



Board of Directors MEETING NOTICE

Mid-America Regional Council • 600 Broadway, Suite 200 • Kansas City, Missouri 64105 • 816/474-4240

March 22, 2022

Board Member Meeting: 12:00 p.m.

Hybrid format: limited attendees in MARC's Board Room with a remote option via Zoom

- Members of the public who wish to participate in this meeting: please email Karina Bielecki at kbielecki@marc.org by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 for instructions to join the teleconference.

AGENDA

1. Introductions and Board Sharing Time
2. REPORT: Update on Regional COVID-19 Response and Recovery Initiatives
 - Status of COVID-19 virus in metro and around nation
 - Changes in Data Reporting; Use of CDC Community Level (high, medium, low)
 - Resources, recovery planning
3. COMPETITIVE ECONOMY
 - a. REPORT: Update on Tourism, Visit KC, and the Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation
4. EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION AND QUALITY PLACES
 - a. REPORT: Buck O'Neil Bridge Project Update
5. COMPETITIVE ECONOMY
 - a. REPORT: Demonstration of the Economic Equity Values Atlas
6. EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 - a. REPORT: Update on Strategic Planning to Facilitate a Shared Approach to 988 across Missouri Community Mental Health Centers
7. BRIEF REPORTS:
 - a. REPORT: Update on Parade of Hearts
 - b. REPORT: Update on Major Regional Planning Initiatives
 - c. VOTE: Authorize a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grant Application for the Bi-State Sustainable Corridor

CONSENT AGENDA (ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS)

8. VOTE: Approve Consent Agenda
 - a. Approve Minutes of the February 22, 2022 Board Meeting
 - b. Approve an Expansion Project for the MARC Offices
 - c. Expand and Extend an Agreement with Rubin Brown for Audit Services
 - d. Authorize Amending SFY 2022 Contract Amounts for Selected Providers to Continue Service Provision



Board of Directors MEETING NOTICE

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- e. Authorize Acceptance and Expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act Funding for Older Americans Act Services
- f. Authorize Acceptance of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Vaccine Access Funding and Release of Relevant Requests for Proposals
- g. Authorize the Release of a Rolling Home-Delivered Meals Driver Request for Qualifications
- h. Authorize an Application to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for Community Health Worker Projects
- i. Authorize an Application to the Environmental Protection Agency to Support Community Air Quality Monitoring

9. Other Business

10. Adjournment

MARC Board of Directors — Members and Alternates

Name	Jurisdiction	Title
Allen, Perry**	MoDOT	Asst. District Engineer
Bacon, John	City of Olathe	Mayor
Baird, Bill	City of Lee's Summit	Mayor
Boehm, Mike	City of Lenexa	Mayor
Boley, Damien	City of Smithville	Mayor
Bunch, Eric	City of Kansas City	Councilmember
Burnett, Scott	Jackson County	Legislator
Culbertson, Jeff	Leavenworth County	Commissioner
Davis, Andrew	Unified Government of WyCo/KCK	Commissioner
Eilert, Ed	Johnson County	Commission Chairman
Ellington, Brandon	City of Kansas City	Councilmember
Fast, Becky	Johnson County	Commissioner
Fields, Vernon	City of Basehor	Councilmember
Garner, Tyrone	Unified Government of WyCo/KCK	Mayor/CEO
Grummert, Holly	City of Overland Park	Councilmember
Hall, Heather	City of Kansas City	Councilmember
Hanzlick, Janeé	Johnson County	Commissioner
Harrington, Jeff	City of Bonner Springs	Mayor
Heley, Logan	City of Overland Park	Councilmember
Hobart, Dan	City of Independence	Councilmember
Hurlbert, Victor	Clay County	Auditor
Huston, Bob	Cass County	Presiding Commissioner
Jarrold, Dick**	KCATA	Vice President
Johnson, Harold	Unified Government of WyCo/KCK	Commissioner
Johnson, Ryan	Cass County	Commissioner
King, Bob	Ray County	Presiding Commissioner
Koehn, Leroy**	KDOT	District Engineer
Lucas, Quinton	City of Kansas City	Mayor
Lopez, Beto	City of Lee's Summit	Mayor Pro Tem
Makinen, Robbie**	KCATA	President/CEO
Markley, Angela	Unified Government of WyCo/KCK	Commissioner
McDonough, Mike	City of Raytown	Mayor
McKiernan, Brian*	Unified Government of WyCo/KCK	Commissioner
Mikkelson, Eric	City of Prairie Village	Mayor
Moriarty, Michael**	KDOT	Chief of Transportation Planning
Nolte, Jerry	Clay County	Presiding Commissioner
Pogue, Randy	City of Kearney	Mayor
Roberts, Rob	Miami County	Commission Chairman
Ross, Carson	City of Blue Springs	Mayor
Schieber, Ron	Platte County	Presiding Commissioner
Schwach, Paula	City of Westwood Hills	Mayor
Silvester, David**	MoDOT	District Engineer
Skoog, Curt	City of Overland Park	Mayor
Smith, Doug	Leavenworth County	Commission Chairman
Turnbow, Kristofer	City of Raymore	Mayor
Vogt, Marge	City of Olathe	Councilmember
Walker, Rick	City of De Soto	Mayor
Weir, Eileen	City of Independence	Mayor
White, Frank	Jackson County	County Executive
Wood, Dagmar	Platte County	Commissioner
Vaughan, Tyler	Miami County	Commissioner

*Public Transit Representatives (Voting) **Public Transit Advisory Representatives (Non-Voting)

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

March 2022
Item No. 1

ISSUE:

Introductions and Board Sharing Time

BACKGROUND:

Time has been reserved on the agenda for introductions and items of interest to Board members. The Board Chair encourages board members to raise matters for discussion at future meetings or other issues of general concern or interest.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

March 2022
Item No. 2

ISSUE:

REPORT: Update on Regional COVID-19 Response and Recovery Initiatives

BACKGROUND:

MARC staff will give short updates on regional efforts in which we are engaged to support and coordinate regional response and recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic, including:

COVID-19 General Updates

- Status of COVID-19 virus in metro and around nation
- Changes in Data Reporting; Use of CDC Community Level (high, medium, low)
- Resources, recovery planning

RECOMMENDATION:

None, information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Jennifer Sutherlin
Amanda Graor

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

March 2022
Item No. 3-a
Competitive Economy

ISSUE:

REPORT: Update on Tourism, Visit KC, and the Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation

BACKGROUND:

Convention, sports, and tourism activities and events are key drivers of the regional economy, and all these activities will be especially important as the Kansas City regional economy moves toward more normal levels. Kathy Nelson was recently named as President & CEO of Visit KC, in addition to her role in leading the Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation. Aligned under its new shared leadership structure, Visit KC and the Kansas City Sports Commission continue to operate as individual entities, maintaining separate staffs, boards, and missions. Many MARC Board members are active in both organizations, and MARC routinely partners with both to support their mission and impact on our region. Kathy Nelson works to enhance alignment opportunities and long-range strategic partnerships to help propel both organizations and the region forward.

