



FIRST 5 MARIN

Learn. Grow. Thrive.

A G E N D A

Marin Children and Families Commission Meeting

Wednesday, November 13, 2024 - 4:00-6:00 pm

Location: First 5 Marin Office

1050 Northgate Drive, Ste. 130, San Rafael, CA

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84505904923?pwd=b2D0hSRXrrT7Vzkz2pRbBdqwKCIEVJ.1>

Meeting ID: 845 0590 4923

Passcode: 034858

- I. Call to Order (4:00 pm) - Action**
- II. Roll Call (4:01) - Info**
- III. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of October 9, 2024 (4:03) - Action**
- IV. 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.
- V. Executive Director/Staff Report (4:15)**
 1. Administrative Costs Report Prior Year 23-24 (Action)
 2. Monthly Financial Report & Project's Year-End Expense Report (Information)
- VI. Committee Reports (4:45)**

Retreat Committee: Update on Retreat - January 24, 2025 (Information)
- VII. Commissioner Items (4:55)**
 1. Request to Approve First 5 Marin's Conflict of Interest Policy (Action)
 2. Request to Approve F5M new copier lease with Wells Fargo Financial Services (Action)
 3. Request to Approve Contract with VIVA Social Impact Partners (Action)
 4. Consideration on Support for Community Action Marin's Head Start Grant Reapplication (Action)
 5. Commissioner terms set to expire from October 2024 thru April 2025 (Info)
- VIII. Commission Announcements & Final Comments (5:30) - Information**
- IX. Adjournment (6:00pm) - No December Meeting is Scheduled**

NEXT MEETING - January 8, 2025

"We wish you a very Happy Holiday season and a peaceful and prosperous New Year"

Copies of documents used in this meeting are available in accessible formats upon written request. The agenda is available online at 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 call (415) 257-8555 or email Michelle@first5marin.org at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.



Marin Children and Families Commission
MINUTES
November 13, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

The November 13, 2024, meeting of Marin Children and Families Commission (First 5 Marin) was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Dr. Jessica Hollman, the new commission chair.

II. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Kari Beuerman
Angie Evans
Dr. Jessica Hollman
Supervisor Eric Lucan
Kelly McKinley
Lisa Raffel
Sandra Rosenblum

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:

Aideen Gaidmore
Itoco Garcia

ALSO PRESENT:

Staff: Michelle Fadelli, Susanne Kreuzer, Maria Niggle
Guests: Chandra Alexandre and Shana Hewitt from Community Action Marin (CAM);
Dave Bonfilio, commissioner emeritus; Sean Casey from the CAM board (via Zoom).

III. MINUTES

Executive Director Maria Niggle noted that a corrected version of the minutes for the meeting on October 9th, 2024, has been distributed to each commissioner at the table.

The minutes for the commission meeting on October 9, 2024 (as corrected) were presented. Executive Director Maria Niggle noted that a revision had been made to the “Commissioner Announcements/Final Comments” since the commission packet was distributed; the revised version was presented for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Lucan made a motion to approve the minutes of October 9, 2024, as revised; **Commissioner Evans** seconded the motion.

VOTE: The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were made.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORT

- **Comments from Executive Director Maria Niggle:** At this difficult time, we are focused on what will happen on the national stage to children and families. But some good news locally: the \$112,000 matching grant from the Sarlo Foundation for Help Me Grow Marin was approved. The final/approved version of the audit was included in the packet distributed to the commission. The packet also includes a "management letter" from auditors Richardson & Co. CPA with comments on several items (including grant documentation, compensated absences, the budget, expenditure allocations, pay rate approval, the website and evaluation documentation). Maria noted that we have fully paid CalPERS, but the funds should have come from designated paychecks rather than commission funds; that is being resolved.
- **January Forum** - Michelle Fadelli reminded commissioners that the next event for the Marin Communications Forum will be held on Friday, January 31st. The topic is child care, and the event is being co-sponsored by the North Bay Leadership Council (NBLC). The agenda will include perspectives from providers, parents and the business community. **Dave Bonfilio** noted that he previously served as a representative to NBLC and that will be a good partnership. He also suggested that we invite State Senator Mike McGuire; Michelle said the senator has already been invited. **Maria Niggle** noted that the keynote speaker will be Elliot Haspel, the author of, *"Crawling Behind: American's Child Care Crisis and How to Fix It."* **Commissioner Lucan** mentioned "Measure I" which just passed in Sonoma County and suggested that be added to the agenda. **Commissioner Raffel** asked about a review of all funding measures; Maria noted that the Association has a summary. **Commissioner Rosenblum** mentioned lactation accommodation in the workplace as something to suggest to employers as another way to support working families.
- **Help Me Grow Marin (HMG)** – Susanne Kreuzer reported that the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) awarded a grant for our work with VIVA consultants to develop policies and procedures for enhanced care management. And, Help Me Grow is hiring! HMG has a bilingual care coordinator starting December 2nd; she will be doing outreach in West Marin and Marin City. Also, HMG is in conversations with Kaiser— which is not part of Partnership, but has 11 young patients who are being supported by HMG.

