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A Michigan Works! Agency

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>DESC Corporate Board Meeting</b>	<b>DATE:</b>	<b>October 24, 2023</b>
<b>ATTENDEES:</b>	<b>DESC Corporate Board Members:</b> Lena Barkley, Ric Preuss, Maria Woodruff-Wright, Dannis Mitchell, Terri Weems <b>DESC Staff:</b> Dana Williams, Stephanie Nixon, Robert Shimkoski, Sara Azu, Robin Johnston, Traci Sassak, Madelyne Bernard-Diab, Todd Drysdale, Joseph Bradfield, Lynisha Oliver, Misty Evans, Darilyn Draper, Chauncey Samuel, Shareef El-Kidani, Carmen Bender, Rachel May, Elizabeth Hennessey	<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>DESC Corporate Offices</b>
		<b>CALLED TO ORDER:</b>	<b>9:56 am</b>
<b>ABSENT:</b>	<b>Excused:</b> Alice Thompson, Chris Uhl <b>Unexcused:</b> None	<b>ADJOURNED:</b>	<b>10:50 am</b>
<b>PUBLIC ATTENDEES:</b>	Officer Amarea Bradford, Reginald Davis		
<b>FACILITATOR:</b>	Dannis Mitchell, Board Vice Chair	<b>DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:</b>	<b>12/12/2023</b>

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION ITEM(S)
I. Welcome & Introductions	<p><b>Dannis Mitchell, Board Vice Chair, called the meeting to order.</b></p> <p>Ms. Mitchell called for a motion to approve the agenda for the October 24, 2023 meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Motion:</b> Ric Preuss  <b>Seconded:</b> Lena Barkley  <b>Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</b></p> <p>Ms. Mitchell called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the August 29, 2023 meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Motion:</b> Ric Preuss  <b>Seconded:</b> Lena Barkley  <b>Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</b></p>	
II. DESC President Report	<p><b>Ms. Mitchell introduced Dana Williams, DESC President &amp; CEO:</b></p> <p><b>Ms. Williams began:</b></p>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanks to Terri Weems, we continue to be connected to the city of Detroit and its activities in the news.</li> <li>• We have several grants that we are applying for, and although those grant applications may not necessarily come to fruition, we are still grateful for them, because they allow us to be connected to so many other organizations and partners that are doing similar work to us.</li> <li>• We continue to partner with the City on solving the challenges faced by Detroiters. In particular, we are looking at childcare in many forms, one being the compensation of people working in that field.</li> <li>• The other area is transportation. As centers of jobs and education develop, we need to ensure that Detroiters can get to these locations. We are having strategic discussions with the City itself and pulling in statewide partners to join that discussion.</li> <li>• We continue to do exciting work around our Jumpstart program.</li> <li>• We have started early planning around the budget process with the City, working with OCFO.</li> </ul> <p>Board discussion ensued.</p>	
<p><b>III. MWDB Update</b></p>	<p><b>Terri Weems, Group Executive for Workforce &amp; Detroit at Work opened her report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The State is starting to work on it is WIOA combined state plan for 2024. WIOA is something that the Mayor's Workforce Development Board reviews and approves on a 4-year cycle with the 2-year update. The State develops a plan and is in the process of engaging multiple stakeholders. DESC is developing its plan engaging Mayor's Workforce Development Board at a high level. The document produced by the State is fairly comprehensive and outlines our policies, our strategies, our target occupations, and industries. We engage several third parties with expertise to help us develop that plan. We also do a lot of engagement with stakeholders. And there is a public comment period that is required for that as well. I wanted to make you aware that the State is currently aligning those efforts with their job talent and people work groups.</li> <li>• You will recall that there is an effort underway to increase the population of Michigan. Population trends and in that they are looking at job creation, entrepreneurship, innovation barriers to work, including childcare, in transportation and housing. And also, just looking to attract talent. The State Workforce Board met yesterday. I was unable to attend, but I have been reading the materials and it is all really exciting.</li> <li>• In the plan for 2024, we expect that the Workforce Board, along with the Mayor, will place a huge emphasis on education. We know that education is one of the indicators of wage increases, but it is also really apparent those who are lacking education are increasingly out of the workforce and unemployed. If you look at</li> </ul>	

