March 27, 2018

Meeting begins at 12:00 p.m. or immediately following the MARC Budget & Personnel Committee meeting

MARC Conference Center - 2nd Floor - Heartland Room

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. VOTE: Approve minutes of the February 27, 2018 meeting.
3. VOTE: Authorize submission of a grant application to the Early Education Grant Fund to support implementation of key system strategies
4. Other Business
5. Adjourn

Note: If you require special accommodations for this meeting, please contact the MARC office at least 48 hours in advance.
ISSUE:
VOTE:  Approve minutes of the February 27, 2018 meeting.

BACKGROUND:
The minutes of the February 27, 2018 meeting are enclosed.

RECOMMENDATION:
Approve the minutes of the February 27, 2018 meeting.
Minutes of Meeting  
February 27, 2018

11:51 a.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT
Commissioner Rob Roberts, Miami County, Kansas – MARC Board 1st Vice Chair
Commissioner Ron Shaffer, Johnson County, Kansas – MARC Board Past Chair
Councilmember Carol Suter, Gladstone, Missouri - MARC Board Chair
Mayor Randy Rhoads, Lee’s Summit, Missouri - MARC Board Secretary
Commissioner Doug Smith, Leavenworth County, Kansas
Commissioner Bob Holland, Leavenworth County, Kansas
Presiding Commissioner Jerry Nolte, Clay County, Missouri

STAFF PRESENT
David Warm, Executive Director
Nancy Fordham, Executive Assistant
Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment
James Stowe, Director of Aging and Adult Services
Marlene Nagel, Director of Community Development
Carol Gonzales, Director of Finance and Administration
Frank Lenk, Director of Research Services
Jovanna Rohs, Director of Early Learning
Tom Jacobs, Environmental Programs Director
Eric Winebrenner, Public Safety Program Director
Barbara Hensley, Public Affairs Program Director
Becky Hall, Accounting Manager

CALL TO ORDER
Commissioner Rob Roberts called the meeting to order at 11:51 a.m.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 23, 2017 MEETING
MOTION: Commissioner Ron Shaffer moved to approve. Commissioner Bob Holland seconded. The motion passed.

AUTHORIZE APPLICATIONS TO H&R BLOCK FOUNDATION AND LUMINA FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT HUMAN CAPITAL WORK
Commissioner Roberts referred attendees to the briefing given by Marlene Nagel on the item before the board.

Ms. Nagel presented two grant applications that would support MARC’s workforce development and postsecondary educational attainment efforts. The first application would seek $225,000 from the H&R Block Foundation to expand the KC Degrees program to better support adults for whom English is a second language and help adult learners mitigate the impact of prior debt in order to facilitate a successful return to college. One-fourth of all KC Degrees’ clients have prior college debt challenges that pose obstacles to returning and completing a certificate or degree. The three-year grant request includes $30,000 for Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries, which has a program to help adult students address their prior debt.
In addition, Lumina Foundation has invited MARC to apply for a new Talent Hub grant. MARC received a Lumina Foundation grant in 2015 to support increasing postsecondary attainment in the metro area, and used the funds to advance human capital work under GradForce KC. The new funds, if awarded, would be used to work with colleges and universities in the region to further strengthen the postsecondary network to serve adult learners. In particular, the focus would be on adults who are first generation college-goers, persons of color and those with limited incomes.

MOTION: Councilwoman Carol Suter moved for approval and Commissioner Shaffer seconded. The motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:
With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

MINUTES APPROVED:

Rob Roberts, Chair

Date
ISSUE:
VOTE: Authorize submission of a grant application to the Early Education Grant Fund to support implementation of key system strategies

BACKGROUND:
MARC’s Department of Early Learning provides leadership to the development and implementation of a community-driven, outcomes-based plan for a comprehensive, collaborative and regional early learning system. While the region’s early learning system has many strengths, the challenges of system fragmentation and underfunding remain. MARC, in collaboration with early learning partners, developed a strategic plan to assist in the coordination and collaboration of early learning initiatives across partners and strategic investments. Strategies aim to move the region closer to the vision that every child enters school healthy and ready to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

Quality early learning programs and experiences that are sustainable and accessible to the children and families who need them are critical components of the system. Five pillars for the system support the various strategies and components: 1) child and family relationships; 2) programs and resources; 3) community; 4) funding, policy and public engagement; and 5) leadership and coordination. These pillars interact to enhance the development of young children and provide support for adults in their lives. The first three pillars focus on child development and interactions with children and families, while the last two focus on aspects that drive the implementation and coordination of the early learning system.

MARC’s Department of Early Learning seeks to submit a grant application to the Early Education Grant Fund to support implementation of key system strategies from the plan, including: creation and implementation of a regional quality indicator system; implementation of regional early learning workforce development strategies; shared and coordinated measurement, data collection, and reporting systems; and multi-sector coordination of early learning initiatives.

The Early Education Grant Fund is offering a single round of grant opportunities in 2018, rather than two as it has done in the past. MARC’s Department of Early Learning has a current Early Education Grant Fund grant that will end on December 31, 2018. The requested funds are for a new grant period that will commence on January 1, 2019. This represents the second year of a two-year initiative.

RECOMMENDATION:
Authorize MARC to apply for a grant to the Early Education Grant Fund in an amount not to exceed $495,000 for up to 18 months of program support and authorize MARC to accept and disburse grant funds if awarded.

STAFF CONTACTS:
Jovanna Rohs
Kyle Matchell