Regional partners receive new Head Start grant for three Missouri counties

In July, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families reappointed MARC to serve as the Head Start and Early Head Start grantee for Clay, Platte and Jackson counties.

The new grant will provide approximately $25 million per year through 2023. Through a network of early childhood programs, MARC’s Mid-America Head Start (MAHS) supports the needs of low-income pregnant women, children from birth through age 5, and families in urban, suburban and rural settings.

In anticipation of the grant’s renewal, MAHS spent the last year working with community stakeholders and service providers to assess its delivery structure. MAHS made several changes to the service delivery model to address changes in national standards, local demographics and community needs. In the new model, three pillars will

Cybersecurity framework adopted
Local governments urged to take national survey to assess risk

Over the past year, local government leaders have worked together to advance key elements of the Regional Cybersecurity Framework developed in 2017. After extensive review and evaluation by the Cybersecurity Task Force, a set of regional standards for cybersecurity was selected and a self-assessment tool was identified for local governments to evaluate their current capabilities and challenges.

The Cybersecurity Task Force adopted the Center for Internet Security (CIS) controls as model cybersecurity standards for the region. CIS offers 20 controls grouped into three categories: basic, foundational and organizational. Studies have shown that implementing the six basic controls can stop approximately 85 percent of common cybersecurity attacks. The six basic controls are:

1. Inventory and control of hardware assets.
2. Inventory and control of software assets.
3. Continuous vulnerability management.
4. Controlled use of administrative privileges.

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Policy framework developed for autonomous vehicles
Plan recommends strategies to prepare the Kansas City region for new transportation technologies

In 2017, MARC convened a wide-ranging group of stakeholders to begin drafting a policy framework to help the region respond to and prepare for autonomous and connected vehicles and other emerging transportation technologies. The AV Task Force met three times between September 2017 and June 2018, and formed working groups around seven main policy areas:

- Travel demand management and system performance.
- Infrastructure, planning and investment.
- Land use and environment.
- Data management.
- Equitable access and mobility services.
- Workforce and economic opportunity.
- Certification, liability and insurance.

The working groups developed recommendations that AV Task Force members reviewed and refined. The overarching themes in the recommendations include:

- Ongoing need for regional stakeholder education.
- Updated land-use policies, such as parking and curb sharing (designated areas for pick-ups or drop-offs).
- Pricing strategies for operations, parking, registration and vehicle use.
- Regional and multi-jurisdictional data sharing.
- Equitable access to services and the transportation system.

The final recommendations have been published in a white paper accessible from the MARC website. The policy framework will continue to be refined and implemented in regional planning work as these and other emerging transportation technologies are introduced.

Sustainable Success Stories to be honored in December

On Dec. 7, local projects will be honored at MARC’s 2018 Sustainable Success Stories program at the Kauffman Foundation Conference Center. This annual event highlights a cross-section of sustainability efforts. This year, the event will emphasize ways that infrastructure projects can benefit from sustainability concepts such as green infrastructure, stormwater management initiatives, and transportation projects and initiatives that encourage green and complete streets.

The 2018 Sustainable Success Stories honorees are:

- Bridging The Gap — Green Infrastructure Programs.
- Blue Valley North High School (Kansas) — BVN Prairie.
- Gladstone, Missouri — Energy Savings Project and Hobby Hill Park.
- Kansas City, Missouri — Green Stormwater Infrastructure Manual and Target Green Marlborough.
- Lee’s Summit, Missouri — Green Infrastructure Implementations.
- Raymore, Missouri — Permeable Paver Crosswalks.
- Ripple Glass Recycling.
- Turner High School (Kansas) — Healthy School/ Healthy Community Project.

The Sustainable Success Stories event is part of an ongoing community dialogue focused on building a better understanding of sustainable practices that have the potential to transform the region. Sharing local successes and challenges helps teach community partners how to replicate high-impact practices with the long-term goal of improving the quality of life for residents in the Kansas City region. A brief presentation will be given on each project, with time allotted for a question and answer session.

Register online at marc.org or call 816-474-4240.
Linking green spaces to public health

In mid-2018, the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City awarded a grant to MARC and a group of partners to demonstrate how green infrastructure — natural areas, rain gardens and parks that improve ecosystem health — can deliver multiple benefits with an emphasis on human health and community revitalization. Partnering with MARC in the effort are the Urban Neighborhood Initiative (UNI), the Central Business Association of Kansas City, Kansas, and the Unified Government of Kansas City, Kansas/Wyandotte County.

