

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STRONG STARTS FOR ALL OF MARIN'S CHILDREN

WHEREAS, access to quality preschool, comprehensive health care and wellness services, childcare and afterschool academic support is linked to higher academic achievement, successful careers and healthy, economically vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, preschool boosts academic achievement and makes children more likely to start school ready, stay in school and graduate saving our local economy about \$11,400 per child; and

WHEREAS, making sure all children have access to medical, dental, mental health services and healthy nutrition is key to foster lifelong health, help catch problems early, promote regular school attendance and assure all our children are healthier; and

WHEREAS, affordable, quality childcare provides a nurturing environment for brain development while enabling parents to support their families; and

WHEREAS, access to affordable, quality childcare reduces the burden on working families, increases family self-sufficiency, and improves economic productivity; and

WHEREAS, students who attend afterschool and extended learning programs consistently show improvements in academic achievement, are less likely to join gangs, get involved with alcohol and drugs, or drop out of school; and

WHEREAS, contrary to popular belief, many Marin County children do not have access to these critical building blocks; and

WHEREAS, one out of every three children in Marin does not attend preschool often due to high cost for families; and

WHEREAS, fewer than 50% of Marin's poor children start school ready compared to 75% of children who are not poor – a 27% gap; and

WHEREAS, by third grade, 66% of economically disadvantaged children in Marin do not read at grade level; and

WHEREAS, 12% of Marin children age two to 11 have never seen a dentist, 20% of Marin's kindergartners did not have required immunizations and only 55% of economically disadvantaged children in Marin are at a healthy weight; and



WHEREAS, 30% of families in Marin have an income insufficient to meet basic needs of their family including child care and as many as 800 families are on a wait list and unable to secure affordable childcare in Marin; and

WHEREAS, in Marin, 60% fewer children who are poor or racially diverse meet state targets in math and English and generally have unequal access to academic supports such as tutoring; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, several organizations came together to explore the potential for developing a dedicated funding stream that would support essential programs for children in Marin; and

WHEREAS, the Marin Strong Start Coalition has grown to include local leaders in education, healthcare, business, government, childcare, youth and community services, civic organizations and communities across Marin County; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 an Expenditure Committee made up of leaders from communities across Marin, representing key childhood service areas and stakeholder groups convened to develop a specific plan to use potential tax resources to fund preschool for lower income children, provide affordable child care, extend learning opportunities after school and assure every child has access to essential healthcare and wellness services;

NOW THEREFORE, MARIN COMMUNITY CLINICS HEREBY RESOLVES TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF THE MARIN STRONG START COALITION TO DEVELOP A DEDICATED FUNDING STREAM FOR ESSENTIAL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN IN MARIN, INCLUDING ACCESS TO QUALITY PRESCHOOL, COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE AND WELLNESS SERVICES, AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE AND AFTERSCHOOL ACADEMIC SUPPORT.

Signature:  _____

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Title: Chair, Marin Community Clinics Board of Directors

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