1. **Administrative Costs Report for 2023-24** – Maria presented the "Budgeting and Administrative Costs Report for Fiscal Year 2023-24." She reported that First 5 Marin's administrative expenses were 8.61%, well below the 15% goal. She also noted that expenses for the Marin Communications Forum (of \$59,744;) don't reflect the dollars collected as co-sponsorships; without those revenues, it appears there was a deficit. She also addressed IMPACT matching grants. **Dave Bonfilio** said the report shows only expenses and not revenue sources; he suggested a footnote or cover letter to explain.

MOTION: Commissioner Raffel made a motion to accept the Budgeting and Administrative Costs Report for Fiscal Year 2023-24; **Commissioner Beuerman** seconded the motion.

VOTE: The vote to accept the report was unanimous.

2. **Monthly Financial Report & Project's Year-End Expense Report** – Maria presented the report for information.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Retreat Committee**-- Dave Bonfilio reported that the commission retreat is scheduled for Friday, January 24th at the Bay Area Discovery Museum; we will be meeting in their "Try-It Studio." The agenda will include: budget, commissioner interactions, Strategic Plan, and sustainability. The committee is considering a speaker or moderator. The committee may also include a speaker from the First 5 Association to talk about declining (tobacco tax) revenues. Our consultant, Impact Launch, is developing an agenda.

VIII. COMMISSION ITEMS

1. **Request to Approve First 5 Marin's Conflict of Interest Policy** – Maria noted that annual approval of the Conflict of Interest Policy is required by the audit. **Commissioner Lucan** asked if all commissioners sign the form 700—yes.

MOTION: Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve First 5 Marin's Conflict of Interest Policy; **Commissioner Raffel** seconded the motion.

VOTE: The vote to approve the Conflict of Interest Policy was unanimous.

2. **Request to Approve First 5 Marin's New Copier Lease with Wells Fargo Financial Services** – There was discussion about whether commissioners are required to review and approve administrative details like this; it was determined that the 60-month lease totals \$28,200.

MOTION: Commissioner McKinley made a motion to approve the lease with Wells Fargo; **Commissioner Lucan** seconded the motion.

VOTE: The vote to approve the lease with Wells Fargo was unanimous.

3. **Request to Approve a Contract with VIVA Social Impact Partners** – this three-year contract, paid with ARPA dollars, will support Help Me Grow Marin. Dave asked why the contract was dated August 1; there were delays in presenting, but the contract has not started yet.

MOTION: Commissioner Beuerman made a motion to approve the contract with VIVA; **Commissioner Raffel** seconded the motion.

VOTE: The vote to approve the contract with VIVA was unanimous.

4. **Consideration of Support for Community Action Marin's (CAM) Head Start Grant Reapplication** – Sean Casey addressed the commission via Zoom; he introduced himself as a former executive director at First 5 Contra Costa. As a member of the board of

directors at CAM, he meets regularly with the early education staff and receives updates about the 110 teachers and the 400 families they serve. He said the staff is talented and committed; he has a huge respect and trust for them. He said there was an “FA2” review by Head Start and CAM is being asked to re-apply based on an act by a partner. He added that annual surveys show that families are satisfied or very satisfied with CAM. He recommended that First 5 Marin support the re-application.

Chandra Alexandre, executive director at CAM, added that CAM passed the Federal Audit 1 and 2. She noted that due to careful grant applications and fiscal management, CAM is able to pay starting teachers (without ECE units) \$23 per hour.

Dave Bonfilio asked what the “incident in question” was (causing the request for re-application.) Shana Hewitt, Vice President of Early Education at CAM, said a child was left outside without supervision; it was a site managed by a community partner, but CAM is still accountable. Chandra added that there was a delay in reporting the incident to the Office of Head Start (OHS). **Commissioner Lucan** asked if the report is available; it is not available on the website. **Commissioner Hollman** asked about other organizations supporting CAM’s re-application; Chandra said CAM has letters from North Bay Children’s Center, Dominican University of California, the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank and College of Marin; they have verbal support from North Marin Community Services, but haven’t received a letter yet.

Dave Bonfilio offered congratulations on starting pay of \$23/hour; it was noted that wages go up to \$40/hour based on education and qualifications.

