



## A G E N D A

### Marin Children and Families Commission Meeting

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

4:00-6:00 pm

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

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85115454380?pwd=rlHvPWNaQYqTjo6B1GtRq3zgkm3g5h.1>

Meeting ID: 851 1545 4380 Passcode: 290770

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 (4:00 pm)**
- II. Roll Call (4:01)**
- III. Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2025 and January 24, 2025 (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. Funded Partner Project Updates (4:15) - (Information)**
  1. Pediatric Dental North Bay Surgery Center
  2. Parent Services Project
  3. North Marin Community Services
- VI. Executive Director/Staff Report (4:45)**
  1. Financial Statements: Quarter 1 & Quarter 2 (07/2024-12/2024)
- VII. Commissioner Items (5:20)**
  1. Form 700 Annual Filing - Statement of Economic Interest (Information)
  2. Date for follow-up retreat –(Action)
- VIII. Commission Announcements & Final Comments (5:40) - (Information)**
- IX. Adjournment (6:00pm) - (Action)**

### NEXT MEETING - March 12, 2025 (Statutory Meeting)

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.



**Marin Children and Families Commission**  
**MINUTES**  
**February 12, 2025**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by **Dr. Jessica Hollman**, Commissioner Chair, at 3240 Kerner Boulevard, Room 109, in San Rafael, California.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners Present:** Kari Beuerman, Aideen Gaidmore, Dr. Jessica Hollman, Supervisor Eric Lucan, Kelly McKinley, Lisa Raffel, Sandra Rosenblum + Dave Bonfilio, Commissioner Emeritus.

**Commissioners Excused:** Angie Evans, Itoco Garcia.

**Staff:** Maria Niggle, Michelle Fadelli, Susanne Kreuzer.

**Guests/Public:** Balandra Fregoso (Parent Services Project), Amarantha Silva (Parent Voices), Tanya Taylor (MCOE).

**Guests online:** Emily Bugos (North Marin Community Services), Tara Good- Young (PDI Surgery Center), Ann Mathieson (formerly with Marin Promise Partnership).

**III. MINUTES**

**The Minutes from the commission meeting on January 8, 2025** were reviewed for approval. A motion to approve was made by **Commissioner Raffel**; the motion was seconded by **Commissioner Rosenblum**. The motion was unanimously approved and the Minutes from January 8, 2025 were adopted.

**The Minutes from the commission retreat** held on January 24, 2025 were reviewed for approval.

- **Commissioner Gaidmore** noted a correction needed under #2 Building a Charter (on page one): the notation for Angie Evans should read, “Black gay woman” rather than “bay.”
- **Commissioner Gaidmore** requested a correction to her reference under #2 Building a Charter (on page one): it should read, “I have 25 years of early childhood education experience in the County.
- **Commissioner McKinley** requested a correction to her reference under #2 Building a Charter (on page one): The power cultural organizations have in children’s lives, especially the human connection, and the joy that comes from being part of the world.

A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by **Commissioner Gaidmore**; the motion was seconded by **Commissioner McKinley**. The motion was unanimously approved and the Minutes from retreat held on January 24, 2025 were adopted with corrections..

#### IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

**Amarantha Silva** talked about the ongoing work of Parent Voices Marin to advocate for a holistic safety net for the immigrant community. This included meeting with supervisors to discuss not only “Know Your Rights” initiatives but also the creation of a legal bond fund. She urged the commission to actively support the immigrant community during the current crisis. She also mentioned their meetings with supervisors to advocate for increased support for childcare and fair wages for childcare providers.

#### V. FUNDED PARTNER PROJECT UPDATES

- **Tara Good-Young reported on the Pediatric Dental Initiative (PDI):** 24 children have been treated in the grant period (since July 2024) and 30,000 children have been treated since 2008. PDI has customized the “New Parent Kits” available from First 5 with oral health bags for young children. They are connecting families to Smile California for dental insurance information and Medi-Cal support. She reported that 52% of children up to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade have oral decay and caries (cavities); half of those are low-income and have lingering, untreated decay. They are referred to PDI for treatment and restoration that requires anesthesia.  
PDI focuses on maternal care and information about oral health care for young children, including wiping the gums of babies, a dental visit by the first tooth or age one, and helping children brush until age 10. She noted that partnerships have impact; PDI works with primary care, schools and Head Start for education and treatment.
- **Q: Commissioner Hollman** asked if there are any patients that PDI doesn’t see. (Are there any other providers? Does Marin Community Clinics (MCC) refer patients to PDI only? **A:** PDI is the only apparent provider and can serve “Anesthesia-safe 1 and 2” patients; they only decline “ASA 3” patients because they do not have an emergency department. Any patient with a risk of seizures, blood pressure concerns etc. are offered alternatives, which are now Stanford and UCSF (with a reported two-year waiting list); both referrals are recommended. Tara added that PDI does not do root canals or extraction of wisdom teeth, no implants; the focus is on pediatric restoration.
- **Q: Commissioner Raffel** asked about any other challenges. **A:** Funding is the biggest challenge. PDI works with Medi-Cal, Denti-Cal and Partnership Health Plan (PHP); 86% of patients are PHP. (A small percentage are Kaiser, Medi-Cal and a few Delta Dental.) Tara added that they are re-negotiating rates, so donor money goes far, and any benefits patients have are used (first). Tara also noted that some SoCal treatment centers pay up to \$3,000 for an anesthesiologist, where PDI currently pays

\$1610. (They are hoping to reach \$2,000 to \$2,500.) Nurse anesthetologists earn an similar rate but the reimbursement is lower than doctors.

