



# Board of Directors BUDGET & PERSONNEL

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

January 25, 2022  
11:15 a.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](mailto:kbielecki@marc.org) by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 25, 2021 for instructions to join the teleconference.**

## AGENDA

1. Financial and Program Reports and Discussion
  - a. REPORT: Review Audit Plan for the 2021 Audit
2. Approve Contracts, Grants, and Other Major Expenditures

### SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES

- a. VOTE: Approve Payment to Seculore Solutions for the Third Year of Cybersecurity Monitoring and Risk Assessment for the Regional 911 System

### THRIVING OLDER ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES

- b. VOTE: Accept Funding from the Roger A. and Corinne R. Durkee Fund to Support Communities for All Ages
- c. VOTE: Authorize the Release of SFY 2023 Aging Requests for Proposals and Extend or Amend Selected Contracts
- d. VOTE: Authorize an Agreement with All Services Home Health Care to Provide Financial Management Services
- e. VOTE: Authorize Agreements with New Grocery Stores Participating in the Double Up Food Bucks Program with Funding from the USDA Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program 2020 Grant
- f. VOTE: Authorize Agreements with Grocery Stores for Expansion of the Double Up Food Bucks Program with Funding from the USDA Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program COVID Response and Relief Grant

### COMPETITIVE ECONOMY

- g. VOTE: Authorize an Application for the Economic Development Administration Good Jobs Challenge Grant Program

### EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION AND QUALITY PLACES

- h. VOTE: Authorize a Contract Extension with Olsson, Inc. for Traffic Signal Timing and Support Services to Support Operation Green Light

### QUALITY EARLY LEARNING

- i. VOTE: Ratify MARC Head Start's Core Operations Continuation Application



# Board of Directors **BUDGET & PERSONNEL**

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3. VOTE: Approve Consent Agenda (Administrative Matters and Minor Expenditures)
  - a. Approve the Minutes of the December 21, 2021 Meeting
4. Other Business
5. Adjournment

## AGENDA REPORT

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### Budget and Personnel Committee

January 2022  
Item No. 1-a  
Core Competencies

**ISSUE:**

REPORT: Review Audit Plan for the 2021 Audit

**BACKGROUND:**

The Budget and Personnel Committee serves as MARC's Audit Committee. This year is the sixth year in a five-year agreement for RubinBrown to perform the annual 2021 financial and compliance audit. In April 2021, the Board approved a one-year extension to engage RubinBrown to complete an audit of the 2021 financials.

The audit firm has begun the planning process for the 2021 audit and will cover the following topics with the Budget and Personnel Committee:

- 2021 Scope of Services
- Engagement Timeline
- Financial Statement Risk Assessment
- Required Discussion Items

A letter from RubinBrown regarding the audit planning is included in this packet. Kaleb Lilly, Partner, will discuss the planning process at the meeting and answer any questions about the upcoming audit.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

None, information only.

**STAFF CONTACTS:**

Carol Gonzales  
Katelyn Click

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***MID-AMERICA REGIONAL COUNCIL  
AND MID-AMERICA REGIONAL COUNCIL SOLID  
WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
AUDITOR PLANNING COMMUNICATIONS  
DECEMBER 31, 2021***

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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS & BUSINESS CONSULTANTS

Board of Directors  
Mid-America Regional Council and  
Mid-America Regional Council Solid Waste Management District  
Kansas City, Missouri

This letter is provided in connection with our engagement to audit the financial statements and to audit compliance over major federal award programs of Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) and the Mid-America Regional Council Solid Waste Management District (SWMD) (collectively the Company) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021. Professional standards require that we communicate with you certain items including our responsibilities with regard to the financial statement audit, the compliance audit and the planned scope and timing of our audit, including significant risks we have identified.

## **Responsibilities**

As stated in our engagement letter dated January 20, 2022, we are responsible for conducting our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS), *Government Auditing Standards* of the Comptroller General of the United States of America, the requirements of the Single Audit Act, as amended; and the provisions of the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance), for the purpose of forming and expressing opinions on the financial statements, and on major federal award program compliance. Our audits do not relieve you or management of your respective responsibilities.

Our responsibility as it relates to the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is to evaluate its presentation for the purpose of forming and expressing an opinion as to whether it is presented fairly in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Our responsibility for the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, as described by professional standards, is to evaluate the presentation of the supplementary information in relation to the financial statements as a whole and to report on whether the supplementary information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Our responsibility relating to other information, whether financial or nonfinancial information (other than financial statements and the auditors' report thereon), included in MARC's annual comprehensive financial report includes only the information identified in our report. We have no responsibility for determining whether the introductory or statistical sections are properly stated. We require that we receive the final version of the annual comprehensive financial report (including all the documents that, together, comprise the annual comprehensive financial report) in a timely manner prior to the date of the auditors' report, or if that is not possible, as soon as practicable and, in any case, prior to MARC's issuance of such information.

### **Audit Strategy And Planned Scope**

Our audit will include examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested. Our audit procedures will also include determining major federal programs and performing the applicable procedures described in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget *OMB Compliance Supplement* for the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of MARC's major programs. Our audit is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free of material misstatement, whether due to error, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws or governmental regulations. Because of this concept of reasonable assurance and because we will not examine all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements or material noncompliance may exist and not be detected by us.

We focus on areas with higher risk of material misstatement (whether due to error or fraud). Our audit strategy includes consideration of:

- a) Prior year audit results together with current year preliminary analytical review, including discussions with management and those charged with governance regarding the Company's operations;
- b) Inherent risk over financial reporting within the Company;
- c) Recent developments within the industry, regulatory environment and general economic conditions;
- d) Recently issued and effective accounting and financial reporting guidance;
- e) The Company's significant accounting policies and procedures, including those requiring significant management judgments and estimates and those related to significant unusual transactions;

- f) The control environment and the possibility that the control system and procedures may fail to prevent or detect a material error or fraud;
- g) Information about systems and the computer environment in which the related systems operate; and
- h) A continual assessment of materiality thresholds based upon qualitative and quantitative factors affecting the Company.