Commissioner Rosenblum asked about other applicants (to manage Head Start in Marin County); Chandra said there are none. No one has the capacity for the structure or the fiscal management. Maria added that Head Start operates with a West Marin provider’s organization; there are eight kids at the facility. Michelle Fadelli asked about what follow-up is required after the incident; Shana said OHS technical assistance will work with CAM on quality improvements. Susanne Kreuzer said she was familiar with the indoor/outdoor classroom in question and they are compliant with licensing. It was noted that *staff did report the incident*; there was an administrative delay in getting it to OHS. **Commissioner Rosenblum** added that during COVID she worked with providers and schools; Head Start was tops in child/family safety. Chandra added that three days after “shelter-in-place” was issued during COVID, they were providing care for first responders; she’s proud of the work they do.

MOTION: Commissioner Rosenblum made a motion to support Community Action Marin’s Head Start Grant Re-Application; **Commissioner Raffel** seconded the motion.

VOTE: The vote to approve support for CAM’s Head Start reapplication was unanimous.

Commissioner Rosenblum then said she noticed **Commissioner Gaidmore’s** comments in the revised minutes (which noted that if CAM’s contract ended, other agencies could

apply— including agencies outside of the county). Maria noted that people from out-of-county at a recent DHCS meeting expressed interest in the Head Start contract. Susanne Kreuzer suggested that no one in-county could/would take this over.

Commissioner Lucan reported that Chandra has asked him and the Marin County Board of Supervisors for a letter of support; and they've also asked Congressman Huffman (since Head Start is a federal program).

5. **Commissioner terms Set to Expire October 2024 Through April 2025** – Maria Niggle noted that **Commissioner Evans'** term is set to expire on February 28th, 2025. (This was an informational item only.)

IX. COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Commissioner Hollman** reported that, since our forum last year, she has been working with "ScreenSense" on their "Kids IRL" project ("In Real Life") which aims to delay smartphone use until age 16; they are working with school ambassadors as well. She referenced the book, *"The Anxious Generation,"* by social psychologist Jonathan Haidt, which discusses the epidemic of teen mental illness. They are working on a grant for handouts about a "family tech plan" with a texting guide for parents in English and Spanish. She said this has affected her pediatric practice and mental health in kids. (Michelle suggested a Marin Voice opinion editorial, and offered to help.)

Commissioner Evans said that parents ask how to use technology in a healthy way; she added that young children watch their older siblings. It was noted that there is a video showing how to reduce a smartphone to text and email only. **Commissioner Lucan** said that Australia has banned iPhones to children aged 16 and under. It was noted that Governor Newsom signed AB 3216 requiring school districts (plus charter schools and county offices of education) to develop a policy limiting the use of smart phones by July 1, 2026.

- **Commissioner Beuerman** reported that the "Marin Immigrant Rights and Justice" group would be hosting a forum about newcomers and immigrants the next day (November 14th). The group will be doing contingency planning.
- **Commissioner McKinley** said "Tech Time with a Purpose" can be found on the BADM website; it's free. (See <https://bayareadiscoverymuseum.org/resource/tech-time-with-purpose-quick-guide/>) She also reported on attending the Lego conference in Chicago; they have a "Prescription for Play" that can be distributed to parents during doctor visits from the Weitzman Institute. (See <https://www.weitzmaninstitute.org/prescription-for-play/>) You can get more info on the Lego website: <https://www.lego.com/en-us/prescription-for-play>. [How about an "art pharmacy?" What if pediatricians could prescribe "outings" and insurers were required to pay? What if BADM could be prescribed?!] At the Lego conference she met Marin native Calvin Johnson, now the Senior Manager for Social Responsibility.

Commissioner McKinley added that BADM has a new Community Engagement Manager, Monica Espitia, who has a social justice background; she will co-create programs to bring new families to the museum. **Commissioner Hollman** asked if there were any buses to transport kids in the Canal; they are working on it.

Commissioner Evans said she gives BADM passes to families in need/struggles/crisis. Susanne Kreuzer said Help Me Grow Marin also distributes passes.

- **Commissioner Beuerman** added that Chloe Cook from Marin County Health and Human Services is working with 19 interns in West Marin who have been trained in ASQ's (Ages and Stages Questionnaires); they are being administered at playgroups, preschools and clinics.
- **Commissioner Rosenblum** reported that The Postpartum Support Center, with support from HHS' Maternal, Child and Adolescent Program, is launching a "Perinatal Mental Health Collaborative" this winter. They are also planning a training event, in conjunction with First 5 Marin, on Perinatal Mental Health for May.
- **Commissioner McKinley** also reported that she is working with staff to develop an event about "play" for the Marin Communications Forum. Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, a professor of psychology at Temple University and a senior fellow at the Brookings Institute will be the keynote speaker; she talks about "playful landscapes" and playful learning opportunities and embedding play into the places where children are and where they go. (We are looking at March dates and will confirm soon.)
Commissioner Evans suggested two related books, "Market Day," and "Knuffle Bunny."

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner chair Jessica Hollman adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.