



# FIRST 5 MARIN

Learn. Grow. Thrive.

## A G E N D A

### Marin Children and Families Commission Meeting

Wednesday, September 11, 2024 - 4:00-6:00 pm

First 5 Marin Office/ 1050 Northgate Drive, Suite 130 / San Rafael

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<b>I. Call to Order</b>	Action
<b>II. Roll Call</b>	-
<b>III. Minutes of June 12, 2024</b>	Action
<b>IV. Public Comment</b> – Three (3) minutes per speaker maximum	Information
<b>V. Executive Director/Staff Report</b> (30 min)	-
1. Goals and Priorities for Fiscal Year 2024-2025/Long Term Financial Plan Commitment to Help Me Grow Marin * Are these the right priorities? * What is missing?	Info/Discussion
2. Report from Help Me Grow Marin	Info/Discussion
3. Schedule of Forums for the Year/Marin Independent Journal-Letters & Publications	Info/Discussion
4. Public Policy Brief	Information
<b>VI. Committee Reports</b> (15 min)	-
Finance Committee: Update on Annual Audit	Information
<b>VII. Commissioner Items</b> (45 min)	-
1. Approval of Funds to Contribute to Early Childhood Fiscal Mapping and Family Burden Index	Discussion/Action
2. Establish Commission Committees (Nominating & Ad-hoc Retreat)	Discussion/Action
3. First 5 Marin Commissioner Retreat	Discussion
4. Follow-up on Response from Attorney on Conflict of Interest	Information
5. Calendar of Meetings FY 2024-2025	Information
6. Report on Coordinated Early Childhood Education System in Marin County	Information
<b>VIII. Commissioner Announcements/Final Comments</b>	-
<b>IX. Adjournment</b>	Action

**Next Meeting: October 9, 2024**



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## Marin County Children and Families Commission

### MINUTES

September 11, 2024

- I. **Call To Order** - The Regular Meeting of the Marin Children and Families Commission was called to order at 4:04 pm by Dr. Garcia, Commission Chair, and the meeting was held at the First 5 Marin offices located at 1050 Northgate Drive, Suite 130, in San Rafael, California.
- II. **Roll Call** - Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were:  
Present: Kari Beuerman, Aideen Gaidmore, Itoco Garcia, Eric Lucan, Kelly McKinley, Lisa Raffel, Sandra Rosenblum, Angie Evans, Jessica Hollman  
Absent: none  
Others: Dave Bonfilio, Commissioner Emeritus, Maria P. Niggle, Executive Director, Michelle Fadelli, Beatriz Duran and Susanne Kreuzer  
Guests: Amarantha Silva
- III. **Approval of the Minutes – MOTION:** Commissioner Raffel moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 12, 2024, seconded by Commissioner Beuerman. The motion carried with all in favor.
- IV. **Public Comment** – No public comment was made.
- V. **Executive Director/Staff Report** - Ms. Niggle gave a presentation summarizing First 5 Marin's goals and priorities for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 along with a brief review of the Long-Term Financial Plan with special emphasis placed on First 5 Marin's commitment to the Help Me Grow Marin program. Main points of discussion were:
  - Help Me Grow continues to thrive, ensure funding is sustainable whether it lives with First 5 or other space. First 5 Marin's commitment to HMG lasts up to 2025
  - Ensure accountability measures are in place and in alignment with First 5 partners
  - Spend more time in services and support – community health worker in coordination with HMG, creation of an ASQ database and establishing partnerships, create a "Steering Committee"
  - Revisit the Strategic Plan - do priorities need to be updated? do priorities need to be ranked from high priority to lower priority? Base award process on the structure
  - Explore the financial health of First 5 Marin, address the declining of funds, understand stressors and be aware of opportunities
  - Discuss the benchmarks of the early care and education system, build on a strong infrastructure and sustainable funding
  - Follow legislative opportunities – what does it look like from our standpoint?
  - Understand how systems of care for young children are being funded - be informed
  - Coordinate a forum with the County – annual legislative platform

At this time, Ms. Kreuzer provided an update on the work the Help Me Grow program is doing with enhanced assessments, billing down of CalAIM funds, and working on Community Health Worker certifications. Ms. Kreuzer further explained the effort being made to launch an ASQ dashboard and commented on the processes and challenges involved. Ms. Niggle talked about the opportunity to leverage more funding for training and capacity building in order to conduct more outreach and systems strengthening for the HMG program.

Ms. Fadelli provided a summary of the Public Policy and Communications report. She discussed topics for forums that she is planning for next year (whether in-person or held on-line). She noted that the Children's Summit – Champions for Children Awards would be held on January 31<sup>st</sup>. The following remarks and recommendations were noted regarding new topics for forums:

- Create a “tradeshow” style forum – invite all programs to participate, set-up booths with resources, and brief presentations of services offered to the community
- Continue partnering with other local organizations
- Survey and get feedback from people on what topics they are interested in having
- Partner with the North Bay Leadership Council to bring in the business community
- Invite elected officials to speak and introduce policy related to childcare issues, etc.
- Support topics that have had low attendance in order to elevate issues that are not at the forefront
- The joy of playful learning as a topic; what it means, the impact it has on children and families
- Substance abuse – tobacco, alcohol, drugs; connect with County Tobacco Control for resources
- A forum on mental health issues and messaging (outdoor billboards included)
- Engaging the elderly – affecting and supporting all community ages – Caregiving Across the Ages
- Issues on supporting a “healthy community” for all ages from young to old – policies, partnerships

Ms. Fadelli commented on policy priorities adopted by First 5 Association and about the launching of First 5 California's “Raise California Strong” campaign.