The areas indicated below relate to significant risks identified during our initial risk assessment procedures:

- Management override of controls
- Grant revenues are not properly recorded (MARC only)
- Grant expenditures are not properly accrued for at year end (MARC only)

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment, including its internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and as a basis for designing the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control over financial reporting. However, we will communicate to you at the conclusion of our audit any material weaknesses or significant deficiencies identified. We will also communicate to you:

- Any violation of laws or regulations that comes to our attention;
- Our views relating to qualitative aspects of the entity's significant accounting practices, including accounting policies, accounting estimates, and financial statement disclosures;
- Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit;
- Disagreements with management, if any, encountered during the audit;
- Significant unusual transactions, if any;
- The potential effects of uncorrected misstatements on future-period financial statements; and
- Other significant matters that are relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process.

The anticipated timing of our audit is as follows:

	<i>Begin</i>	<i>Complete</i>
Perform interim audit procedures	December 2021	December 2021
Perform year-end audit procedures	March 2022	April 2022
Issue audit report	June 2022	June 2022

This information is intended solely for the information and use of Board of Directors and management and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*RubinBrown LLP*

January 25, 2022



## AGENDA REPORT

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### Budget and Personnel Committee

January 2022  
Item No. 2-a  
Safe and Secure Communities

**ISSUE:**

**VOTE:** Approve Payment to Seculore Solutions for the Third Year of Cybersecurity Monitoring and Risk Assessment for the Regional 911 System

**BACKGROUND:**

Seculore Overwatch offers next level monitoring by implementing behavioral-based cybersecurity that is customized specifically for public safety and is designed to identify threats that are often missed by other layers of security. Seculore Overwatch includes a dedicated cyber analyst, daily network checks, weekly cybersecurity reports, and automated cybersecurity alerts.

Seculore Cyberbenchmark is the only cybersecurity risk assessment built specifically for public safety and based upon FCC, APCO, DHS, and NIST best practices. Seculore will provide passive data capture and in-depth data analysis. Seculore will provide a cyberbenchmark report, vulnerability reports, NIST risk analysis checklist, key cybersecurity policies, a cyber incident response plan and a master IP list.

**BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:**

The cost for Seculore Overwatch and Seculore Cyberbenchmark is \$125,500 per year. These costs will be billed quarterly and paid for with 911 Cybersecurity budget allocations. The discounts on this service are provided using the Houston-Galveston Area Cooperative Purchasing contract.

REVENUES	
Amount	\$125,500
Source	911 Cybersecurity Allocation
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Contractual	\$125,500

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

The Public Safety Communications Board approved the use of these funds with the 2022 Regional 911 Budget, at the September Public Safety Communications Board meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve payment to Seculore Solutions for the third year of cybersecurity monitoring and risk assessment for the regional 911 system.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Eric Winebrenner

# AGENDA REPORT

## Budget and Personnel Committee

January 2022

Item No. 2-b

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

### ISSUE:

VOTE: Accept Funding from the Roger A. and Corinne R. Durkee Fund to Support Communities for All Ages

### BACKGROUND:

The Greater Kansas City Community Foundation recently awarded \$78,560 from the Roger A. and Corinne R. Durkee Fund to support regional programs and services that enable older adults to lead vibrant, healthy, and independent lives. In 2022, funds will be used by MARC's Aging and Adult Services and Local Government Services Departments to support the following work:

- Continue support to the 20 local jurisdictions participating in the age-friendly Communities for All Ages Recognition Program.
- Provide key regional leadership to advance issues, legislative advocacy, and programs, including the Age Positive Conference, incorporated within the 2022 Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging (MA4) Aging Summit.
- Work with partners to strengthen our ability to effectively communicate with older adults - particularly those from marginalized communities.
- Continue implementation of a minor home repair and modification program for the maintenance and adaptation of housing to suit the functional needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities in Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte, and Ray counties.

### BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

REVENUES	
Amount	\$78,560
Sources	Roger A. and Corinne R. Durkee Fund
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	\$38,560
Contractual	\$40,000

### RECOMMENDATION:

Accept award from the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation on behalf of the Roger A. and Corinne R. Durkee Fund in the amount of \$78,560.00 to support Communities for All Ages.

### STAFF CONTACT:

Lauren Palmer

## AGENDA REPORT

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### Budget and Personnel Committee

January 2022

Item No. 2-c

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

#### **ISSUE:**

**VOTE:** Authorize the Release of SFY 2023 Aging Requests for Proposals and Extend or Amend Selected Contracts

#### **BACKGROUND:**

To strategically plan for the next program year, the Department of Aging and Adult Services and MARC Commission on Aging will develop several Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for services to begin on July 1, 2022 and extend through June 2023.

Services include:

- Information & Referral
- Transportation Services
  - Demand & Rural transportation (Reserved transportation)
- Re-Release of Home-Delivered Meals (community organizations)
- Pre-Plated Home-Delivered Meals
- Community Center Services
- Catered Meals
- Structured Respite

The RFP documents will be released on Monday, January 31, 2022. Proposals submitted in response to these documents will be due to MARC no later than Friday, March 4, 2022.

The department recommends an additional year of contract renewal for the following service lines, and authorization to consider regular COLA increases, if applicable and requested by the provider:

- In-Home Services
- Integrated Care Network Partner Services (including MSN services)
  - Assessment
  - Home Modification and Repair
  - Community Care Management
  - Evidence-Based Programs
- Nutrition Assessment, Counseling, and Dietician Services
- Legal Services
- Grandparents as Parents

#### SFY 2022 Contract Amendments

In a separate consideration, existing partners require contract amendments to continue work, acknowledge pandemic-related cost increases, or facilitate extended periods of performance.

Palestine Senior Activity Center requires additional contract approvals for congregate meals and related senior center activities after posting larger numbers of units than anticipated during COVID recovery. The contract amendment will be for SFY 2022.

**AGENDA REPORT**

**Budget and Personnel Committee**

Kanbe’s Markets is recommended for a five-month extension to facilitate re-release of the home-delivered meals RFP. Kanbe’s requested \$10 in new compensation for each bulk meal pick-up, where a MARC subcontractor arrives at the Kanbe’s facility to load meals for last mile delivery.

**BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:**

MARC policies and procedures require a formal bid process if the anticipated amount exceeds \$25,000.

**SFY 2022 Increases or Extensions**

**Palestine Senior Activity Center**

**Total Increase to Contract..... \$56,526**

**Kanbe’s Markets**

<p>Compensation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. In recognition of the start-up costs for KANBE’S, MARC will pay KANBE’S a monthly stipend of \$ 35,840 during Phase 1. The amount of the stipend is based on mutually agreed upon and well documented costs of the program as shown in the annualized budget in Appendix 4.</li> <li>b. At such time that services are expanded (Phase 2), MARC will pay KANBE’S based on a \$ 0.20 repackaging fee and \$1.50 per Meal for any Meals over 13,000 per month.</li> <li>c. KANBE’S will invoice MARC for amounts owed on or around the 5<sup>th</sup> day of each month. MARC will pay KANBE’S within 30 days of receiving the invoice.</li> <li>d. Bulk Pickup - Any MARC contractor that is picking up meals from Kanbe’s shall be charged \$10 per vehicle per pickup, effective January 18, 2022.</li> </ul>
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**Total Potential Increase to Contract..... \$179,200 (plus unit-based costs)**

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

The MARC Commission on Aging recommended authorization to release SFY 2023 RFPs and extend selected contracts.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize release of SFY 2023 RFPs and extend or amend selected contracts as described above.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

James Stowe

# AGENDA REPORT

## Budget and Personnel Committee

January 2022

Item No. 2-d

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

### ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize an Agreement with All Services Home Health Care to Provide Financial Management Services

### BACKGROUND:

MARC accepts responses to its Integrated Care Network Partner Services RFP on a rolling basis. New responses have been received to bolster Missouri service provision and further expand capacity for Kansas service provision.

Under new Managed Services Network (MSN) integrated care contracts, providers are needed for the following services:

#### Jewish Family Services

- Assessment
- Community Care Management
- Evidence-Based Programs

#### KC Care Health Center

- Assessment
- Community Care Management

Rates for Integrated Care Network Partner Services are delineated in the RFP and are occasionally altered according to health care contract specifications.

Moreover, MARC recently concluded an RFP process for a Financial Management Services (FMS) provider to assist with consumer- or self-directed in-home services, a new initiative to allow clients to locate a care worker wherever they may be available, without relying on staffing through a contracted agency. Recently, the national care vocation workforce crisis has been amplified, causing disruptions in service delivery and sustained lack of ability to provide community services. An FMS allows clients to act as employers for their selected care worker and comply with all regulations and payroll requirements.

No responses were received to the RFP. Therefore, MARC located and is recommending a competent FMS provider, All Services Home Health Care, LLC. to perform FMS functions on behalf of MARC under the new initiative.

All Services Home Health will receive \$165/active client each month in exchange for their FMS work.

### BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

REVENUES	
MSN revenues, \$25,000 per contractor	\$50,000
Source - BlueKC; Older Americans Act; grant funding, and other MSN sources	
Older Americans Act revenues, \$100,000 for FMS services	\$100,000

## AGENDA REPORT

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### Budget and Personnel Committee

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PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Contractual	\$150,000

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

The MARC Commission on Aging recommended authorization to contract with All Services at its January 12 meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize MARC to contract with All Services in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

James Stowe

## AGENDA REPORT

### Budget and Personnel Committee

January 2022

Item No. 2-e

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

#### ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize Agreements with New Grocery Stores Participating in the Double Up Food Bucks Program with Funding from the USDA Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program 2020 Grant

#### BACKGROUND:

In April and September 2020, the MARC Board authorized the submission of an application to the USDA and acceptance of funding for a new four-year grant for the Double Up Food Bucks - Heartland Program. The USDA approved a budget including \$4.05 million from federal dollars and \$4.05 million from matching local and regional funders. More than half of the total budget for this grant is required by the USDA to be for the incentives, which allow SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) recipients to access and purchase more fresh vegetables and fruits. The budget included just over \$500,000 for the four years to accommodate growth in the amount of incentives redeemed, either due to additional locations offering the program or related to greater than expected incentive redemptions at locations already participating. The Double Up Food Bucks program is offered at participating farmers markets, farm stands, mobile markets, and grocery stores. For this grant (GusNIP 2020), MARC contracts with subrecipient organizations to coordinate with farmers markets in the state of Kansas and in Kansas City and west central Missouri. MARC contracts and coordinates directly with grocery stores in Kansas and Kansas City to implement the program.

#### Amendment to increase Cultivate KC's budget for incentives

MARC and Cultivate KC have been monitoring the incentives redeemed at the farmers markets closely over the last year. Several of the markets have exceeded their proposed first year's budgets for redeemed incentives. In addition, City Market, which has traditionally chosen to cap the incentive daily limit to \$15, has agreed, starting in 2022, to increase the limit to \$25 per day to be consistent with all the other participating locations. Due to these factors, Cultivate KC will require additional funds for their incentive budget. An amendment for \$100,000 would allow for expanded use of the program at their farmers market locations.

#### Agreements with new grocery stores wanting to offer DUFEB starting in 2022

Five additional grocers in the Kansas City region and in Kansas have expressed interest and the ability to implement the Double Up Food Bucks in their stores from 2022 until 2024. Partners such as the Rural Grocery Store Initiative at Kansas State University and funders such as the Kansas Health Foundation and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas were instrumental in connecting these grocers and their communities to the Double Up Food Bucks program. Contracts with some of the grocers will include some modest amounts for technology upgrades which they need in order to implement the program. In those cases the amounts for incentives and technology assistance are listed separately. Those grocers are as follows:

Harps Food Stores, Inc. - Two Harps stores (DeSoto, KS and Richmond, MO) will be supported by this grant. Contract amount: \$53,000.

White's Foodliner, Inc. - Six White's Foodliner stores (Kingman, Medicine Lodge, Phillipsburg, Scott City, St John, and Lindsborg) will be participating in the program. Contract amount: \$81,920 (\$68,000 for incentives and \$13,920 for technology upgrades)

## AGENDA REPORT

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### Budget and Personnel Committee

Farmers Market - Farmers Market in Wichita, KS is an independent grocery store. Contract amount: \$51,320. (\$49,000 for incentives and \$2,320 for technology upgrades).