Kathy Nelson will update the MARC Board on the complimentary and connected operations of both regional organizations in her newly expanded role. She will provide a high-level overview of the convention/meeting outlook and other updates on key sporting and conference events the region is working to bring to Kansas City—as well as any insights on how cities and counties in the region can support convention, sports, and tourism.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

David Warm

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

March 2022
Item No. 4-a
Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

ISSUE:

REPORT: Buck O'Neil Bridge Project Update

BACKGROUND:

In 2017, the MARC Board of Directors provisionally approved up to \$40 million of federal Surface Transportation Program funds for a new Buck O'Neil bridge with accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians, subject to the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) and the City of Kansas City, Missouri securing the remaining funds for the project. In the past few months, several important milestones have been completed for this project.

MoDOT and the city have each secured their share of funding for the project and MARC and MoDOT have amended both the Kansas City regional Transportation Improvement Program and the Missouri Statewide Transportation Improvement Program to commit these funds. The Federal Highway Administration has issued a formal finding of no significant impact, completing the required analysis under the national Environmental Policy Act. In August of 2020, MoDOT qualified five design build teams to submit formal proposals to complete the project. The final selection of the winning Massman-Clarkson team was announced on February 6, 2021. Construction is now in progress and several long-term road closures have recently been implemented to accommodate various phases of the project.

More information about the project is available at: <https://www.modot.org/buck-oneil-bridge-design-build-project>. MoDOT staff will provide an update on the project at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Ron Achelpohl

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

March 2022
Item No. 5-a
Competitive Economy

ISSUE:

REPORT: Demonstration of the Economic Equity Values Atlas

BACKGROUND:

MARC is participating in a cohort of MPOs being overseen by the Brookings Institution to expand the use of a software tool developed in Portland, the Economic Value Atlas. This tool aids decision-makers to keep in mind the broader objectives, or values, of the community as they make investment decisions. Cohort members include Portland Metro, who continues to invest resources into improving the tool, the Met Council in Minneapolis-St. Paul, and MARC in Kansas City.

MARC's first use of the tool is to adapt it to reflect the work of KC Rising, which has an overarching goal of growing the economy for everyone and identified seven Pillars of Prosperity that underpin the region's ability to achieve this goal. The pillars are: Industry, Enterprise, Connectivity, Neighborhoods, Inclusion, Education, and Culture. How strong these pillars are become the values that the tool seeks to measure. This work was funded by grants from the Kauffman Foundation and the William T. Kemper Foundation. Along the way, the tool's name was rebranded to the Economic Equity Values Atlas (EEVA).

MARC staff has spent the last several months getting the software to appropriately represent data about the Kansas City region in a way that is consistent with the KC Rising framework. The tool is now operational. Staff will demonstrate its use to specific audiences in order to receive feedback on needed improvements or desired use cases before officially releasing it.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Frank Lenk

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

March 2022
Item No. 6-a
Effective Local Government

ISSUE:

REPORT: Update on Strategic Planning to Facilitate a Shared Approach to 988 across Missouri Community Mental Health Centers

BACKGROUND:

In July 2020, the FCC adopted rules designating 988 for Americans in crisis to connect with suicide prevention and mental health crisis counselors. Phone service providers will direct all 988 calls to the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by July 16, 2022. MARC is supporting the six Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) that serve the Missouri side of the region with a strategic planning process to prepare for 988 implementation. CommCARE is the behavioral health crisis hotline operator for four of five counties and is also a member of the project strategic planning committee.

The CMHCs agree that a consistent model for crisis response across all agencies is ideal prior to implementation of 988, yet there are barriers including geography and limited resources. The project involves a four-phase process to gather and analyze stakeholder input and research to answer the following:

1. What can we do to be as prepared as possible prior to the 988 implementation in July 2022?
2. What is the ideal crisis response system for the greater Kansas City region in Missouri?
3. Are there ideas we could pilot on a smaller scale before implementing region-wide?
4. What works well in the current crisis response system that we can build upon to reach the ideal system?
5. What barriers and gaps must we overcome to achieve the ideal system?
6. How can we fill gaps and move toward the ideal system?

A final report will be presented to funding partners and other key stakeholders in July. The planning process will cost \$91,500 and is funded by the Health Forward Foundation and REACH Healthcare Foundation.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

REVENUES	
Amount	\$91,500
Source	Health Forward Foundation (75%) and REACH Healthcare Foundation (25%)
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	\$41,250
Contractual	\$49,125
Other (supplies, printing, etc.)	\$1,125

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Lauren Palmer

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

March 2022
Item No. 7-a
Effective Local Government

ISSUE:

REPORT: Update on Parade of Hearts

BACKGROUND:

The Parade of Hearts is a region wide public art experience intended to unite the region after the events of 2020-21. The Parade will be held from March to May 2022 and is centered around the KC Heart marketing campaign and its historical connection to the Kansas City Monarchs Negro Leagues baseball team.

The Parade of Hearts officially kicked off on Friday, March 4, 2022, with an unveiling and display of the hearts and a meet-and-greet reception with the artists. Special thanks to the many mayors, city managers, and members of the MARC Board of Directors who attended to support the event kick off. Installation of the hearts began on Monday, March 7, and will be completed over the next several weeks. Hearts are on display in five counties and 27 cities in the region.

The Parade of Hearts team is highly focused on heart installation, but soon the event website will be updated to include heart profiles, artist bios, maps of locations, merchandise store, and information on the event visitor app to promote tourism. Each heart is tagged with a QR code that visitors can access through the app to keep track of hearts they have visited. The app will also help visitors navigate to more information about the Parade such as sponsors, beneficiaries, merchandise, etc.

Hearts will be on display through May, and the event will culminate on June 17, 2022, with a heart auction at the Arvest Bank Theatre at the Midland. MARC's Early Learning Department is one of five beneficiaries of the event proceeds. MARC will use the funds to award grants to early child care providers to prepare for child care licensing, business licensing, and enhanced health and safety for children and staff.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Lauren Palmer

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

March 2022
Item No. 7-b
Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

ISSUE:

REPORT: Update on Major Regional Planning Initiatives

BACKGROUND:

MARC planning partners are currently undertaking various planning and project development activities. These include initiatives of local and county-wide significance as well as corridor specific efforts. At this month's MARC Board meeting, staff will provide a high-level overview of these various efforts.

Major local/county-wide planning initiatives

Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas

- **goDotte Strategic Mobility Plan**

This plan is seeking to develop a transportation strategy to help guide the next 10 years of projects, thus ensuring that future transportation investments support the community's goals to improve the county's quality of life. The plan seeks to modernize transportation policy and integrates transportation and land use decision-making to develop a more sustainable network. The Total Transportation Policy Committee (TTPC) received an update on the study on [November 16, 2021](#).

