeting held with Maria the previous Friday at which time Maria's annual performance review was conducted. Commissioner Hollman indicated an intention to present and discuss the findings of the performance review with the full commission during the upcoming retreat. This review is expected to cover the results of Maria's performance throughout the past year. Commissioner McKinley said the consultant's guidance was excellent. Commissioner Raffel said she liked the format very much; it's very clear.

## VIII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/FINAL COMMENTS

**Commissioner McKinley** reported that the Parent Services Project and Pickleweed Preschool has recently visited the Bay Area Discovery Museum— thanks to funding from First 5 Marin.

**Michelle Fadelli** shared a flyer with dates for backpack events with The Learning Bus; she said the flyer would be sent to commissioners electronically.

**Commissioner Evans** reported that Saturday was a good day for the Horizon School; they had beautiful weather for the grand opening and a huge turnout. **Dave Bonfilio** said the pastor who spoke was great; he jumped the ribbon. And Angie's explanation was so powerful. **Commissioner Evans** explained that the ribbon ceremony was a reference to “jumping the broom,” (an African/slave tradition for sweeping away the past and new beginnings). She said the red/green/black are colors from African flags; black refers to oppressed people, red means blood, and green refers to teachers.

**Commissioner Beuerman** reported on the “May Revise” to the State Budget. She said the legislative budget committees may need to reconvene in September after federal cuts are final. Budget cuts are expected for Medi-Cal; and after January 2026, Medi-Cal will be cut for immigrants aged 19 and over (with funding for emergency care only).

**Commissioner Rosenblum** announced that May 2<sup>nd</sup> was the Maternal Mental Health forum at Dominican. Maria Niggle said the PSI presentation showed there is a lack of information and understanding. **Commissioner Raffel** said, “systems change! First 5 Marin could provide funding; **Commissioner Hollman** agreed and referenced the discretionary funds.

**Commissioner Evans** reported that Marin City moms are beginning to access services through PPSC, the Postpartum Support Center. She added that Help Me Grow Marin is one of the first agencies that has fully given energy, support and time... and doors are opening. **Susanne Kreuzer** said ELCAN services are available, Early Learning Community Action Network. **Commissioner Hollman** said parents are calling for appointments; there's a need for one person to provide help and support. **Maria Niggle** said the CHW's (community health workers) funded in the behavioral health grant will help.

**Commissioner McKinley** asked about the use of maternal "behavioral" health; **Commissioner Beuerman** said that word is used because "mental health" is stigmatizing. **Suzanne Kreuzer** added that a "behavior" lets you know that something is not working. It's a comprehensive way of looking at a person or the situation:

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**Commissioner Beuerman** made a motion to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by **Commissioner Evans**.

**Motion/Second: Beuerman/Evans.**

**The motion to adjourn was unanimous.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.**