Checkers - This is an independent grocer in Lawrence, KS. Contract amount: \$63,320. (\$61,000 for incentives and \$2,320 for technology upgrades)

Hired Man's Grocery - This is an independent grocer in Conway Springs, KS. Contract amount: \$5,820. (\$3,500 for incentives and \$2,320 for technology upgrades)

#### **BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:**

The budget for the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP20) grant, including \$4.05 million of federal dollars and an equal amount in non-federal match for the four-year grant period, accommodates these additional expenses and the growth of the program.

REVENUES	
Amount	\$355,380
Source	USDA Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program 2020 grant
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Pass-Through	\$355,380

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize agreements with project partners as described above to carry out the work outlined in the four-year grant from the US Department of Agriculture for the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program.

#### **STAFF CONTACT:**

Donna Martin  
Marlene Nagel  
James Stowe



## AGENDA REPORT

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### Budget and Personnel Committee

January 2022

Item No. 2-f

Thriving Older Adults and Communities

#### ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize Agreements with Grocery Stores for Expansion of the Double Up Food Bucks Program with Funding from the USDA Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program COVID Response and Relief Grant

#### BACKGROUND:

MARC's Double Up Food Bucks program received news this past June from the USDA of an award through the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program COVID Relief and Response of \$4.35 million to expand the work of the existing Double Up Food Bucks program to communities in Missouri and Kansas that have been heavily impacted by COVID-19, unemployment, and other related issues. The proposal allows for new locations to participate and also extends the number of months that Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas grocery stores already involved through the earlier USDA grant can offer the program from 8 months to year-round. Since receiving this news, MARC staff have been reaching out to interested grocery stores and farmers markets in Missouri and Kansas to determine which are ready to implement the Double Up Food Bucks program in 2022. These locations are largely located in communities with high percentages of people receiving SNAP benefits, high food insecurity rates, greater numbers of people impacted by COVID, and greater number of people affected by unemployment. The following grocery stores are ready to implement the program either for the first time or by extending the number of months they can offer the program to their SNAP customers:

#### Grocery Stores Extending Months They Will Offer Program

The following grocers are already implementing the Double Up Food Bucks program in their stores, supported by the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program 2020 (GusNIP 2020) grant. The GusNIP 2020 grant budget included support for these stores for a 5-month period (June through October) for each of the four grant years. During the first year of the GusNIP 2020 grant period, the grocery stores did not redeem as much as originally projected so a revised projection estimated that the GusNIP 2020 funds would be able to support the program's implementation for 8 months of the year. In the GusCRR grant proposal, an additional amount was proposed to allow the program to run year-round. The grocers and their additional budget amounts are:

Ball's Food Stores, Inc. (13 Price Choppers and 3 Sun Fresh stores) - Contract amount: Up to \$1,355,294.

G&W Foods - This grocer will be extending the number of months 10 of its Kansas stores currently offer the program. The grocer will also be adding 6 additional locations in Missouri. A small portion (\$8,400) of the funds budgeted will assist this grocer with technology upgrades needed specifically to implement the DUFB program. Contract amount: \$201,978.69

Rhodes Grocery, Inc - This grocer will be expanding the number of months their southeast Kansas location can offer the program as well as adding an additional location in southwest Missouri. Contract amount: \$113,000.

GW2, LLC - This grocer has one location in southeast Kansas. Contract amount: \$10,000

## AGENDA REPORT

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### Budget and Personnel Committee

McCune Farm to Market - This is an independent, farmer-run market in southeast Kansas. Contract amount: \$2,000.

The Mildred Store - This is an independent grocery store in southeast Kansas. Contract amount: \$2,000.

Agreements with new grocery stores wanting to offer DUFB starting in 2022

Three additional grocers in Missouri have expressed interest and the ability to implement the Double Up Food Bucks in their stores from 2022 until 2024. Those grocers are as follows:

T&C Foods, Inc. - This grocer has 28 stores in southern Missouri. Contract amount: \$852,524.

Harps Food Stores, Inc. - One Harps store in Poplar Bluff, MO will offer the program. Contract amount: \$100,000.

Hays Food Town, Inc. - Two stores in southeastern Missouri will offer the program. Contract amount: \$100,000.

**BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:**

The budget for the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program COVID Relief and Response grant is \$4.35 million and accommodates these agreements and the growth of the program.

REVENUES	
Amount	\$2,736,797
Source	USDA Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program COVID Relief and Response Grant (awarded in 2021)
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Pass-Through	\$2,736,797

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize agreements with grocers as described above to carry out the work outlined in the three-year grant from the US Department of Agriculture for the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program under COVID Relief and Response.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Donna Martin  
Marlene Nagel  
James Stowe

## AGENDA REPORT

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### Budget and Personnel Committee

January 2022  
Item No. 2-g  
Competitive Economy

**ISSUE:**

VOTE: Authorize an Application for the Economic Development Administration Good Jobs Challenge Grant Program

**BACKGROUND:**

The US Economic Development Administration (EDA) announced a number of grant opportunities through the American Rescue Plan in August, including the Good Jobs Challenge Program. The Good Jobs Program is intended to assist regions to form industry sector partnerships and design interventions to strengthen our workforce development system and our training and education systems to serve all residents, particularly those historically underserved populations, communities of color, women, and other groups facing labor market barriers. The grant requires the applicants to select one or more industry clusters for focus, and in cooperation with partners, MARC has selected the skilled trades/construction and advanced manufacturing sectors.

MARC is working with KC Rising, business-led organizations including the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) and Kansas Manufacturing Solutions, Missouri Enterprise and KC Manufacturing Network; workforce investment board; nonprofits like the Urban League, Community Services League, Hispanic EDC, Guadalupe Centers, KC Scholars and Goodwill; and colleges and universities including the three community college systems, University of Central Missouri, and UMKC to prepare an application for the grant, which has a deadline of February 10. The funds would be used to help design workforce system improvements in areas of career coaching, wrap-around support services, and backbone industry partnerships; expand education and training programs with training and education providers; and carry out programs with area employers and other partners to help adults secure services. Among the wrap-around support services that could be covered through the grant are securing documents, language services, child care, transportation, rent, and utilities. The system will engage employers and connect trained residents with available jobs. EDA is expecting to fund up to 50 regions at between \$5 and \$20 million each.

**BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:**

MARC is working with a consultant, Equity Cities, and partners to finalize the grant proposal and the budget. Up to \$1 million would be used for MARC staff support for coalition building, convening, and project planning as well as career coaching system implementation through KC Degrees. Subcontracts would be awarded to support other system and program design work and program implementation. No match is required for this grant; however, MARC and partners expect to demonstrate significant leverage of other community resources toward the program.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize the application to the EDA, and if awarded acceptance of funds, to support workforce development system and program design and implementation up to \$20 million.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Marlene Nagel  
Beth Heslowitz

# AGENDA REPORT

## Budget and Personnel Committee

January 2022

Item No. 2-h

Efficient Transportation and Quality Places

### ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize a Contract Extension with Olsson, Inc. for Traffic Signal Timing and Support Services to Support Operation Green Light

### BACKGROUND:

Operation Green Light (OGL) is a regional traffic signal coordination and operations program involving local governments and the State Departments of Transportation in Kansas and Missouri. This initiative improves regional traffic flow, air quality, and fuel consumption. As a key part of this work, OGL develops and implements traffic signal timing plans in cooperation with participating state and local governments and monitors real-time operations on roadway intersections in the system. Continued traffic signal timing and engineering support services will be integral to the successful operation of the OGL program. These services are needed to continue efforts to keep signal timing at its peak level of performance at the over 750 traffic signals that OGL currently supports for 27 agencies and over 1500 traffic signals supported by the regional software.

MARC's Board of Directors approved the contract in March 2020 with a notice to proceed of April 2020. The contract is set to expire in March 2022. This request is to extend the contract an additional year as allowed by the contract and to add funds for that year. The work includes the OGL timing work plan, traffic incident diversion development, technology assessment, and performance management as well as on going signal timing, real-time signal management, and engineering support.

### BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

Funds for this contract are included in the Operation Green Light operations budget. This work is to be funded through participating local governments' funds for this program.

REVENUES	
Amount	\$1,060,000
Source	STBG MO and KS and Local match
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Contractual	\$150,000

### COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Operation Green Light Steering Committee approved this item at its meeting on January 24, 2022.

### RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize a contract extension with Olsson, Inc. for Traffic Signal Timing and Engineering Support Services for the Operation Green Light Program through March 2022, with the extension amount not to exceed \$150,000.

### STAFF CONTACT:

Ron Achelpohl  
Ray M. Webb

## AGENDA REPORT

### Budget and Personnel Committee

January 2022  
Item No. 2-i  
Quality Early learning

**ISSUE:**

VOTE: Ratify MARC Head Start’s Core Operations Continuation Application

**BACKGROUND:**

In June 2021 the MARC Budget and Personnel Committee and Board approved the submission of MARC Head Start’s core operations continuation application to the Office of Head Start. At that time the overall grant amount and program support categories were approved. A list of Direct Service Providers and the contract amounts were omitted from the original report. This report includes the original board report information with the addition of a list of Direct Service providers and contract amounts.

Original Board Report: MARC Head Start is required to submit a continuation application for the next annual period of its five-year Head Start/Early Head Start grant, initially awarded in July 2018. The award for the upcoming budget period of November 1, 2021 to October 31, 2022 will fund the fourth year of this five-year grant.

This grant supports the enrollment of 1,811 Head Start (HS) and 370 Early Head Start (EHS) children in programs managed by seventeen direct service providers (DSPs) at locations in Clay, Platte, and Jackson counties. MARC will pass through most of the funding to these DSPs as indicated in the budget summary below.

Individual contracts with the DSPs are reimbursed at an annual per-child rate based on their level of service (Tier 1, 2, or 3) and program options (HS and/or EHS, as well as center-based and/or home-based). The total amount of annual funding available is \$27,143,805 and incorporates a 1.22% cost of living allowance (COLA) increase to the non-training portion of the budget. Included in this total are funds to support program operations, training and technical assistance, and contracts for specialized services for families and staff covering mental health, education, health and nutrition, professional development, and family engagement services.

**BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:**

REVENUES	
Amount	\$27,143,805
Source	Administration for Children and Families
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Program Operations	\$26,788,505
Training and Technical Assistance	\$355,300
Total	\$27,143,805

Full budget details on next page.

# AGENDA REPORT

## Budget and Personnel Committee

<b>MARC Head Start &amp; Early Head Start Funding -- Core Operations</b> (November 1, 2021 to October 31, 2022)					
	Head Start + COLA	Head Start Training	Early Head Start + COLA	Early Head Start Training	Grand Total Head Start & Early Head Start
<b>Total Award</b>	<b>21,169,221</b>	<b>278,640</b>	<b>5,619,284</b>	<b>76,660</b>	<b>27,143,805</b>
<b>Tier 1 Direct Service Providers</b>					
Blue Springs School District	154,880	4,033	-	-	158,913
Emmanuel Family & Child Dev Center	468,696	9,313	-	-	478,009
Excelsior Springs School District	309,720	6,718	-	-	316,438
Front Porch Alliance	-	-	218,628	2,933	221,561
Grandview School District	386,172	6,718	115,630	2,528	511,048
Guadalupe Centers ECE	628,320	13,435	-	-	641,755
Learn-A-Lot Academy	374,919	7,793	247,096	3,843	633,651
Lee's Summit School District	386,172	7,386	113,580	1,719	508,857
Raytown School District	394,893	8,335	-	-	403,228
Tier 1 Direct Service Providers Subtotal	3,103,772	63,731	694,934	11,023	3,873,460
<b>Tier 2 Direct Service Providers</b>					
Ability KC	-	-	247,792	5,483	253,275
Center School District	638,850	12,369	-	-	651,219
The Family Conservancy	230,760	3,364	692,280	7,585	933,989
United Inner City Services	834,764	16,132	346,896	6,574	1,204,366
Tier 2 Direct Service Providers Subtotal	1,704,374	31,865	1,286,968	19,642	3,042,849
<b>Tier 3 Direct Service Providers</b>					
Independence School District	2,383,590	44,775	531,576	13,374	2,973,315
KCPS School District	5,008,020	37,865	-	-	5,045,885
Operation Breakthrough, Inc.	2,005,920	22,387	396,900	6,688	2,431,895
YMCA of Greater Kansas City	3,391,762	29,751	1,580,280	18,256	5,020,049
Tier 3 Direct Service Providers Subtotal	12,789,292	134,778	2,508,756	38,318	15,471,144
<b>Total All Direct Service Provider Partners</b>	<b>17,597,438</b>	<b>230,374</b>	<b>4,490,658</b>	<b>68,983</b>	<b>22,387,453</b>
<b>MARC</b>					
MARC - Personnel Costs	2,577,208	-	784,462	-	3,361,670
MARC - Non-Personnel Costs	994,575	48,266	344,164	7,677	1,394,682
MARC Subtotal	3,571,783	48,266	1,128,626	7,677	4,756,352
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>21,169,221</b>	<b>278,640</b>	<b>5,619,284</b>	<b>76,660</b>	<b>27,143,805</b>