## **VI. Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee:** Dave Bonfilio, Commissioner Emeritus, and Commissioner Lucan provided a brief update on the Commission's annual audit. They noted that they met with Brian Nash and David Chiaravalotti of the auditing firm of Richardson & Company on September 4<sup>th</sup>. They commented that the audit is going well, and that they anticipate the first draft will be completed by September 27<sup>th</sup> with the expectation that the final audit will be presented at the October meeting. Mr. Bonfilio commented that the auditors may raise an issue which relates to CalPers and Maria Niggle's contribution to the plan. He added that the appropriate deductions to CalPers were not made. Commissioner Gaidmore commented on the financial impact it could have on Ms. Niggle, and expressed her concern on the matter. Dr. Garcia remarked that the Commission could work on options for Ms. Niggle when the time came to address the matter.

## **VII. Commissioner Items**

1. Approval of Funds to Contribute to the Early Childhood Fiscal Mapping and Family Burden Index: Ms. Niggle asked the Commission to consider funding up to \$15k in a collaborative effort to complete a fiscal mapping of the early childcare community in Marin County; she further advised that this initiative falls very clearly under the goals and objectives of the Commission's Strategic Plan. Commissioner Gaidmore explained that this work ties into the coordinated early childcare ECE system and will be a joint ownership project. The collaborative proposes to hire a consultant who will do an assessment of the ECE community which entails the work of identifying gaps, identifying groups and agencies that support this community, identifying funding streams, identifying the costs of childcare for parents, addressing quality pay for teachers, identifying challenges, collecting the necessary data, and developing a long-term solution. Commissioner Gaidmore advised that the Marin Child Care Council, County of Marin, Marin County Office of Education, and the Local Planning Council will be contributing toward this initiative. The total cost of the proposal is \$100,000. If approved, Ms. Niggle is recommending they draw funds from the evaluation fund. **MOTION:** Commissioner McKinley moved to approve up to \$15,000 in funding to support the fiscal mapping of the early childcare community initiative, seconded by Commissioner Hollman. The motion carried with all in favor.

2. Establish Commission Committees (Nominating Committee and Ad-Hoc Retreat committee): Commissioners talked about setting up a Nominating Committee. Ms. Niggle advised that this committee would focus on matters concerning Commissioner resignations, application processes and providing recommendations to the Board. This Committee will also be tasked with the selection of and recommendation of the Chair and Vice-Chair. The Nominating Committee will need to meet prior to the meeting scheduled in October. A brief discussion continued regarding clarification of assignments; Mr. Bonfilio explained that historically the Officers do not serve for more than two consecutive years.

Ms. Niggle is recommending that the Commission form an Ad-hoc Committee to plan the Commission Retreat. The Committee will plan the agenda and topics for discussion, establishing a location, set the dates, etc. Commissioner Garcia remarked that the retreat should be held in Marin County; he advised that finding a location to accommodate the retreat should not be too difficult. He noted that the retreat will be considered a public meeting will be subject to the rules of the Brown Act.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lucan moved to form the Nominating Committee and the Ad-Hoc Retreat Committee, seconded by Commissioner Raffel. The motion carried with all in favor.

Commissioner Garcia asked Commissioners to contact him or Maria Niggle if they were interested in participating in one of the committees.

3. First 5 Marin Commissioner Retreat: Commissioners commented on establishing a date, preferably in the months of January up through March for the retreat. Items recommended for the agenda by Commissioners included reviewing the Strategic Plan and considering any changes, addressing the decline of funding and identifying alternate funding, and advancing legislative policies.
4. Follow-Up on Response from Attorney regarding the Conflict of Interest: A response was provided by the Commission's legal counsel regarding the requirements for recusal of Commissioners for certain decisions; the document was included in the meeting packet and was briefly reviewed.
5. Calendar of Meetings for Fiscal Year 2024-2025: Ms. Niggle commented that Commissioners will need to approve a schedule of meetings at the October statutory meeting and is asking Commissioners to think about alternative meeting dates, time and/or location that best suits not only them but also community members and families. Ms. Fadelli talked about alternate meeting locations available at the County offices.
6. Report on Coordinated Early Childhood Education System in Marin County: Commissioner Gaidmore advised Commissioners to contact her if they needed more information on this subject (she presented this information earlier as part of the request for the mapping initiative).

## **VIII. Commissioner Announcements/Final Comments**

Commissioner Raffel announced that Bridge the Gap is seeking tutors for their new tutoring program at Tomales High School. All the work will be done on-site and the hours are flexible.

Commissioner Lucan commented that four Commissioners were appointed to serve on the Commission at the August 20<sup>th</sup> Marin County Board of Supervisors meeting.

- IX. Adjournment** - The Commission will be holding a Statutory Commission Meeting on October 9, 2024. Having noted no further discussion, Dr. Garcia, Commission Chair, adjourned the meeting at 6:05 pm.