Kansas City, Missouri

- **The KC Spirit Playbook - Transportation Element**

Through the City's Comprehensive Plan update, the city is seeking to update a more robust set of transportation policies. The transportation element of this work seeks to provide direction and prioritize investments and policy initiatives using an environmental, safety and equity lens. TTPC received an update on the study on [February 16, 2021](#).

Leavenworth County, Kansas

- **Leavenworth County capital improvement plan**

County-wide and regional partners are seeking to develop a prioritized listing of projects. This study will identify transportation needs, develop goals and objectives, and articulate project priorities and determine project costs. The study will focus on prioritization and costs of 15-20 priority projects for the county.

Corridor Planning initiatives

MoDOT

- **I-70 Second Tier EIS Re-Evaluation**

This study builds on and extends the work of the I-70 First Tier EIS for future I-70 (The Paseo to just east of US. Hw 40). These studies identified options that would improve safety and efficiency for I-70 users and protect neighborhoods, cultural resources, and any environmentally sensitive areas in the corridor.

- **I-35/I-29 Corridor Study**

The corridor study will document existing conditions, freight impact, and potential solutions to better serve people and goods movement in the northern portion of the Kansas City metropolitan area.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

KDOT

- **Eisenhower (IKE) Legacy Transportation Program overview**
IKE is Kansas' legislature approved 10-year transportation program. This program, informed by KDOT's local consult process, selects projects for advancement into development & construction on a 2-year rolling cycle. A number of regionally significant projects have been funded for construction or added to the development pipeline. Significant upcoming studies are envisioned for capacity projects for I-35 (Santa Fe to US-56) and the K-10 (I-435 to K-7) corridors.
- **KDOT Road User Charge (RUC) Study**
This study focuses on identifying how a RUC system, where drivers pay to use the road based on miles driven (sometimes referred to as vehicle miles traveled fees or a mileage-based user fee) could help fund transportation investments.

KC Streetcar

- **NorthRail Study**
This study builds on previously completed work from 2014. The prior study was conducted to assess technical feasibility and identify a preferred alternative for a northern streetcar extension across the Missouri River into North Kansas City. This study is required to revisit the technical and financial feasibility, as well as determine the next steps of a streetcar extension into North Kansas City.

Regional

- **East West (KU Med-Stadiums) high-capacity transit study**
This study will evaluate multi-modal options on an east-west corridor connecting the Truman Sports Complex to the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, Kansas. This effort was initiated in part by a request from the University of Kansas Health System, to look at opportunities to better connect KU Medical Center with regional medical complexes in Kansas City, Missouri.
- **Bistate Sustainable Reinvestment Corridor initiative.**
The Bi-State Reinvestment Corridor is a cooperative effort to create and implement a transformational strategy to enhance mobility, transform communities and reduce carbon emissions. The effort focuses a wide range of federal and local investments on a key regional transit corridor that connects three major cities in two states and two counties along State Avenue, Independence Avenue and Truman Road.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Martin Rivarola
Ron Achelpohl

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

March 2022
Item No. 7-c
Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grant Application for the Bi-State Sustainable Corridor

BACKGROUND:

Passage of the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (“Bipartisan Infrastructure Law”) has created new opportunities for federal investment in a wide range of infrastructure needs in communities across the nation. The US Department of Transportation has recently issued a notice of funding opportunity for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program. This program will support transportation planning and capital investments through grants between \$5 to \$25 million. Applications are due April 14, 2021.

Under the leadership of Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, II and Congresswoman Sharice Davids, MARC has been supporting efforts among the cities of Independence, Kansas City, MO and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, KS to coordinate development of a bistate corridor connecting key activity centers and promising neighborhoods in need of reinvestment and mobility services along State and Independence Avenues from Village West in Wyandotte County to Truman Square in Independence.

New federal infrastructure funding provides a generational opportunity to invest in coordinated and comprehensive transportation, housing, workforce, broadband, green infrastructure, public safety, and economic development strategies to support equitable growth and redevelopment of promising but disadvantaged neighborhoods along the corridor. Focused investment along and connected to this corridor will enhance its capacity to catalyze growth and opportunity throughout the Kansas City area using sustainable strategies.

MARC is working with the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority and local government partners along the corridor to apply for planning funds to position the corridor for future federal grants for zero-emission transportation investments such as electric bus rapid transit, mobility hubs, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and electric charging stations. The proposed project would include robust community engagement to complete corridor planning, environmental clearances, and preliminary engineering to 30% design for the transportation elements of the corridor.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

Current estimates for this work total \$7 million, of which at least 80% would be eligible for federal reimbursement through the RAISE program and up to 20% would be provided as cash match by local partners. Up to \$500,000 would be used for MARC staff support for coalition building, convening, and project planning.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize staff to prepare and submit a RAISE grant application to USDOT for planning and transportation project development for the Bi-State Sustainable Reinvestment Corridor for a total cost of up to \$7 million.

STAFF CONTACT:

Ron Achelpohl

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

March 2022
Item No. 8-a

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve minutes of the February 22, 2022 Board meeting

BACKGROUND:

The minutes of the February 22, 2022 meeting are enclosed.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the minutes of the February 22, 2022 meeting.

STAFF CONTACT:

David Warm

Karina Bielecki



BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING SUMMARY
February 22, 2022
12:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Harold Johnson, Jr., Unified Government of Wyandotte/Kansas City, Kan. - MARC Board Chair
Mayor Carson Ross, Blue Springs, Mo. - MARC Board 1st Vice Chair
Commissioner Janeé Hanzlick, Johnson County, Kan. - MARC Board 2nd Vice Chair
Mayor Eileen Weir, Independence, Mo. - MARC Board Treasurer
Mayor Pro Tem Beto Lopez, Lee's Summit, Mo. - MARC Board Secretary
Mayor Curt Skoog, Overland Park, Kan.
Mayor Paula Schwach, Westwood Hills, Kan.
Presiding Commissioner Jerry Nolte, Clay County, Mo.
Councilmember Daniel Hobart, Independence, Mo.
Mayor Eric Mikkelson, Prairie Village, Kan.
Auditor Victor Hurlbert, Clay County, Mo.
Councilmember Eric Bunch, Kansas City, Mo.
Councilmember Brandon Ellington, Kansas City, Mo.
Mayor Randy Pogue, Kearney, Mo.
Commissioner Doug Smith, Leavenworth County, Kan.
Commissioner Angela Markley, Unified Government of Wyandotte/Kansas City, Kan.
Commissioner Becky Fast, Johnson County, Kan.
Dick Jarrold, KCATA
Councilmember Holly Grummert, Overland Park, Kan.
Mayor Kristofer Turnbow, Raymore, Mo.
Councilmember Logan Heley, Overland Park, Kan.
Mayor Rick Walker, De Soto, Kan.
Mayor Michael Boehm, Lenexa, Kan.
Mike Moriarty, KDOT

STAFF PRESENT

Executive Director David Warm and other MARC staff

OTHERS

Jim MacDonald, United Way of Greater Kansas City
Paige Martz, CBB Transportation

INTRODUCTIONS AND BOARD SHARING TIME

Commissioner Harold Johnson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and welcomed attendees.