Work in Missouri will take place in the UNI corridor (bound by Truman Road on the north to 52nd Street on the south, and from Troost on the west to Prospect on the east) in Kansas City, Missouri. MARC is working with the organization’s Vacant to Vibrant program, and will engage UNI residents for environmental education, vacant lot prioritization and green infrastructure installation and maintenance training opportunities.

Work in Kansas will focus on a high-impact, green infrastructure installation in Clifton Park near 18th Street and Central Avenue. The surrounding community will decide on the type of green infrastructure that will provide the best stormwater management while lending itself to community recreation and public health improvements.

Outcomes from the project’s work will bolster the case for the importance of green space to public health and, in turn, connect findings from the project with the Green Infrastructure Framework’s Playbook and policy recommendations under development.

New report compares the region’s transit system to peer cities

A new Peer Cities Transit Report, published in September, uses a series of benchmarks to compare Greater Kansas City’s regional transit system to other systems across the nation. The report analyzes funding, ridership, service areas and density in 10 peer metro areas — all similar to Kansas City in size and landlocked geography — as well as four regions with more advanced transit systems the region aspires to achieve.

Highlights from the report are shown below. The full report is online at marc.org/peertransit.

Funding

Kansas City’s transit agencies spent $50.15 in state and local funding per capita.

When compared to our peers, we are 20% below average; compared to the average of aspirational regions, this gap increases to 60%.

Kansas contributed $1.9 million in operating funding. Missouri contributed $610,000.

When compared to peer and aspirational regions, Kansas City received:

- 95% less state operating funding compared to the average.
- 73% less state operating funding than the median.

Fares

KCATA (and the RideKC system as a whole) charges the second-lowest fare rate of any primary transit agency.

Service

KCATA ranked

- 7th in transit ridership out of 11 peer primary agencies, and
- 11th out of all 15 agencies.

Find the summary report at marc.org/peertransit.
Technology to help pinpoint location of wireless 911 callers

Public safety answering points (PSAPs) in the nine-county Greater Kansas City area now have access to a new tool that can help identify the precise location of a 911 caller using a wireless phone.

RapidSOS supplements current call-location technology by using access points, Wi-Fi and cell phone towers to give instant location information.

Until now, area PSAPs have relied on technology that provides maps showing a wireless 911 caller’s location based on triangulated signals from several cell towers and wireless carriers. These signals can identify a general location — typically within 50 to 300 meters of the caller — but in life-threatening emergencies, even 50 meters can cause delays that might result in catastrophic outcomes.

Dispatchers will now be able to see points on a map using both location methods — the carrier location identified by cell tower or GPS networks, and the device-based RapidSOS location.

RapidSOS technology recently integrated into Apple iPhones using iOS 12 and Google is in the process of activating the technology on Android devices. On either Apple or Android phones, calls placed using the emergency call function through the Uber app will provide an enhanced location using RapidSOS.

RapidSOS offers its location technology to public safety agencies at no charge.

The Kansas City region joins other 911 systems across the nation already using the system, including Denver, Colorado; Maricopa County, Arizona; Collier County, Florida; and Elkhart County, Indiana.

New programs will help older adults and veterans

Building on existing service capacities, MARC’s Department of Aging and Adult Services is launching two new projects to help older adults and veterans achieve better health outcomes.

Chronic disease self-management

The Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging (MA4) recently received a three-year Administration for Community Living grant to support programs that provide education to older adults about how to self-manage chronic diseases. MARC, in partnership with area aging and health agencies, will lead the effort and house project management staff.

The goal of the program is to significantly increase the number of older adults and adults with disabilities who participate in self-management education and support programs to improve their confidence in managing their chronic conditions. The program partners will also implement funding arrangements to support chronic disease self-management programs and embed them into a coordinated, sustainable program network.

Over the course of the grant period, MA4 and the project partners hope to engage more than 1,600 participants and achieve a 75 percent completion rate for educational programs. They plan to establish an integrated, statewide training system to train 50 new leaders and 80 community-based organizations to offer chronic disease self-management education.

Veterans services

Through a partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Veteran-Directed Care program, MARC will manage referrals from the Kansas City VA Medical Center or other VA Medical Centers for patients who reside in the Kansas City region.

After participating veterans choose a care provider, MARC provides assessment, care plan development and assistance in managing the care relationship between the provider and the veteran. Contracted social workers will provide assessments and coordinate with patients’ integrated care teams. The services provided to veterans are similar to those that MARC’s Area Agency on Aging department currently provides to older adults.

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More than $57 million allocated to transportation and sustainable planning projects

In its role as the designated metropolitan planning organization for the Kansas City region, MARC has solicited applications and awarded funds for several transportation funding programs this year.

