

April 11, 2016

The Honorable Supervisor Kinsey, President
Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Annual Informational Report Regarding Marin County Child Care Commission

REQUEST: Support on Some Key Local and State Issues

Dear Supervisor Kinsey,

As your local Commission on Child Care and the state-mandated Local Planning Council on Child Care and Development (LPC), we would like to share updates regarding some of our activities and ask for your support on some upcoming key local and state issues.

I. 2014-2019 MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of our 2014-2019 Master Plan, we are working with different stakeholders to assist in convening workgroups and provide support to move Marin toward the following objectives:

AREA 1: ACCESS

The availability of services to every child who needs them at a cost that is affordable.

All families in Marin should have access to child care and early education that meets their individual needs and preferences.

- **Availability** -Increase the supply of child care and early education options that meet the needs and preferences of families.
- **Affordability** -Maintain or reduce the percentage of family income needed to pay for child care and early education costs.

AREA 2: QUALITY

Increasing child care and early education opportunities that provide children with high quality experiences that support the development of the whole child.

All child care and early education services (licensed and license exempt) should provide children with high quality experiences that engage families and support the development of the whole child.

- **Workforce** -Increase recruitment, support and retention of a high quality workforce (including licensed and licensed exempt providers).
- **Program Practices** -Support child care and early education programs, centers and homes to implement quality practices.



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AREA 3: COORDINATION

County wide infrastructure that coordinates child care and early education services, supports and promotes integration of programs with other children services, and strengthens policy and advocacy efforts.

Accessible, high quality child care and early education should be a coordinated component of Marin's infrastructure to support families and to sustain community development.

- **Infrastructure** -Develop a countywide infrastructure for early learning programs that promotes coordination and integration across the field and with schools, agencies, and service providers supporting children and families.
- **Policy and Advocacy** -Increase public information and advocacy efforts to support the establishment of the child care and early education system as a vital component of Marin's infrastructure to support families and sustain community development.

II. 2016 PRIORITY ZIP CODES FOR SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE

As a LPC, we identify local priorities for the distribution of new state child care and development and preschool funding. The California State Education Code language specifies how we conduct our work in order to identify priorities which will ensure that all the child care and preschool needs of the county are met to the greatest extent possible. We use census data, the Child Care Eligibility List information, and Marin Child Care Council's R&R data. The data is analyzed to identify the highest areas of need for additional subsidy dollars. The priorities are to be submitted annually to the California Department of Education and used by the Department to inform their funding decisions.

The following are the current Priority Zip Codes for our county:

INFANT/TODDLERS – 0 TO 36 MONTHS CHILDREN

Priority 1 (40% unserved, more than 200 children)	94903 (San Rafael) 94947 (Novato)
Priority 2 (25% unserved, more than 100 children)	94941 (Mill Valley) 94901 (San Rafael) 94945 (Novato) 94949 (Novato)

CSPP – CALIFORNIA STATE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM – 3 TO 4 Y.O CHILDREN

Priority 1 (40% unserved, more than 150 children)	94903 (San Rafael)
Priority 2 (25% unserved, more than 75 children)	94941 (Mill Valley) 94947 (Novato)



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CCTR – CALIFORNIA CENTER-BASED CONTRACTS - 5 TO 12 Y.O. CHILDREN

Priority 1 (40% unserved, more than 200 children)	94901 (San Rafael) 94941 (Mill Valley) 94903 (San Rafael) 94947 (Novato) 94960 (San Anselmo) 94945 (Novato) 94920 Belvedere/Tiburon) 94939 (Larkspur) 94904 (Greenbrae)
Priority 2 (25% unserved, more than 100 children)	94925 (Corte Madera) 94965 (Sausalito/ Marin City) 94949 (Novato) 94930 (Fairfax)

III. POLICY PRIORITIES FOR 2016

Consistent with the 2014-2019 Marin Child Care Master Plan and the most pressing needs affecting the child care and early education field in our county, we develop an Annual Policy Platform with recommendations and strategies. In 2016, the Commission is especially asking your support to the advancement of the following priorities:

1. **Create a local sustainable source of funding to ensure access to quality preschool, child care and afterschool programs for Marin’s children.**
 - ✓ We ask your sustained support to Marin Strong Start Coalition’s efforts to extend important services that are crucial to future success to local children who currently don’t have access to them. This year, our county has a unique opportunity to make a positive transformation that will strengthen our child care and early education social infrastructure and, consequently, promote great strides toward equity. The time is now: our children can’t wait.
2. **Build a streamlined subsidy reimbursement system that reflects the actual current cost of high quality care and early education.**
 - ✓ It is critical that this year’s California State Budget, which is rich with resources, increase infrastructure investments throughout the subsidized early care and education system. Your support is needed in advocating for increase of all reimbursement rates to ensure forward progress toward paying providers a fair rate that reflects the current cost of care. The high cost of living in a county like Marin, combined with underfunding for this field for the last 7 years, has especially created an emergency scenario for child development programs and their staff. Therefore, the increase for all California State Reimbursement Rates is especially important.



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3. Ensure that compensation for the early education workforce and eligibility criteria for families are consistent with current living costs.

- ✓ California has a long history of providing low income working parents with early care and education services; however over the last decade we have fallen behind, particularly in the reimbursement rates paid to child care providers and the utilization of an outdated State Median Income (SMI) level entrance criteria for families accessing these services. These two areas have caused reduced access to services for families who are priced out of high quality programs, hindered retention of qualified staff and eroded the total supply of early care and education available to our communities. Your support is needed in ensuring that wages and benefits are consistent with living costs.

Thanks for your leadership in the improvement of the child care and early education field in Marin. We are looking forward to continuing working with you to ensure an enriching present and a bright future for all county's children.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this report, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Tanya Myers
Chair, Marin County Child Care Commission



Ericka O. Erickson
Coordinator, Marin County Child Care Commission

CC:

Honorable Supervisor Damon Connolly, County of Marin – District 1
 Honorable Supervisor Katie Rice, County of Marin Supervisor - District 2
 Honorable Supervisor Kathrin Sears, County of Marin Supervisor - District 3
 Honorable Supervisor Judy Arnold, County of Marin Supervisor - District 5



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