Due to the meeting being held remotely, Commissioner Johnson provided instructions for participation. He reported that staff would present on all the agenda items, provide an opportunity for comments and questions after each item, and ask for approval of all agenda items, as well as the consent agenda, with one vote at the end of the meeting. Members will have an opportunity to abstain or object to any items necessary during the final vote.

Self-introductions were made, and members shared items of interest from their jurisdictions.

REPORT: Progress and Impact of Regional Eviction Prevention Initiative

Mr. David Warm, Executive Director at MARC, introduced Mr. Jim MacDonald with United Way of Greater Kansas City. The United Way has been a partner of MARC's for many years on many fronts. Over the last couple of years, the United Way has done a great job of bringing together a lot of interests in the region in a coordinated response to the eviction crisis. This initiative has made a great impact, and is a wonderful example of how non-profits and local agencies can come together to make a big difference.

Mr. MacDonald reported that evictions in the area are a growing crisis. There are 9,000 evictions annually in Jackson County, Mo. While Black renters comprise 20% of renters in Jackson County, they represent 33% of all eviction filings. Women are evicted at a rate 16% higher than men. Lowest income renters, especially those in subsidized housing, are particularly vulnerable. Families with children face added challenges when evicted; more than 2,000 homeless students are served by area school districts. Housing advocates believe the mounting backlog of eviction cases and increase in eviction filings recently are a signal of this growing crisis.

United Way's Eviction Prevention Initiative includes screening calls, connecting tenants with legal help through regional partners, providing financial help for rent and utility assistance, and management or assistance with other social services as needed. There is a patchwork of city-, state-, and locally-run programs dispensing emergency rental assistance from the federal treasury department. These programs serve a preventative role to prevent tenants from getting to housing court. However, they can also provide assistance once tenants are in housing court.

The program has yielded encouraging outcomes, including:

- Housing preserved for more than 20,000 households
- More than 1,000 evictions halted in area courts
- Housing subsidies preserved for thousands of the region's most vulnerable households
- More than \$100 million paid to landlords in the region
- Re-housing of homeless families through case management and financial assistance

Highlighting additional opportunities for action on this subject, Mr. MacDonald noted that the City of Kansas City, Mo. has passed a "right to counsel" ordinance guaranteeing legal representation for tenants facing eviction in the city. Other ideas include expungement of eviction records when judgements are satisfied, more local public investment in eviction prevention assistance, and partnerships between landlords/housing providers and social service housing advocates.

Presiding Commissioner Jerry Nolte commented that many landlords are small businesses, and the United Way program supports both renters and landlords with its efforts to prevent eviction. Mayor Randy Pogue shared his appreciation for Mr. MacDonald and United Way's efforts. Mayor Paula Schwach commented that single mothers who lose housing are more likely to see their children enter the child welfare system; she emphasized how critical eviction intervention is and

how compounded the problem becomes without it. MARC staff indicated they would share Mr. MacDonald's presentation after the meeting. There were no further questions.

REPORT: Update on Regional COVID-19 Response and Recovery Initiatives

Ms. Jennifer Sutherlin, Public Health Program Manager at MARC, reported that daily average new cases of COVID-19 in the metro reached an all-time high of 4,290 cases on January 14, 2022. As of February 11, this number is down to 710 cases per day. While this is a small fraction of the Omicron peak, it is still a significant portion of Delta's peak. This follows the national trend. Daily average new hospital admissions for patients with COVID reached an all-time high of 270 on January 15. The current number is down to 132. As with cases, this represents a small portion of the Omicron peak, but a large portion of the Delta peak. Hospitals are still very busy. Ms. Sutherlin noted that the new sub-variant of Omicron is believed to be more transmissible, but it is still being researched. In our region, this subvariant makes up only a small percent of cases.

MARC's communications work continues to promote the need for vaccination and mitigation measures. Most cities and counties have removed mask requirements, including in local school districts. Healthcare staffing and mental health will continue to be an area of need long term. Responders are now focusing on monitoring conditions, including the new variant, and moving toward recovery.

Ms. Marlene Nagel, Director of Community Development at MARC, reported that MARC continues to focus on situational monitoring and recovery planning. She reported that an announcement of mortgage relief is expecting from both Kansas and Missouri. Demand for mental health supports remains high. Mayor Eric Mikkelson reported that Prairie Village has one of the last standing public masking requirements, which will be considered for revocation at the city's next meeting. He complimented MARC's COVID-19 data hub, but inquired if it would be updated soon as the most recent update was February 14. Ms. Sutherlin replied that the data has a ten-day lag to account for completeness, which may account for this difference. She said she would forward the most recent regional risk assessment to Mayor Mikkelson. There were no further questions.

COMPETITIVE ECONOMY

REPORT: 2020 Census Trends and Population Changes

Mr. Frank Lenk, Director of Research Services at MARC, reported that the first results from the 2020 Census were released in August. He presented an initial analysis of the results. These show that virtually all of the region's net increase in population was due to increases in the number of people of color. Additionally, compared to previous census a much larger fraction of the region's population growth - 36 percent - occurred in the portion of the region that was developed before 1990. A key strategy in Connected KC 2050 is to focus growth in nodes and corridors along existing infrastructure. Planning Sustainability projects encourage local governments to conduct the planning necessary to make higher density growth both feasible and attractive. The 2020 Census appears to validate that, when there is investment in the infrastructure needed to accommodate such growth, there is substantial demand by residents to locate in well-planned nodes and corridors. Councilmember Eric Bunch thanked Mr. Lenk for his presentation and expressed appreciation for the visual representation of the area's population growth. He inquired if Mr. Lenk's presentation could be made available after the meeting; staff responded that they would do so. There were no further questions.

EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION AND QUALITY PLACES
REPORT: Bistate Sustainable Reinvestment Corridor

Mr. Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment at MARC, reported that passage of the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act has created new opportunities for federal investment in a wide range of infrastructure needs in communities across the nation. Under the leadership of Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, II and Congresswoman Sharice Davids, MARC has been supporting efforts among the cities of Independence, Kansas City, MO and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, KS to coordinate development of a bistate corridor connecting key activity centers and promising neighborhoods in need of reinvestment and mobility services along State and Independence Avenues from Village West in Wyandotte County to Truman Square in Independence.

New federal infrastructure funding provides a generational opportunity to invest in coordinated, comprehensive transportation, housing, workforce, broadband, green infrastructure, public safety, and economic development strategies to support equitable growth and redevelopment of promising but disadvantaged neighborhoods along the corridor. New resources will accelerate implementation of extensive community-based plans that have already been conducted throughout the corridor. Focused investment along and connected to this corridor will enhance its capacity to catalyze growth and opportunity throughout the Kansas City area using sustainable strategies. The plan is intended to serve as a magnet for attracting federal/state funds to be pursued through multiple grant applications over time. A coordinated, comprehensive investment plan will be more competitive at the federal level and generate greater sustainability, mobility, and opportunity outcomes. Many grants will benefit areas of the cities and the region well beyond the corridor. This corridor is also intended to serve as a pilot for similar strategies in other parts of the region to increase the competitiveness and impact by coordinating investment proposals. There were no questions.