## AGENDA REPORT

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### Budget and Personnel Committee

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

MARC Head Start's Policy Council and Advisory Committee approved the continuation application at their joint meeting on Monday, June 14, 2021. The application was originally approved by MARC's Budget and Personnel Committee and Board in June 2021.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Ratify MARC Head Start's submission of a HS/EHS Core Operations continuation application and authorize receiving and expending \$27,143,805 in funds from the Administration for Children and Families during the period of November 1, 2021 to October 31, 2022.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Steven Lewis  
Jovanna Rohs

## **AGENDA REPORT**

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### Budget and Personnel Committee

January 2022  
Item No. 3-a

**ISSUE:**

VOTE: Approve the minutes of the December 21, 2021 meeting

**BACKGROUND:**

The minutes of the December 21, 2021 meeting are enclosed.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the minutes of the December 21, 2021 meeting.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

David Warm  
Karina Bielecki





## BUDGET AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary  
December 21, 2021  
11:15 a.m.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Harold Johnson, Jr., Unified Government of Wyandotte/Kansas City, Kan. - MARC Board Chair  
Mayor Carson Ross, Blue Springs, Mo - MARC Board 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair  
Commissioner Janeé Hanzlick, Johnson County, Kan. - MARC Board 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
Commissioner Rob Roberts, Miami County, Kan.  
Councilmember Fred Spears, Overland Park, Kan.  
Commission Chairman Ed Eilert, Johnson County, Kan.  
Commissioner Brian McKiernan, Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kan.  
Presiding Commissioner Jerry Nolte, Clay County, Mo.  
Presiding Commissioner Bob King, Ray County, Mo.  
Councilmember Vernon Fields, Basehor, Kan.

### STAFF PRESENT

David Warm, Executive Director  
Carol Gonzales, Director of Finance and Administration  
Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment  
Marlene Nagel, Director of Community Development  
Lauren Palmer, Director of Local Government Services  
Frank Lenk, Director of Research Services  
Jovanna Rohs, Director of Early Learning and Head Start  
Kristin Johnson-Waggoner, Public Affairs Program Director  
Steven Lewis, Mid-America Head Start Program Director  
Catherine Couch, Public Affairs Coordinator  
Karina Bielecki, Executive Assistant  
John Hwang, Network Administrator II  
Amanda Graor, Chief Innovation Officer  
Joanne Bussinger, Grant Manager  
Katie Killen, Housing Program Manager  
Amanda Rehani, Grant Accountant III  
Ginny Williams, Grant Accountant III  
Darlene Pickett, Accountant II

### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Eileen Weir was unable to attend so Mayor Carson Ross led the meeting in her absence. Mayor Ross called the meeting to order at 11:21 a.m.

Due to the meeting being conducted remotely, Mayor Ross 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 with one vote at the end of the meeting. Members would have an opportunity to abstain or object to any items necessary

during the final vote.

### *Financial and Program Reports and Discussion*

#### CORE CAPACITIES

##### REPORT and VOTE: Review 2022 Work Plan and Approve Revised 2021 and Proposed 2022 Budget

Ms. Carol Gonzales, Director of Finance and Administration at MARC, presented an overview of the 2022 Budget and Work Plan. She reminded the Committee that MARC's financial accounting system uses five major funds to track revenue and expenses: general fund, special revenue fund, enterprise fund, indirect and clearing fund, and 911 capital fund. The special revenue fund, used to manage grants awarded for designated purposes, is the largest fund with almost \$66 million in projected revenues and expenses for 2022. Ms. Gonzales noted the entire budget is very stable, with revenues keeping pace with expenses. She highlighted major expenses for the next year, including a new Human Resources Information System (HRIS), which will be charged to the general fund. The total proposed revenues for 2022 are \$84,732,438 and proposed expenditures are \$85,087,893. She paused for questions, but there were none.

### *Approve Contracts, Grants, and Other Major Expenditures*

#### CORE CAPACITIES

##### VOTE: Approve Local Government Dues for 2023

Ms. Gonzales reminded the Committee that MARC typically brings local government dues to the Board a year in advance to give local governments time to include them in their budgets. The Board approved 2022 local dues in October 2021, due to a delay in receiving the results of the decennial census.

Returning to the regular schedule, Ms. Gonzales brought forward a recommendation for the 2023 local dues. Dues and voluntary contributions provide general support to MARC operations. Although they are less than 2% of MARC's overall budget, they are unrestricted funds that provide a foundation for a broad range of regional programs and initiatives, and they can be used as matching funds to leverage federal, state, and private grants. MARC receives an annual allocation from the State of Missouri that is also used for general support. The base amount is \$10,670 but the timing and amount of that allocation varies from year to year.

