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A Michigan Works! Agency

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>DESC Corporate Board Meeting</b>	<b>DATE:</b>	<b>April 22, 2024</b>
<b>ATTENDEES:</b>	<b>DESC Corporate Board Members:</b> Alice Thompson, Lena Barkley, Ric Preuss, Terri Weems, Chris Uhl, Dannis Mitchell, Rian Barnhill <b>DESC Staff:</b> Dana Williams, Robert Shimkoski, Traci Sassak, Rachel May, Sara Azu, Nneka Carter-Young, Sam Marvin, Jennifer Wilson, Sheila Johnson, Madelyne Bernard-Diab, Todd Drysdale, Carmen Bender	<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>DESC Corporate Offices</b>
		<b>CALLED TO ORDER:</b>	<b>1:46 pm</b>
<b>ABSENT:</b>	<b>Excused:</b> Maria Woodruff-Wright <b>Unexcused:</b> None	<b>ADJOURNED:</b>	<b>3:08 pm</b>
<b>PUBLIC ATTENDEES:</b>	NONE		
<b>FACILITATOR:</b>	Alice Thompson, Board Chairperson	<b>DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:</b>	<b>June 24, 2024</b>

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION ITEM(S)
I. <b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	<b>Alice Thompson, Board Chairperson, called the meeting to order.</b>  Due to a lack of Quorum, the approval of the Agenda and Meeting minutes will be moved out to later in the meeting.	
II. <b>Board Chair Report</b>	<b>Alice Thompson, Board Chairperson presented:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alice Thompson provided a quick rationale for the request to change the time of the Board &amp; Executive Committee meetings, to accommodate a board position she accepted that is in conflict with the early morning DESC meeting time. She gave her thanks to her fellow Board members for their flexibility.</li> <li>Ms. Thompson also gave an overview of a new program she has become involved with, the Livernois Redevelopment Program, which has a robust youth development program with which she was impressed.</li> </ul> Board discussion ensued.  Ms. Thompson called for a motion to approve the agenda for the April 22, 2024 meeting:  <b>Motion:</b> Ric Preuss	Ms. Thompson asked that Dana Williams and Stephanie Nixon meet with the group behind the Livernois Redevelopment youth program to see where DESC can help them.



	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Seconded:</b> Chris Uhl <b>Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</b></p> <p>Ms. Thompson called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the December 12, 2023 meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Motion:</b> Chris Uhl <b>Seconded:</b> Lena Barkley <b>Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</b></p>	
<p><b>III. President’s Report</b></p>	<p><b>Dana Williams, DESC President presented:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dana Williams brought to the attention of the Board that they should have received some Detroit at Work apparel, and an updated marketing brochure. Please read it and use it in your conversations to promote our work.</li> <li>• WIOA reauthorization did pass. As you know WIOA is our major funding source from the Federal level. There are some challenges on funding being directed mainly towards training, but we are confident we can work through those challenges. Robert Shimkoski is our resident expert in WIOA, so if you have questions, we can direct them to him for responses.</li> </ul> <p>Board discussion ensued.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Williams also gave an update on her top three strategic goals as the organization moves forward. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Personnel in our post-ARPA plan.</li> <li>○ Programs &amp; outcomes in partnership with Terri Weems. We are undergoing an ROI to better understand the use of the ARPA dollars and how well they have worked for us.</li> <li>○ Data strategy and our maturity. We partnered with CSW to do a survey on how our employees feel about our use of data, how we capture it, how we analyze it and use it in our decision making. We got some wonderful insights. The most exciting was that people are actually excited about data.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• We have established a Project Management Office here at DESC. It will provide us with the organization and structures for how to stand up, manage and execute programs in a more standardized way. When we get an ask, we simply have a team that can go along with Programs, our Career Centers to stand things up very quickly, embedding all the things that we know we need to establish from the start. That is going to be led by Carmen Bender.</li> </ul> <p>Board discussion ensued.</p> <p>Ms. Williams paused to celebrate a Board Member on their retirement from CVS, Lena Barkley. The Board Members all extended their best wishes and hope that Ms. Barkley would continue to sit on the Board.</p>	