VOTE: Authorize 2022 Call for Projects and Federal Transportation Funding Allocations

One of MARC's fundamental roles as a Metropolitan Planning Organization is to provide a forum and facilitate cooperative decision-making about the use of federal transportation dollars for projects and programs in the Kansas City area. In anticipation of a call for projects for the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program, Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STP) and the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program - Set Aside Program (TAP) program in 2022, MARC staff has worked with the programming committees and other interested parties to review and update project evaluation criteria and processes. MARC staff has also worked with appropriate committees and stakeholders to update the online GIS resources relevant to the project evaluation process to reflect changing demographics, land use, and local planning efforts. These resources are provided to project sponsors as part of the application process.

Given the completion of these activities, authorization is requested to proceed with a call for projects for CMAQ, STP and TAP funds in early 2022. MARC plans to conduct the 2022 call for projects in two phases. The first phase will assess project applications for consistency with regional plans and policies. The second phase will evaluate project applications using the scoring methodologies established by the various programming committees as in previous funding rounds.

Staff recommend that this call for projects fully fund federal fiscal year (FFY) 2025 and FFY 2026 for CMAQ, STP and TAP. With the recent passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

(IIJA), MARC anticipates that these targets may increase as details of the IIJA emerge. MARC will collect fees in 2023 from applicants awarded funds in this programming cycle as detailed in the Transportation Program Local Match Policy and Strategy. Mr. Achelpohl requested approval to authorize a call for projects and authorize agreements to receive funds for projects. There were no questions

BRIEF REPORTS

VOTE: Authorize Acceptance of Missouri Federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act Funds for Preventative Roadway Maintenance

Title IV of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), enacted on December 27, 2020, appropriated \$10,000,000,000 to provide funding to address coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) impacts related to transportation programs. A portion of the funding appropriated by the CRRSAA was suballocated to urbanized areas with a population over 200,000 in the same manner as the Surface Transportation Block Grant program funds. MARC has the responsibility of determining funding priorities for the Kansas City metropolitan area.

The Missouri STP Priorities committee explored options under the Special Authority provisions of CRRSAA for preventive maintenance activities on local roadways to address deferred maintenance needs for area cities and recommended other considerations for the program, including:

- Designing the program to maximize federal funds at 100% participation to the extent possible, with provisions for local governments to cover the costs of any change orders or overruns.
- Using CRRSAA funds for program administration, preliminary engineering, and construction engineering.
- Focusing on local roadways not on the Federal Aid Highway system to provide maximum flexibility in implementing the program.
- Focusing on routes that connect neighboring jurisdictions, where practical.
- Avoiding routes that will trigger costly retrofits under Americans With Disabilities Act requirements or completing ADA upgrades on existing locally funded projects prior to federally funded work.
- Avoiding routes that will require extensive base or pavement repair prior to any preventive maintenance work.
- Using common specifications and mix designs to reduce cost and complexity of the program.
- Offering options for both Mill & Overlay contracts and Micro Surfacing contracts as needed.

MARC's role will include:

- Using funds for project administration, preliminary engineering, construction inspection and preventive maintenance contracts,
- Working with MoDOT and member jurisdictions to procure engineering services,
- Negotiating local agreements to cover program terms and costs,
- Managing project development activities and requirements,
- Conducting project lettings, and
- Managing construction inspection and federal grant reporting as needed.

MARC will receive up to \$8,393,333 in Missouri CRRSAA funds to support administrative costs for the program, procure engineering services for design and inspection, and let construction

contracts for preventive maintenance of pavements on area local roadways. Mr. Achelpohl requested approval to accept federal funds as described above. There were no questions.

VOTE: Authorize Rate Increases to the SFY 2022 Nutrition Program to Account for Rising Costs across Providers

Mr. James Stowe, Director of Aging and Adult Services at MARC, reported that, over the past two months, MARC has received communication from nutrition program partners about the pressures of absorbing escalating costs, particularly in the areas of raw food, gasoline, and labor. Cost increases seem to concentrate most among those involved with the provision of home-delivered meals.

MARC analyzed key indices most relevant to our nutrition programming and attempted to forecast our ability to accommodate the requests financially, while maintaining current enrollment levels and anticipating moderate enrollment increases in the near term.

As a result, a rate increase of 10%, effective February 1, 2022 is recommended for the following services:

- Administration of the Center (for centers actively involved in MARC home-delivered meals)
- Site Transportation
- Home-Delivered Meal Delivery
- Preparation of Home-Delivered Meals
- Preparation of Congregate Meals
- Catered Meals
- Pre-Plated Home-Delivered Meals (frozen, Trio Community Meals)
- Medically Sensitive Home Delivered Meals (frozen, Guadalupe Centers)

Staff also recommend establishing reimbursement for Guadalupe Centers to deliver bulk frozen meals for distribution to the centers and other partners. The net impact of these increases is expected to be approximately \$344,000 dependent upon volume of overall service delivery. The majority of funding will be from Older Americans Act Title IIIC, designated for Nutrition Programs.

MARC revised rate guidelines in the relevant SFY 2023 RFPs to provide partners flexibility to propose rates that more closely align with costs. MARC will continue to engage partners in the months ahead to explore longer-term cooperative strategies to enable our region to sustain high quality services to as many people as possible. There were no questions.

REPORT: 2022 Climate Summit

Mr. Tom Jacobs, Environmental Program Director at MARC, reported that Climate Action KC, MARC's partner in the development of the Regional Climate Action Plan, will host its second Climate Summit on Saturday April 9, 2022 at Johnson County Community College from 1-4 P.M. A VIP reception will follow the summit from 4-5 P.M. This event will build upon the first summit in September 2019 which was attended by over 750 participants. The event will highlight regional successes and energize future initiatives. The event will feature regional, national, and international leaders in the field, including a climate delegation sponsored by the European Union's International Urban and Regional Cooperation Program, and representatives from partner communities in the GZM region surrounding Katowice, Poland. Before the summit, a series of notable events will be sponsored by community partners including Bridging the Gap, the Urban Land Institute, and the Building Energy Exchange. There were no questions.

REPORT: MARC's 50th Anniversary and 2022 Regional Assembly

Ms. Kristin Johnson-Waggoner, Public Affairs Program Director at MARC, reported that this year marks the Mid-America Regional Council's 50th anniversary. The milestone will be commemorated year-round through various activities, including stories that focus on the region's progress and future opportunities and the 2022 Regional Assembly. The assembly, to be held June 10, will celebrate the anniversary and the 2022 Regional Leadership Award winners. The nomination period for the 2022 Regional Leadership Awards is open until March 4. MARC staff will share more detail on the 50th anniversary as the year proceeds. There were no questions.