The nine counties and six largest cities in the region (named as incorporating members in MARC's bylaws) pay annual dues calculated on a per-capita basis. The five counties on the Missouri side of the region and the cities of Independence and Kansas City, Missouri, also pay an annual match (calculated per capita) as part of MARC's Area Agency on Aging. Other cities in the MARC region are asked to pay basic dues based on population. In addition, all communities are asked to make program-specific voluntary contributions to Emergency Services (calculated per capita), the Government Training Institute (based on number of employees), and the Government Innovations Forum (calculated per capita).

It has generally been MARC's practice to request a 2% increase each year, which is what is recommended for 2023. The activities supported by these funds increase in cost, and in some years 2% is slightly more than inflation, in other years (such as this year) it is less. Ms. Gonzales requested approval for a two percent increase in local government member and voluntary dues, emergency services, GTI and GIF membership dues, and the Aging match for 2023. There were no questions.

#### EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

##### VOTE: Accept a Grant from the Hall Family Foundation to Support the Regional Housing Partnership

Ms. Katie Killen, Housing Program Manager, reminded the Committee that MARC is partnering with Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Greater Kansas City to organize the Regional Housing Partnership (RHP). The RHP will mobilize individuals and organizations to enact systems-level

change to grow the supply of affordable housing for cost-burdened households. This will be accomplished through seven elements of an effective regional housing system: (1) data and analysis; (2) networked leadership; (3) financing tools; (4) production capacity; (5) rental & homeowner resources; (6) policy; and (7) education.

Ms. Killen requested authorization to accept a grant in the amount of \$150,000 from the Hall Family Foundation for the RHP. This award will supplement previous grants of \$560,000 from the Marion and Henry Bloch Foundation and \$150,000 from the Health Forward Foundation. A portion of the Hall Family Foundation grant will be subcontracted to LISC to assist with implementation of the RHP, notably for deliverables related to the advocacy, financing, and capacity strategies of the work plan.

VOTE: Authorize an Agreement with Local Initiatives Support Corporation to Support the Regional Housing Partnership

Ms. Killen requested authorization for an agreement with Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) to perform such work that advances the Regional Housing Partnership deliverables, in an amount not to exceed \$355,000. There were no questions on either item.

VOTE: Authorize a Service Contract with the Health Forward Foundation to Facilitate a Shared Approach to 988 across Missouri Community Mental Health Centers

Ms. Lauren Palmer, Director of Local Government Services at MARC, reminded the Committee that in July 2020, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted rules designating 988 for Americans in crisis to connect with suicide prevention and mental health crisis counselors. The transition will result in phone service providers directing all 988 calls to the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by July 16, 2022.

Calls to 988 will be managed by CommCARE, the 24/7 behavioral health crisis hotline in Missouri. Calls are routed to Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) for response. CMHCs have different standards of care for crisis response and after-hours response. Because CMHC catchment areas do not mirror jurisdictional boundaries for public safety (police, fire, and EMS), the inconsistencies undermine community trust because people in crisis cannot rely on a standardized level of care.

Several leaders among the CMHCs in Missouri requested assistance from MARC to conduct a planning process to prepare for 988 implementation. Philosophically, 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. MARC proposes 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?

The planning process is estimated to cost \$91,500. Health Forward Foundation approved a service agreement to cover 75% of the cost at \$68,625. Staff is working to secure the remaining 25% from other sources but requested approval to initiate the work on-risk due to the time sensitivity. She paused for questions, but there were none.

SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES

VOTE: Approve an Agreement with Motorola to Purchase Call-taking Hardware for Regional Fire, Police, and Sheriff Departments

Ms. Marlene Nagel, Director of Community Development at MARC, reminded the Committee that the Public Safety Communications Board approved the start of a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) VESTA Call-taking hardware replacement program. The intent is to replace 60 of the 240 regional PSAP workstations each year. Ms. Nagel requested approval of an agreement with Motorola that would replace equipment in Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas City MO Fire, Platte County Sheriff, Excelsior Springs Police, Gladstone Police, Liberty Police, Independence Police, Blue Springs Police, Clay County Sheriff, Jackson County Sheriff, Lee's Summit Fire, and Sugar Creek Police departments for a total of \$938,841.20. There were no questions.

VOTE: Authorize a Request for Qualifications for a Contractor to Support Special Event Threat Assessment Work

Ms. Nagel reported that MARC, in conjunction with the Kansas City Regional Fusion Center (KCRFC) and agencies in the nine-county area, is seeking a contractor to help conduct Special Event Threat Assessments at venues in the Kansas City nine-county region, evaluate assessments previously conducted, and work with Fusion Center leadership to implement outreach to venues to increase their emergency preparedness. The contractor will help with threat assessments, outreach materials and activities, and trainings and presentations. Federal homeland security funds (through the state homeland security grant program) and Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attacks (CCTA) funds have been received to support this work. Ms. Nagel requested retroactive approval for an RFQ for the position; cost of services for a two-year period is not to exceed \$140,000, which will be funded with federal funds through Aug 31, 2023. There were no questions.

VOTE: Authorize Two Contract Amendments to Support Regional Public Health Work

Ms. Nagel reported that MARC selected contractors in mid-2020 to support the design and implementation of the COVID-19 data dashboard, associated data and analysis of the disease, and its impacts on residents, hospitals, and the community. Two individuals have continued to provide support, and given the continued presence of the disease, MARC wishes to extend their contracts into 2022.

Mr. Mike Parker is a veteran and past leader in large-scale FEMA disaster response efforts. He has a background and advanced degree in Emergency Health Care. He began volunteering with MARC Emergency Services in March 2020 and a contract for ongoing services was authorized by the MARC Board in August 2020. His services have been supported with foundation funds focused on public health response to COVID-19. The continued services would be covered by remaining foundation dollars for this purpose. The original contract for his services was \$105,000. An addition of \$25,000 would be added to cover continued support through April 2022.

Ms. Erin Cardwell has a background in health informatics and has been supporting the regional COVID-19 data hub since August 2020. She has also provided support to other MARC data dashboard projects, including the new regional housing data hub. Her services have also been supported from foundation funds focused on public health response to COVID-19 and CARES Act dollars. Continued support would be paid for with foundation funds. Her current contract runs until December 31, 2021 for \$104,500. An additional \$87,500 would cover her services through December 31, 2022. MARC would utilize her services for public health and other economic recovery related data work. The total contract would be for \$192,000. There were no questions on either contract.