- **Balandra Fregoso reported for Parent Services Project (PSP):** PSP currently holds 13 weekly playgroups; including San Rafael, Bolinas and Point Reyes. First 5 funding allowed them to remodel the upstairs portion of their building in the Canal, allowing a permanent set-up for playgroups, rather than packing/transporting/unpacking for each event at an outside location. 150 kids and 122 families are currently being served in Marin; the goal is to serve 200. (There is no playgroup in Tomales yet.) PSP also supports *Promotores*; they have 10 community leaders trained to host playgroups. They receive monthly training and are given a stipend (\$50 per playgroup; some earn up to \$1,000 per month.) PSP also partners with JFCS (Jewish Family and Children's Services); they are co-producing a workshop. In West Marin, they are working with interns from Marin County Health and Human Services to administer ASQs ("Ages and Stages Questionnaires" about child development milestones). PSP also has a Positive Parenting program for families; two staff are certified to administer this. Challenges include: storage space in West Marin; the fee at the Dance Palace was reduced from \$8,000 to \$4,000. Housing for families is difficult and expensive, and immigration remains a concern. (Balandra also offered thanks to **Dave Bonfilio** for attending the PSP holiday party, along with **Maria Niggle** and **Michelle Fadelli**.)

**Q: Commissioner Beuerman** asked if there have been any changes in the last three weeks. **A:** Balandra said parents are emotional, but showing up. They are training ECE staff on "Know Your Rights."

**Q: Commissioner Gaidmore** said that 13 playgroups each week is fantastic. She said that playgroup leaders could become licensed "family care providers." Marin Child Care Council (MC3) can partner with PSP; they can offer MC3 training. **A:** Balandra noted that they see 0 to 3 year olds, but also offer a place where parents can gather (and parents and kids can play together). It's so much more than a playgroup.

**Q: Commissioner Hollman** asked how parents find out about the playgroups and asked if she can share at MCC. **A:** In San Rafael, playgroups are shared by word-of-mouth but the playgroups are currently full. (PSP also partners with WIC, home visiting and have a flyer.) In West Marin, PSP partners with the health clinic, West Marin Community Services, schools and the Learning Bus. **Q:** It's called "Aprendiendo Juntos? (Learning Together) **A:** Yes.

**Q: Commissioner Raffel** suggested that Balandra connect with Adrian from Bridge the Gap in Tomales about setting up a playgroup there.

[Balandra also mentioned that PSP partners with PPSC (the Postpartum Support Center) in West Marin; 50 car seats have been installed and training provided.

**Q: Commissioner Rosenblum** asked if the car seat representatives are certified. **A:** Yes.

**Q:** It's a robust training! 40 hours.]

- **Emily Bugos reported for North Marin Community Services (NMCS):** NMCS has a new “bilingual child development specialist,” Yenin Calderon-Perez, funded by the First 5 Marin grant— offering a developmental playgroup with culturally and linguistically-appropriate connections with children and families. The playgroups provides resource connections and community engagement; collaboration with Kerry Bacho from PSP (providing play, books, daily activities and a STEAM workshop); a visit to the Bay Area Discovery Museum for family day; and professional development for NMCS staff. The playgroup includes 12 families, meeting two days per week; there are 7 on the waiting list. (How can we serve more?)  
Family support includes: book bags/family literacy; TK/kindergarten enrollment assistance; a parent advisory committee; information/support regarding immigration enforcement; holiday sharing and a toy drive. 70% are in the child development program. NMCS also connected with Help Me Grow Marin; Maritza Barahona conducted the “ASQ” to identify developmental delays and provide early intervention and support.
- **Q: Commissioner Gaidmore** stated that playgroups are full because people can’t get child care. She thanked NMCS for providing these services.
- **Q: Maria Niggle** said she was struck by the young ages of participants.
- **Q: Commissioner Hollman** asked about NMCS in Novato. **A:** There are 95 children in the child development program—preschool and after school. 70 kids have a subsidy. The program includes: CHWs (community Health Workers), climate action, mental health services (with Novato Unified School District, tele-health, and on-site services), case management, rental assistance, and a food pantry.

## VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- **Executive Director Maria Niggle** stated that a summary report was included in the meeting packet, as requested (at the retreat). Not included in the report: First 5 Marin’s website now includes resources for immigrant parents (see [www.first5marin.org/parenting](http://www.first5marin.org/parenting)).
- **Dave Bonfilio** asked if we have “Red Cards.” **A:** No, but the Board of Supervisors has a large amount.  
**Maria** noted that the Financial Statements were included in the packet.
- **Dave Bonfilio** noted the funds spent-to-date.
- **Commissioner Raffel** asked if commissioners could receive a year-over-year comparison. **A:** Yes. Maria added that our FASS contact is on leave; the substitute has actually been more responsive.