CONSENT AGENDA (ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS)

VOTE: Approve Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Minutes of the January 25, 2022 Board Meeting
- b. Approve an Agreement with Motorola to Purchase VESTA Call-taking Hardware to Support Public Safety
- c. Authorize an Agreement with Nicholas Vajan to Support Special Event Threat Assessment Work
- d. Authorize Applications to the Bloch Charitable Foundation and the Health Forward Foundation to Support COVID-19 Response and Recovery and Grant Services
- e. Authorize an Application to the Health Forward Foundation of Greater Kansas City to Support the Community Health Worker Project
- f. Authorize Submission of the SFY 2023 Aging Area Plan and Budget to Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
- g. Authorize an Application for SFY 2023 Missouri Elderly & Handicapped Transportation Assistance Program Funds
- h. Authorize an Update and Re-release of the Rolling Aging Assessor Request for Qualifications
- i. Authorize a Contract with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to Provide Wraparound Services for Adult Protective Services Clients
- j. Approve 2022 Ozone Season Public Outreach Campaign Media Purchases
- k. Authorize a Contract with Business Service Collective for Contractor Accelerator Services
- l. Approve Functional Classification System Updates
- m. Approve Traffic Safety Performance Targets for the Region
- n. Approve Public Transportation Safety Targets for the Region
- o. Amend Contract with Surdex for Aerial Imagery Services

MOTION: Mayor Carson Ross moved for approval of all agenda items and the consent agenda, and Mayor Eileen Weir seconded. Commissioner Johnson asked if any member wanted to abstain or object to any of the agenda items. Mayor Pro Tem Beto Lopez abstained from item 6-b due to his employment with Guadalupe Centers. All others were in favor of approving agenda items 5-b through 7-o. The motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

MEETING SUMMARY APPROVED:

Harold Johnson, Chair

Date

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

March 2022
Item No. 8-b
Core Capacities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve an Expansion Project for the MARC Offices

BACKGROUND:

In the summer and fall of 2021, Odimo architects facilitated a space study for the MARC offices. In October, the MARC Board approved an amendment to MARC's lease at the Rivergate Office Center to lease an additional 12,750 square feet to help address identified needs. With that amendment, MARC's total square footage leased expanded to 53,246.

Over the past few months, MARC staff has worked with Odimo on how to best allocate the space to meet identified needs. Highest priority needs include:

- Additional space for more workstations
- Larger, more secure, and efficient work area for 911 operations
- More secure equipment storage and work area for Information Technology
- AudioVisual upgrades for conference rooms, especially the Board room
- Modifications to improve acoustics, including taking walls to the ceiling for some offices
- Improve and expand the 3rd floor break room area
- More meeting rooms and more quiet spaces for virtual meetings

The other high priority that we were unable to meet at this time, in this building, was a large training/meeting room.

MARC staff worked with Odimo to develop a plan for the 4th floor space and the ensuing changes on the 3rd floor. The key elements of the plan include:

- Upgrade of the audio visual systems in the Board room and other meeting rooms
- Relocating all Local Government Services and Community Development staff to the 4th floor
- Creating a secured area for 911 with ample work space
- Shifting staff on the 3rd floor so that an adequate number of work stations can be provided and work groups have better colocation
- Relocating the break room from the center of the building to a larger and more open area on the west side of the 3rd floor
- Using the current break room are for secured IT storage and reusing the 911 work room for an IT work room
- Taking current office walls to the ceiling and constructing several new private offices
- Converting several offices to meeting rooms and using the three meeting rooms on the 4th floor

Other logistics of the plan include:

- An assessment of the HVAC system to ensure adequate and safe airflow
- Reuse of some MARC furniture, reuse of furniture donated by a private company, and a small amount of new furniture
- Staff is working with the building owners to determine whether they or MARC will contract directly for the construction related work.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

At this time Odimo has prepared almost complete plans and provided estimated costs for this project. Staff has worked hard to balance the investment with the benefits. Because of the restricted nature of

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MARC Board of Directors

most of MARC's funding there are limited options for this type of expenditure. We currently have a tenant refurbishment allowance that can be allocated toward the project. Some aspects of the project were budgeted in Indirect, and there is flexibility to increase that amount. We hope that some other grants may be able to absorb some of the furniture and audio visual equipment costs. Because 911 is a large part of this project, their board has approved direct funding in their budget. Now that we have more cost information to share with them, we plan to request some additional 911 funding. Finally, we are cautiously recommending that we draw down on about 10% of our reserves. This type of unique project is an appropriate use of reserves, although obviously we do not want to reduce the reserves by very much. As with everything we do, we will also do any of the work that we can, ourselves.

We have developed the budget below, knowing that there will still be changes in both the costs and the sources of revenue as we move forward. Contracts and purchases related to the project over \$50,000 will come to the Board for approval.

REVENUES	
Tenant Refurbishment Allowance	342,537
Indirect	215,000
911 Budget	80,000
10% of Long Term Contingency balance	167,000
Additional 911, other grant, indirect funding	310,463
Total	\$1,115,000
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Remodel Costs	950,000
Furniture	100,000
Board Room Equipment	65,000
Total	\$ 1,115,000

RECOMMENDATION:

No action necessary at this time. Information only.

STAFF CONTACT:

Carol Gonzales
Mike Daniels

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

March 2022
Item No. 8-c
Core Competencies

ISSUE:

VOTE: Expand and Extend an Agreement with Rubin Brown for Audit Services

BACKGROUND:

RubinBrown audited MARC for fiscal years 2011 through 2015. During the fall of 2016, MARC staff conducted a request for proposals process for the audits of fiscal years 2016 through 2020. The MARC Board of Directors approved the selection of RubinBrown for annual audit services with the understanding that the Board would reaffirm the engagement on an annual basis. In April 2021, the Board approved engaging Rubin Brown for the 2021 audit. Staff recommended this extension because of key staff turnover and the many changes that occurred in financial processes due to COVID. Even though there have been staff changes at Rubin Brown, the institutional knowledge that the company has about our organization is invaluable in facilitating the audit process. Just as we were beginning the 2021 audit the new accounting manager, who completed the audit last year, submitted her resignation. MARC's Finance Department has many capable and experienced accountants and grant managers, but none of them have worked directly on the MARC audit before.

Rubin Brown has broad public sector and grant experience and they have provided excellent service to MARC. They understand our financial structure, and especially the uniqueness of the many grants that we manage. They have periodically rotated audit managers to provide a fresh perspective. The United States Governmental Accounting Office has endorsed manager rotation for audits as an efficient way to mitigate costs and still retain some institutional knowledge.