**CMAQ, STP and TAP grant programs**

- Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) — funds for transportation projects that improve air quality.
- Surface Transportation Block Grant (STP) — funds for roadway projects on the federal-aid highway system, capital improvements for public transportation and other multimodal projects.
- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) — funds for smaller-scale transportation projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, community improvements, such as historic preservation and vegetation management, and environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity.

Funding for these three programs is estimated to total $55 million in fiscal years 2021 and 2022. MARC received 100 applications for projects seeking a combined $223.6 million. After initial evaluation and scoring of applications, transportation planning committees reviewed proposals and made recommendations to fund 51 percent of CMAQ requests, 25 percent of STP requests and 38 percent of the TAP requests.

**Section 5310 grant program**

In June, MARC issued a separate call for projects for the Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 grant program in partnership with the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority. This grant program funds projects that advance mobility services for older adults and individuals with disabilities.

More than $2.4 million was allocated to projects that will purchase handicap-accessible vehicles, continue three local taxi voucher programs, support an online information resource and create a travel training program. The federal funding projects and Section 5310 funding projects were approved by the Board of Directors and Total Transportation Policy Committee (TTPC) at their October meetings.

**Planning Sustainable Places grant program**

In September, the Board of Directors and TTPC approved the allocation of $883,735 in grant funds to 12 local projects — one bistate project, four in Kansas and seven in Missouri — that advance sustainable development in the region. These projects were chosen through a competitive process from 23 total submissions. The Planning Sustainable Places (PSP) program aims to further the creation of vibrant places that offer a mix of options for housing, jobs, services and recreation; connected places with a variety of transportation options; and green places that support healthy living and a healthy natural environment. This allocation marks the fourth round of PSP funding, and brings the program’s total impact to $4,580,000 awarded to 69 projects.

**2018 Green Commute Challenge tallies impressive results**

The 2018 Green Commute Challenge ended with 631 participants logging a reduction of more than half a million miles in their daily commutes from June through August.

MARC’s RideshareKC and Air Quality programs host the annual challenge as a friendly competition intended to reduce driving during the hot summer months when ozone pollution levels are highest.

Participants join a team of coworkers and log trips that use alternatives to driving alone, such as carpooling, riding the bus, bicycling, walking and telecommuting.
MEET THE MARC BOARD

The MARC Board of Directors is made up of 33 elected officials from the nine counties and six of the largest cities in the MARC region.

BILL BAIRD is serving his first term as mayor of Lee’s Summit. He joined the MARC Board of Directors in April 2018. Baird served on the Lee’s Summit Business Roundtable, Lee’s Summit Educational Foundation Board and held an elected position on the Lee’s Summit School Board from 2014 to 2017. He is active in a number of organizations including Rotary, Independence Chamber of Commerce and Lee’s Summit Chamber of Commerce, where he served on their board of directors. Baird has worked in the real estate industry for 20 years.

TOM VAN CAMP has served as council member for District 4 in Independence since 2014 and as mayor pro tem since 2018. He joined the MARC Board in May 2018. Van Camp is a lifelong area resident and is retired from the State of Missouri. He serves on Independence’s Employee Advisory committee, Japanese Sister City committee and Transportation Policy committees. Van Camp looks forward to continuing to take an active part in serving the needs of his community.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW HIRES

LACY BUTLER — Head Start Education Coordinator/Coach
BEN CLARK — Public Safety Communications Technician II
JENNIFER FRANK-DULL — Head Start Quality Assurance Coordinator
SEAN HURLY — Emergency Services Community Outreach Planner
BRANDY HOLDERBY — Head Start Health Coordinator
LAUREN PALMER — Director of Local Government Services
HANNAYD RUIZ — HMIS Project Administrator
MILLIE ROBINSON — Head Start ERSEA/FCE Coordinator
JAMI JORDAN — Head Start Education Coordinator/Coach

PROMOTIONS

CAROL BOLZ — Education Manager
BETTY CHOI — Family Engagement ERSEA Coordinator
AMANDA GRAOR — Chief Innovations Officer
TAMARA GRAVES — Mental Health/Disability Manager
PAM KABRICK — Quality Assurance Manager
ALECIA KATES — Water Quality Planner III
KASEY LAWSON — ERSEA Manager
KATHY MCNEMEE — Human Resources Coordinator II
SANDRA REECE — Health Services Manager
KAREN CLAWSON — Air Quality Program Manager
LUPE VALDOVINO — Fiscal Coordinator
MITCHELL WALKER — Quality Assurance Manager
SHERI WARREN — Community, Economic and Workforce Development Program Director

Head Start — from page 1

work together to efficiently provide services to families. MAHS serves as the administrative and policy arm of this structure. The partners, including school districts and early learning centers, provide an educational foundation for children. Lastly, the support agencies provide assistance in the areas of mental health, coaching for teachers, health and nutrition, and staff development.