COMPETITIVE ECONOMY

VOTE: Authorize a Contract to Support Workforce Services under the New EDA CARES Act Grant

Ms. Nagel reminded the Committee that, in February 2021, the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) awarded MARC a grant to aid in the economic recovery of communities due to the COVID-19 disaster. MARC has worked with community partners on a program that would respond to the impacts of the disaster on "main street" small businesses and on those unemployed with limited skills to re-enter the workforce. The grant is focused on Wyandotte County, Kansas.

Earlier this year, the Budget and Personnel Committee and MARC Board authorized several contracts to implement the grant. One contract was omitted from the items for approval.

Applications were accepted for a contractor (or temporary employee) to assist MARC in implementing its Workforce Development Program, including a new federal grant from the EDA to help disadvantaged residents secure career counseling, training, and job placement services. Ms. Beth Heslowitz was selected through an interview process as the contractor for the work. Her services would be provided at a cost not to exceed \$125,000. There were no questions.

#### THRIVING OLDER ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES

##### VOTE: Authorize a Contract with the University of Missouri Extension Service to Support the Double Up Food Bucks Program

Ms. Nagel reminded the Committee that, in August 2021, the MARC Board heard an announcement of a new USDA grant to expand the Double Up Food Bucks - SNAP Nutrition Incentive Program in the Kansas City area and portions of central and southern Missouri. This \$4.6 million grant is enabling the expansion to increase grocery store support in the Kansas City area and add Missouri locations outside of the Kansas City and west central areas. The original board action in August authorized a contract for \$461,236 in funds to add the University of Missouri Extension to the Double Up Heartland Collaborative as a coordinating agency. Their staff will be responsible for coordinating with the farmers markets outside of Kansas City and the west central area of Missouri. Through further planning and interest in the program in Missouri, authorization by the board is needed for a larger contract with the University of Missouri Extension Service in the amount of \$757,622. The funding will come from the USDA Nutrition Incentive COVID-19 grant awarded to MARC last June. Ms. Nagel requested authorization to contract with the University of Missouri Extension Service as described. There were no questions.

#### EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION AND QUALITY PLACES

##### VOTE: Authorize Amendment of a Consultant Contract and Local Match Agreement for a Planning Sustainable Places Study

Mr. Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment at MARC, reminded the Committee that at the January 26, 2021 Board meeting, MARC was authorized to enter into a consultant agreement for the Kansas City, Mo. - West Pennway Street Redesign Plan. Receipt of the local match funds was authorized at the same meeting. The original contract amount was to not exceed \$48,000. The federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds for the project were \$38,000 and Westside Housing provided \$10,000 in local match.

As the project has progressed, additional public engagement services have been desired by the City of Kansas City, Mo., and Westside Housing. The additional services' cost will be covered by the City of Kansas City, Mo., and Westside Housing with no additional funds required from MARC. An amended local match agreement would be executed between the City of Kansas City, Mo., Westside Housing, and MARC to obligate the additional revenue funds for the project. The consultant contract is held between the consultant (Hoxie Collective) and MARC, so an amendment to the original consultant contract would be executed for the additional scope and associated fee. There were no questions.

#### HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

##### VOTE: Authorize a Partnership with the University of Kansas to Jointly Lead a New Midwest Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments Program

Mr. Achelpohl reported that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has been the lead federal agency guiding climate change research. As part of this work, NOAA has funded a network of eleven climate research centers around the United States. Now NOAA seeks to establish a new Central Midwest Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) Program. The RISA program builds relationships that help local decision makers and researchers collaborate on adapting to climate change. Through regionally-focused and interdisciplinary research and engagement teams, RISA programs expand the nation's capacity to adapt and become resilient to extreme weather events and climate change.

The University of Kansas, through a broad interdisciplinary collaboration organized by the Center for Compassionate and Sustainable Communities, proposes to lead a RISA for the four-state Midwest region, with MARC serving as the co-anchor institution. The proposed partnership would facilitate progress toward NOAA's goal of supporting a network of people, prioritizing wide participation in learning by doing, learning through adapting, and managing risk with uncertain information.

The grant would provide a total of about \$1 million per year for a five-year period to the University of Kansas, the grant applicant. Of these funds, approximately \$150,000 - \$200,000 per year would be provided to MARC for one staff person to link regional planning activities and networks with university research programs and activities. NAME requested approval to partner with the University of Kansas on the proposed RISA grant submission, and if successful, authorize a grant subaward agreement with KU to receive approximately \$200,000 in grant funds. There were no questions.

#### QUALITY EARLY LEARNING

##### VOTE: Authorize Acceptance of Funds from the Durwood Foundation to Support Regional Early Learning System Work

Ms. Jovanna Rohs, Director of Early Learning and Head Start at MARC, requested acceptance of funds from the Stanley H. Durwood Foundation in the amount of \$75,000. This grant from the Stanley H. Durwood Foundation will provide general operations support for efforts to develop, expand, and strengthen the regional early learning system. Funds will be used to support personnel costs to:

- Support family childcare providers and informal care networks.
- Measure and enhance program quality.
- Create and deploy strategies to strengthen the regional early learning workforce.
- Measure school readiness.
- Provide leadership and coordination of policy and system work.

Funding for this work will expand efforts to increase access to quality early learning programs, address critical early learning workforce needs, and provide a greater context for understanding school readiness factors and the availability of early learning services, as well as equity and access issues affecting children and families in the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan area. There were no questions.

##### VOTE: Approve Consent Agenda (Administrative Matters and Minor Expenditures)

##### Approve the Minutes of the November 23, 2021 meeting

MOTION: Councilmember Fred Spears moved for approval of all agenda items and Commissioner Rob Roberts seconded. Mayor Ross asked if any member wanted to abstain or object to any of the agenda items. All were in favor of approving agenda items 1-a through 3-a. The motion passed.

##### Other Business

There was no other business.

##### Adjournment

Mayor Ross adjourned the meeting at 11:51 a.m.

MINUTES APPROVED:

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Eileen Weir, Chair

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Date