Staff recommends we postpone the competitive process and engage Rubin Brown for the next three years, still with confirming each engagement on an annual basis. Additionally, we are recommending an amendment to the current agreement, expanding Rubin Brown's role to include preparation of the audit report. In the past MARC staff did the report preparation, but with the limited experience and fewer filled positions, it would be more efficient for Rubin Brown to include that in their scope. This first year, the cost for that work includes mapping MARC financial software to their software (\$8,500). In future years, the cost would be about half that much. Staff recommends incorporating that additional scope in future years also. Rubin Brown has provided a proposal for those services and the pricing is reflected in the table below. Based on the market and the complexity of the MARC audit, staff believes these costs are reasonable and appropriate.

Staff is bringing this forward at this time because of the increased scope for the 2021 audit, and because an RFP process for 2022 audit services would need to commence in May. If the Board approves engaging Rubin Brown for the 2022 audit, a formal engagement letter will be brought to the December Budget and Personnel and Board meetings.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

Funding for audits is included as an Indirect Cost in the Clearing Fund budget. A summary of the actual and proposed fees is shown below.

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Additional Major Programs Audited (\$5,500 each)					
Fiscal Year	Base Fees	Number	Fees	Report Prep	Combined Fees
2016	66,700	1	5,000		71,700
2017	68,700				68,700
2018	70,760				70,760
2019	72,800	1	5,000		77,800
2020	74,200				74,200
2021	77,300			8,500	85,800
2022*	70,000	1	5,500	4,200	79,701
2023*	72,800	1	5,500	4,400	82,701
2024*	75,800	1	5,500	4,600	85,901

**proposed, base fee includes one major program*

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the expansion of the agreement with Rubin Brown for the FY 2021 audit to include report preparation at an additional cost of \$8,500; approve engaging RubinBrown for annual audit services through 2024 with the understanding that the Board would reaffirm each engagement on an annual basis.

STAFF CONTACT:

Carol Gonzales
Darlene Pickett

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

March 2022
Item No. 8-d
Thriving Older Adults and Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize Amending SFY 2022 Contract Amounts for Selected Providers to Continue Service Provision

BACKGROUND:

Existing partners require contract amendments to continue SFY 2022 work under the Home Modification and Repairs Service line.

Hope Builders and Metro Lutheran Ministries (MLM) have effectively and efficiently completed referred projects and are nearing their current contract ceilings of \$90,000. Currently, MARC staff do not anticipate the remaining contractors expending their full contract amounts for SFY 2022. Therefore, the overall service line funding is unlikely to differ from original authorizations.

Jewish Family Services (JFS) provides a significant proportion of MARC’s transportation service. Due to cost escalations and a recent analysis of expenditures, JFS has requested a \$0.50/one-way trip rate increase, from \$27.50 to \$28.00. Moreover, their existing contract ceiling of \$88,000 must be amended to allow for continued service during SFY 2022. Finally, JFS has proposed a new rate structure for longer trips that would not be feasible without additional one-way compensation, and a lowering of the current rate for medium-length trips.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

SFY 2022 Increases, Home Modifications and Repairs service line

Metro Lutheran Ministries

Total Increase to Contract \$60,000

Hope Builders

Total Potential Increase to Contract \$60,000

SFY 2022 Increases, Demand Transportation

Jewish Family Services

\$28.00/one-way trip under 30 miles (+\$0.50/one-way trip)

\$41.75/one-way trip, 30-45 miles (-\$13.25/one-way trip)

\$56.00/one-way trip, 45-60 miles (+\$1.00/one-way trip)

Total Potential Increase to Contract \$21,000

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The MARC Commission on Aging recommended authorization to amend SFY 2022 contract amounts and rates for selected partners.

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RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize amending SFY 2022 contract amounts for selected providers to continue service provision as described above.

STAFF CONTACT:

James Stowe

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MARC Board of Directors

March 2022
Item No. 8-e
Thriving Older Adults and Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize Acceptance and Expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act Funding for Older Americans Act Services

BACKGROUND:

Due to recent Missouri legislative action regarding American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars designated for Older Americans Act services to be rendered through the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), MARC expects to receive an allocation from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services according to the intrastate funding formula for AAAs.

These monies are divided among the regular service Titles of the Older Americans Act and may contain some restrictions for emphasizing certain types of spending, such as under nutrition programs. Further details will likely become available as the funds come nearer to disbursement.

The total statewide amount is approximately \$26.1 million, and the dollars require a 25% local match.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

REVENUES	
American Rescue Plan Act	Approximately \$3,915,000*
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	\$750,000
Contractual	\$200,000
Pass-Through	\$2,615,000
Other (supplies, printing, etc.)	\$350,000

*These ARPA funds require a 25% local match

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Commission on Aging recommended acceptance and expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act funding for Older Americans Act services.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize acceptance and expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act funding for Older Americans Act services as described above.

STAFF CONTACT:

James Stowe

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

March 2022
Item No. 8-f
Thriving Older Adults and Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize Acceptance of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Vaccine Access Funding and Release of Relevant Requests for Proposals

BACKGROUND:

Missouri is preparing to release funding to the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) for an effort by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) labeled, “Expanding Access to COVID-19 vaccines via the aging network.” These dollars are similar to the previous “Covid Vaccine Registry Assistance for Older Americans” in which MARC assisted navigation of vaccine registries and appointments for those with digital access barriers and the homebound.

Due to very high vaccination rates of older Missourians, this round of funding will be used to expand capacity to address coordination of vaccine efforts and bolster infrastructure for improved communication between MARC, MARC’s contracted or related partners, and clients.

The total statewide amount is approximately \$942,111, and MARC is expected to receive an allocation based upon the intrastate funding formula for AAAs.

MARC staff recommend an allocation of 3% of the total award to the Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging, for centralized coordination of ongoing messaging campaigns, data analysis, and reporting support.

In addition, permission to release an expedited RFP to help MARC secure an SMS messaging platform for enhanced client intake and communication is requested.

Finally, an increase to MARC’s current contract with United Way 2-1-1 to increase call center capacity for client intakes will also be recommended later.

These funds must be expended before June 30, 2022. Remaining balances on the projects mentioned in this item will be funded through Older Americans Act allocations.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

REVENUES	
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Approximately \$144,000
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	\$15,000
Contractual	\$100,000
Other (supplies, printing, etc.)	\$29,000

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Commission on Aging recommended acceptance of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 vaccine access funding and release of relevant RFP(s).

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize acceptance of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Covid-19 vaccine access funding and release of relevant RFP(s).

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MARC Board of Directors

STAFF CONTACT:

James Stowe

Cindy Terryberry

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

March 2022
Item No. 8-g
Thriving Older Adults and Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize the Release of a Rolling Home-Delivered Meals Driver Request for Qualifications

BACKGROUND:

In the tight labor market, MARC has observed declining staffing at home-delivered meals partners across nutrition programs. In some cases, this has led to service delays or denials, and the system of home-delivered meals is vulnerable to further strains or unexpected events. MARC competitively selects contractors through a rolling RFQ approach and has experienced high rates of satisfaction and retention of independent contractors.