The new structure also uses a three-tiered system for partner agencies, based on organization size and resources available. It includes a centralized intake system for enrollment, which will improve access to services for families and reduce wait times.

MAHS will serve approximately the same number of children, but more children will be in full-day programs. The number of Head Start slots will decline by 55, while Early Head Start slots will increase by 53. The number of full-day slots will increase by 257. The Office of Head Start recommends more full-day slots to improve developmental outcomes and support working parents. Through a combination of three grants, MAHS serves 2,445 children across three counties.

Cybersecurity — from page 1

5. Secure configuration for hardware and software on mobile devices, laptops, workstations and servers.
6. Maintenance, monitoring and analysis of audit logs.

The Cybersecurity Task Force is asking all local governments in the region to complete the Nationwide Cyber Security Review (NCSR) survey by Dec. 15, 2018. NCSR provides participating local governments with individual “report cards” showing their capabilities and gaps, as well as aggregate totals that show how they compare to peer jurisdictions across the nation. MARC is currently organizing training opportunities for those new to the NCSR.
UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES • Government Training Institute • Public Safety • Emergency Services

www.marc.org • 816-474-4240

GOVERNMENT TRAINING INSTITUTE

Customer Service
Dec. 6 ....................Understand Yourself and Others
Jan. 29 ....................Serving Diverse Customers

Executive Management
Dec. 6 ....................Walking the Narrow Road of Leadership: Leadership Principles for Law Enforcement Personnel and Managers
Jan. 17 ....................Guiding Principles of Public Sector Leadership

Supervision
Nov. 27 ....................Recruitment, Hiring and Onboarding
Dec. 4 ....................Tools for Problem Solving
Jan. 17 ....................Teamwork and Delegation
Jan. 31 ....................Personal Strengths & Leadership Styles

PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING

Nov. 27 ....................Tactical Dispatch
Dec. 4 ....................TIC Plan Orientation
Dec. 11 ....................Violence in Public Settings
Dec. 13 ....................MARRS User Training
Jan. 8 ....................Leadership in the Communications Center
Jan. 9 ....................Aircraft Incidents
Jan. 10 ....................911 Equipment & TTY Training
Jan. 22 ....................Interoperable Communications & MARRS
Jan. 24 ....................911 Liability
Jan. 29 ....................Communications Training Officer

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Dec. 3–5 ....................PER 222: Public Safety WMD Response — Sampling Techniques and Guidelines
Feb. 11–12 ................AWR 167: Sport Event Risk Management
Feb. 13–14 .................MGT-412: Sport and Special Event Evacuation Training and Exercise

Peer support team helps dispatchers cope with stress

Members of MARC’s newly created 911 Peer Support Team, shown above, help dispatchers and call takers around the region cope better with personal and job-related stress.

Peer support team members receive more than 40 hours of intense training with experts on how to help dispatchers cope with stressful situations.

The group has responded to 23 critical incident stress debriefings at public safety answering points (PSAPs) dealing with traumatic events such as deaths, suicides and officer-related shootings since January 2018.

Workshop prepares long-term care facilities for emergencies

On Nov. 7, more than 50 people from 25 agencies attended the Long-Term Care Emergency Preparedness workshop at Lakeview Village long-term care facility in Lenexa. The workshop was designed to help long-term care facilities be better prepared to care for their residents during an emergency.

Participating organizations learned how to increase their ability to meet Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) Emergency Preparedness Conditions of Participation, conduct a threat and hazard analysis, and develop a long-term care regional vulnerability analysis. Discussions also focused on how to manage volunteers and communicate with staff, patients and families during emergencies.

The event was sponsored by the Mid-America Regional Council Health Care Coalition, the Metropolitan Emergency Managers Committee and the Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Committee.
New website offers insights into region’s Quality of Life

With results from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation’s second annual Quality of Life survey, MARC launched a new website that brings survey data to the community in an easy-to-use format.

Survey participants responded to more than two dozen questions related to quality of life, divided into five categories.

The 2018 survey shows that 79 percent of residents in the Kansas City area say their quality of life is good or excellent, up from 74 percent in 2017. Survey answers for specific demographic groups tells a different story, with quality of life rated as lower by blacks, residents without a college degree and those aged 35-44.

The Kauffman Foundation intends to periodically repeat this survey over the next few years in order to monitor Greater Kansas City’s progress toward improving the quality of life for its residents.