	<p>statistics between those who have varying levels of education and observe the labor force participation rates and the unemployment ratio, you will notice that those with lesser education levels are significantly off the charge. Which is why we have been focused on adult basic education in the past few years. With that in mind, I am happy to announce that we have hired Dr. Joseph Bradfield as our new Director of Education partnerships increase. We are really focused on strengthening partnerships with the K through 12 space. We have a really good relationship with DPSCD we need to expand those relationships beyond DPSCD. It will be helpful to have a person who is dedicated to that effort, because improving educational outcomes for Detroiters is critical.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will recall back in April, we were experiencing a 30-year record low in unemployment of 4.2%. As the months have passed that number has crept up to 8.6% in August. While that sounds like unwelcome news, it is actually great news. The increase in numbers reflects 10,000 more people in the workforce, which means people are actively engaging in seeking to join the workforce, which is precisely what we have been working for, increasing our labor participation rate. The other good news is that every month 2,000 more people are employed. Because there are more people coming into the labor force than are getting employed, that has the impact of increasing the unemployment numbers.</li> </ul> <p>Board discussion ensued.</p>	
<p><b>IV. Program Services Update</b></p>	<p><b>Ms. Mitchell introduced Misty Evans, Director, Program Operations, GDYT:</b></p> <p><b>Ms. Evans presented:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An overview of the GDYT Summer Program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 6-week paid summer internship program.</li> <li>Gives opportunities to participate in experiences over several levels</li> <li>8,546 participants with a 90% participation rate</li> <li>424 Employer placements</li> <li>1,810 Affiliate Partner work experiences</li> <li>650 Industry led training and &amp; pre-apprenticeships and EDSI</li> <li>An opportunity to have a fee-free bank account, which 1,300 participants have taken advantage of.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Board discussion ensued.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We serviced 264 youth with disabilities. Key partners were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drew Transition Center</li> <li>Bureau for the Blind</li> <li>DPSCD Office of Specialized Student Services</li> <li>DPSCD Visual Impairment Department</li> <li>EDSI Career Exploration</li> <li>Microworks Employment &amp; Training</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Making it Happen</li> <li>• We opened up a new career exploration specifically for youth with disabilities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ms. Evans discussed the Youth Highlights:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acacia Manson worked this summer at Blue Cross Blue Shield and was offered a position as Provider Technical Assistant and accepted the position.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ms. Evans introduced Officer Amarea Bradford, a former GDYT Police Cadet Program participant:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officer Bradford told the meeting attendees about his experiences in the GDYT Police Cadet Program and detailed the support and encouragement he received from the GDYT staff he worked with. He stated this is a dream fulfilled for him and his family now that he has become a full-time police cadet.</li> </ul> <p>Board discussion ensued.</p> <p><b>Ms. Evans Continued:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next steps will be to enlarge partnerships with Detroit Promise and Michigan Reconnect for post-secondary financial opportunities</li> <li>• Increase opportunities for youth to connect with Mental Health Services and normalize, it is OK to seek help</li> <li>• Expand financial literacy to include understanding credit and managing money through budgeting</li> <li>• Develop additional partnership to service youth with disabilities</li> </ul>	
<p><b>V. New Board Member Introduction</b></p>	<p><b>Ms. Mitchell introduced Ms. Williams:</b></p> <p><b>Ms. Williams presented:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rian Barnhill, Olympia Entertainment</li> <li>• Reatta Stoud,</li> </ul> <p>Board discussion ensued.</p> <p>Ric Preuss, Board Member, asked through the Chair to make a motion to approve the appointment of the two new Board members.</p> <p><b>Ms. Mitchell called for a motion to approve the appointment of the two new Board Members:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Motion:</b> Ric Preuss <b>Seconded:</b> Lena Barkley</p>	

	<b>Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</b>	
<b>VI. Public Comments</b>	<p>Mr. Reginald Davis made a comment that he had encountered difficulties with his experience at a Career Center. He asked for assistance in being assigned a Case Manager.</p> <p>Madelyne Bernard-Diaz, DESC Chief Operations Officer asked that Mr. Davis remain after the meeting so she could address his issue and bring him a solution to his problem.</p>	
<b>VII. Adjournment</b>	<p><b>Ms. Mitchell 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: 10/27/2023

**DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:** 12/12/2023

**Initials:** EMH

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 @ 9:45 AM