<p><b>IV. MWDB Update</b></p>	<p><b>Terri Weems, Group Executive, Workforce Development &amp; Detroit at Work:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gave a high-level overview of the upcoming NFL Draft event being held in Detroit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 80% of the NFL Teammates are Detroiters.</li> <li>○ Detroit's entrepreneurs and local and small businesses will be highlighted during this event.</li> <li>○ It's especially important to the Mayor that there were highlights of local vendors, from caterers to traffic, to janitorial, event planners. Detroit is certainly being showcased.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Mayor's State of the City speech highlighted the work and progress we have made over the past 10 years. He detailed that Detroit at Work is becoming a household name. He said he is constantly pulled aside by CEO's that heard about the white glove service we provided to Chase and other employers, and they want to know how they can help move that work forward.</li> <li>• Trend wise, the number of people entering the workplace is moving in the right direction. We had about 3,000 people express an interest in getting into a workforce program who had been previously unemployed and would not have been counted in the unemployment number. Now they're being included in the unemployment number, and we're working to get those folks employed.</li> <li>• We've got a lot of work to do. It's not just about helping people build a resume and getting them through training. It's a lot of work to change behaviors, mentalities, work ethics. This is the crux of what Detroit at work is doing right now. We appreciate all the work of Stephanie Nixon, Nneka Carter and Dana Williams.</li> </ul> <p>Board discussion ensued.</p>	
<p><b>V. Audit &amp; Finance Update</b></p>	<p><b>Traci Sassak, DESC's CFO presented:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are working on the budget to be presented to the Audit &amp; Finance Committee for their approval in June. We were unfortunately unable to meet recently.</li> <li>• Ms. Sassak presented a chart of DESC's funding over the past 13 years, and in FY 25 we are reducing, from our height in 2023, 2022, 2023, when we received a significant amount of ARPA funding. As we conclude the 2025 year, we will be sunsetting all of those programs.</li> <li>• We are working to increase corporate and philanthropic investments.</li> <li>• Our budget is right now about \$78.5 million</li> <li>• Ms. Sassak presented a graph detailing our signature programs and Career Center funding.</li> </ul> <p>Board discussion ensued.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Sassak further presented information requested by the Audit &amp; Finance Committee relating to our allocations of ARPA funding. The ARPA programs that were funded were Skills for Life, Learn to Earn, JumpStart, Community Health Corp, Grow Detroit's Young Talent, and our new Detroit at Work Jobs Training program.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>VI. Program Services Update</b></p>	<p>Board discussion ensued.</p> <p><b>Ms. Thompson introduced Stephanie Nixon, Chief Programs Officer:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Nixon introduced Sam Marvin, to update on Skills for Life.</li> <li>• Mr. Marvin detailed the short summary of the program currently is 3 days working 2 days either in school or in training. GED, skills refresh or occupational skills training, giving participants cognitive long-term thinking about a career pathway. The ultimate goal is to get a job making \$17 or more per hour on the back end.</li> <li>• We have had success with Career Readiness Training, 721 people enrolled and 662 have successfully completed the program.</li> </ul> <p>Board discussion ensued.</p> <p><b>Ms. Nixon presented information on Learn to Earn and High School Completion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Learn to Earn program provides training and high school completion, GED or just skill attainment. You have individuals who want to earn their active high school diploma, and you also have individuals that want to increase their skills and reading and math so that they can either apply for training, get a better job or just be a more contributing member of the family, you know, reading to their children, being able to share the news and really talk about what's happening in the community. There they do receive a stipend, and we're looking at their stipend for participation. But they were also looking at incentives for achievement.</li> <li>• We had 1,178 people enrolled in the program and of that 766 are still active, 183 have earned their GED or High School diploma</li> </ul> <p><b>Ms. Nixon introduced Nneka Carter to discuss JumpStart:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am excited about giving participants psychological interventions to help them do things they never thought was possible. We are in the process of changing our staff models in some areas</li> <li>• We have 1,831 enrolled in the program. Of those, 761 have completed career readiness training, the original goal was 500. 131 folks have earned a credential, 440 are pending completion. 67 have received their GED or completed a skills refresh, 128 have secured employment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ms. Carter presented on Community Health Corp:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have successes in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1716 households touched.</li> <li>○ 4,536 residents were touched.</li> <li>○ 487 heads of households (seniors) assisted.</li> <li>○ 6,535 external referrals.</li> <li>○ Each household received multiple services including housing, home repair, utilities assistance, food security, employment, financial education, health, transportation, legal, education/training, childcare and hygiene, clothes, and furniture.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
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	<p><b>Ms. Nixon presented an update on Grow Detroit’s Young Talent:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 2 years, 60,000 young people were touched.</li> <li>• GDYT has exceeded all of their goals over the past 2 years.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ms. Nixon presented an update on the DAW Job Training Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a new program, where Detroiters can make more informed career choices.</li> <li>• It recently received ARPA funding.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ms. Carter presented a contract that needs the approval of the Board for EDSI:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were more enrollees than were anticipated.</li> <li>• The contract needs to be enlarged to allow for that increase to \$580,000.</li> <li>• This increase is covered under ARPA funding.</li> </ul> <p>Board discussion ensued.</p> <p><b>Ms. Thompson called for a Motion to approve the contract funding increase:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Motion:</b> Ric Preuss <b>Seconded:</b> Chris Uhl <b>Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</b></p>	
<p><b>VII. Public Comments</b></p>	<p><b>There were no public comments</b></p>	
<p><b>VIII. Adjournment</b></p>	<p><b>Ms. Thompson called for a Motion to Adjourn the meeting:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Motion:</b> Ric Preuss <b>Seconded:</b> Lena Barkley <b>Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</b></p>	

**DRAFT SUBMITTED BY:**

Printed Name: Elizabeth Hennessey

Title: Project Coordinator, Human Resources

Signature: /s/ E Hennessey

Date: 5/30/2024

DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED: 06/24/24

Initials: EH

**NEXT MEETING: Monday, June 24, 2024 @ 1:45 PM**