## VII. COMMISSIONER ITEMS

- **Employee Handbook** – Executive Director Maria Niggle noted that the updated Employee Handbook was included in the packet.
- **Dave Bonfilio** noted the maximum vacation accrual was included.

- **Commissioner Gaidmore** said it's good to review the Employee Handbook every few years as things change.
- **Maria Niggle** said the final version of the Employee Handbook will be up for approval at the March meeting.
- **Commissioner Lucan** suggested that we add an annual review of the executive director to the Governance Calendar—before the election of officers.
- **Maria Niggle** added that she has a February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting with the executive coach.
- **Form 700** – the “Form 700” 2024-2025 Statement of Economic Interests is also in the packet. All commissioners must complete this and submit it, as well as **Maria Niggle** and Michelle Fadelli on staff. (*The due date is April 1<sup>st</sup>.*)
- **Commissioner Hollman** asked about First 5 Advocacy Day. A: **Maria Niggle** said that First 5 Advocacy Day is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento.
- **Maria Niggle** also mentioned **AB 49** (Muratsuchi) which would prohibit school officials allowing an officer or employee of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to enter a school site without a judicial warrant, and without receiving approval from the superintendent of the school district (or the superintendent of the county office of education, or the principal of the charter school). The bill would require the local educational agency, if the officer or employee of ICE meets those requirements, to limit access to facilities where pupils are not present.
- **Commissioner Gaidmore** asked that commissioners be notified about First 5 (statewide) conferences. She noted that her agency would pay for her attendance.
- **Maria Niggle** also mentioned that First 5 California (?) has approved a **Sustainability Fund** of \$3 million. Commissioner Hollman asked how \$3 million, distributed statewide, help. A: It's unclear... How will it be distributed? (More information will be provided as it becomes available.)
- **Commissioner Lucan** asked about the Unrestricted Fund Balance vs. the Restricted. A: Maria said it will be discussed at the Finance Committee meeting.
- **Maria Niggle** also mentioned that DHCS (the Department of Health Care Services) is offering training for Community Health Workers (CHWs). Marin have 12 graduates, with 4 more pending. The critical result is that a CHW can bill for Medi-Cal.
- **Maria Niggle** also mentioned the plan to schedule a follow up retreat, and suggested summer dates. **Commissioner McKinley** suggested we send a Doodle poll to determine a date that is convenient to the majority.

## VIII. FINAL COMMENTS

**Child Care Forum and Funding** - **Commissioner Hollman** said that the opening speaker at our Child Care Forum on January 31<sup>st</sup> was great. **Commissioner McKinley** said that the event was content-rich, but that we need more time for Q&A, breaks and interaction. **Maria Niggle** said we need to think about next steps on the issues raised at the forum. **Commissioner Hollman** asked what our role should be. **Michelle Fadelli** replied that we

have the example of “MarinKids” that First 5 Marin funded (2012-16) which eventually led to (a community-wide effort to place) the “Marin Strong Start” initiative on the November 2016 ballot. We could also explore and present a variety of fundraising options with Margaret Brodtkin. **Commissioner McKinley** said we need community mapping. Who is best to drive this effort? We are conveners. **Commissioner Lucan** added that First 5 Marin can’t be involved (in a political effort) or signature-gathering. **Commissioner Beuerman** suggested that we hear from the four counties nearby that have adopted funding measures (for young children). **Commissioner Raffel** asked if we just learn about ballot measures, is that political (and therefore prohibited)? A: It could be. (Maybe we need a legal opinion.) **Commissioner Raffel** noted that the keynote speaker was philosophical, and added that any effort needs to have the business community involved—that’s crucial.

**Marin Communications Forum** - **Michelle Fadelli** announced the February 27<sup>th</sup> forum is: *“Healthy Environments, Child Development and Equity.”* This will be an online presentation by Joseph Wilson with the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard. (10 a.m.)

The March 12<sup>th</sup> forum will be about *“Playful Learning Landscapes,”* a special presentation by Dr. Kathy Hirsh-Pasek (Temple University and the Brookings Institution). This event will be in-person at the Bay Area Discovery Museum from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and seating is very limited. The speaker was invited by **Commissioner McKinley**.

**Commissioner Hollman** noted that the commission meeting scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup> conflicts with spring break. **Maria** replied that we can consider alternate dates at our March (statutory) meeting.

**Commissioner Beuerman** reported that the Marin Immigrant Rights and Justice group is conducting Tuesday calls and holds a monthly workgroup meeting.

**Commissioner Hollman** reported that Marin Community Clinics has “Red Cards”—in Spanish and other languages. She noted that hospitals and schools are not “safe havens.”

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m. The motion was made by **Commissioner Lucan**, with a second by **Commissioner Raffel**. The motion was unanimously approved.