MARC staff propose to retain home-delivered meals drivers, both by hiring and by contract with independent contractors, to expand the current community model of frozen home-delivered meals, accommodate new clients, and provide “pressure relief” for partners who have experienced inconsistent or declining staffing.

To make the model more feasible over the long-term, drivers will likely be recruited and/or trained for the capacity to conduct other understaffed frontline customer service activities, such as assessments or even social health interventions, if trained as a Community Health Worker.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

REVENUES	
Source	Amount
Older Americans Act; MSN (health care contracts)	\$133,000
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	\$57,000
Contractual	\$76,000

COMMITTEE ACTION:

At its March meeting, the Commission on Aging recommended authorization to release the rolling Home-Delivered Meals Driver Request for Qualifications.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize release of a rolling Home-Delivered Meals driver Request for Qualifications.

STAFF CONTACT:

James Stowe
Bethany Reyna
Melody Elston

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

March 2022
Item No. 8-h
Thriving Older Adults and Communities

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize an Application to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for Community Health Worker Projects

BACKGROUND:

MARC's regional health care access initiative supported a regional committee focused on developing community health workers as a key part of the health care system. Community Health Workers are individuals trained to work with patients to connect them to needed health care and community services to improve their health outcomes, including reducing re-admissions at hospitals. MARC received funding over the past six years to support the committee's work and has identified ongoing work to continue to advance the development of a trained workforce. The work over the past year has focused on advocacy to encourage agencies to consider adding CHWs to their workforce; supervisory and other training and enrollment in a state credential for CHWs in both Missouri and Kansas to increase professionalism of those in the workforce; and preparation of a toolkit to help agencies understand how to use billing codes for reimbursement of CHW services as well as encouraging state agencies and private health payers to reimburse agencies for CHW services related to improving patient health outcomes.

MARC has been invited to apply for \$228,000 from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to support training, convening, communications outreach, and evaluation around increasing use of Community Health Workers in Kansas for the period from April 1, 2022 through August 20, 2022. In addition, KDHE has invited MARC to apply for annual funding beginning August 21, 2022. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS) has issued a Request for Applications for CHW support over the next year for up to \$200,000 statewide.

MARC's work in building a strong Community Health Worker system across Missouri and Kansas has been largely funded by the Health Forward Foundation, which is considering a request for the next year beginning May 1, 2022. The funding from the two states (federal funds focused on Community Health Worker system expansion) would enable MARC to work with local and statewide partners to further expand the work.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize two applications to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to cover services for up to 18 months of up to \$650,000 and one application to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for up to \$200,000 for one year, and if awarded accept the funds.

STAFF CONTACT:

Marlene Nagel
Hannayd Ruiz

AGENDA REPORT

MARC Board of Directors

March 2022
Item No. 8-i
Healthy Environment

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize an Application to the Environmental Protection Agency to Support Community Air Quality Monitoring

BACKGROUND:

The EPA is seeking applications for projects through the Enhancing Air Quality Monitoring for Community Program. The purpose of this ARP-funded grant program is to enhance ambient air quality monitoring in and near underserved communities that may be experiencing disproportionate and adverse health outcomes. The grant program also seeks to leverage existing air quality expertise; expand the use of community monitoring advisory groups or other approaches that give the community a voice in the monitoring of their air quality; and build a foundation of trusting relationships and enhanced understanding from which sustainable solutions to community air pollution problems can be found.

The Kansas City region currently has six EPA monitors that detect PM_{2.5} (fine particulate matter). While these monitors assist in determining regional scale ambient PM_{2.5} levels for the purposes of ensuring compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards, they do not provide localized data on air quality issues that may vary from one neighborhood to the next. Neighborhoods with low-income, minority populations are disproportionately likely to be exposed to harmful air pollution. Exposure to fine, breathable particles can cause short-term health effects, but also worsen medical conditions such as asthma and heart disease. Environmental justice (EJ) areas in the urban core of the region experience the highest rates both asthma and heart disease. Neighborhoods in these EJ areas are often exposed to higher levels of traffic (road and rail) and have closer proximity to industry, both common sources of PM_{2.5} pollution.

In response to this request for applications, the MARC Air Quality Program is seeking funds to support a three-year community air monitoring project in partnership with community organizations serving EJ areas, KC Digital Drive, Tellus and the Kansas City Public Library. This project will expand an existing PM_{2.5} air quality sensors project currently focused in an 18 square-mile area along the Troost Ave. corridor, roughly running from Front St. to 85th, and from Main to US-71. The proposed project would include adding up to 140 more sensors to the network, with continued focus on the Troost corridor project area, but also expanding to communities along the east-west Bi-state Sustainable Investment Corridor (Kansas City, Ks to Independence, Mo, and other communities throughout the region. The majority of these sensors will be placed in neighborhoods (primarily on residences) that are considered environmental justice areas and have higher health disparities, including greater prevalence of asthma, heart disease and COVID cases. Sensors outside of these areas will be used to detect transported PM_{2.5} pollution from wildfires and controlled burning outside of the region and serve as reference sensors. The sensors will help empower residents with tools and data to better understand how PM_{2.5} may be impacting their neighborhoods. For a small number of residents interested in outdoor and indoor air quality, the project team will be able to co-locate sensors both indoor and outdoor at hosts' home to assess ambient PM_{2.5} levels and the air inside homes.

A Community Monitoring Advisory Group will be formed to connect interested residents to air quality professionals, discuss data trends and air quality issues and help guide the project's implementation. Community meetings will be held at least once per year to promote the project and provide a forum for education and community discussion. In addition, the Kansas City Public Library will facilitate sensor building workshops for youth, make sensors available to check-out at library branches, provide an air quality educational display with sensor network data visualizations in the libraries, and host

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sensors at five additional libraries (3 sensors already in place). The project team hopes to replicate the library programming in other libraries systems in the region.

This project is considered “citizen science” and will not factor into official EPA ambient air monitoring or compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Proposed projects are not allowed to include air quality mitigation in their scopes. However, the MARC Air Quality program will inform and coordinate with local governments should localized air quality issues arise.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

Work is underway on a budget that supports partnerships and builds community capacity. Contractual funds will support sensor network set-up, sensor calibration, custom data visualizations, a data dashboard, and the purchase of air sensors. Grant sub-awards (pass-through) will go to Kansas City Digital Drive and the Kansas City Public Library. Budget estimates are outlined below and may be refined as partnership budgets are finalized.

REVENUES	
Amount	\$450,000
Source	EPA Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities Program (ARP funds)
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	\$44,000
Contractual (Tellus)	\$61,000
Pass-Through (Community organizations)	\$295,000
Other (supplies, printing, etc.)	\$50,000

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize an application to the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the acceptance and expenditure of funds if awarded, for up to \$450,000 to support community air monitoring.

STAFF CONTACT:

Karen Clawson
Tom Jacobs