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A Michigan Works! Agency

MEETING:	DESC Corporation Board Meeting	DATE:	December 14, 2021
ATTENDEES:	DESC Corporation Board Members: Cal Sharp, Alice Thompson, Ric Preuss, Lena Barkley, Dannis Mitchell, Maria Woodruff-Wright DESC Staff: Terri Weems, Chanelle Manus, Stephanie Nixon, Sam Marvin, Carmen Bender, Alessia Baker-Giles, Robert Shimkoski	LOCATION:	DESC Corporate Offices
		CALLED TO ORDER:	09:47 am
ABSENT:	Excused: Chris Uhl, Nicole Sherard-Freeman, Mike Aaron, Toney Stewart Unexcused: None	ADJOURNED:	11:15 am
PUBLIC ATTENDEES:	Hernando Flowers, Paul Bryant (Plante Moran)		
FACILITATOR:	Cal Sharp, Board Chair	DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:	5-10-2022

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION ITEM(S)
I. Welcome & Introductions	<p>Cal Sharp, Board Chair, called the meeting to order and asked for introductions and locations being joined from for the Board members:</p> <p>Cal Sharp from Bloomfield Township, MI Alice Thompson from Detroit, MI Lena Barkley from Detroit, MI Dannis Mitchell from Detroit, MI Ric Preuss from Detroit, MI Maria Woodruff-Wright, Detroit MI</p>	
II. Agenda Approval	<p>Cal Sharp asked for approval of the agenda for the December 14, 2021, meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Dannis Mitchell Seconded: Lena Barkley Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p> <p>Cal Sharp asked for approval of the meeting minutes from the October 26, 2021, meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Lena Barkeley Seconded: Dannis Mitchell Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	

III. DESC Board Chair Report	Cal Sharp shared that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal and state funding could create once in a lifetime opportunity for Michigan and Detroit's. 	
IV. DESC President Board Report	Terri Weems shared: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have received confirmation of ARPA dollars for Skills for Life, which are to be used to address the continuing issues from COVID-19 Detroiters are facing. Another large potential funding pool is the infrastructure bill from the Federal government, this will be used to address roads and bridges, regional transportation and clean drinking water, and other structural and environmental issues faced in the region. All will create well-paying jobs. DESC has analyzed its staffing and with the higher volume of work, will be hiring more staff to accommodate the volume of work expected. <p>Mrs. Weems requested the upcoming Executive Committee and Board meetings be cancelled for January 2022.</p> <p>Cal Sharp asked for a motion to cancel the January 2022 Board and Executive Committee meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Alice Thompson Seconded: Lena Barkeley Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p> <p>Mrs. Weems took a few minutes to recognize staff who have been with DESC for the entirety of its 10-year history and thanked them for their dedication to serving our community.</p> <p>Alessia Baker-Giles, Antoinette Roetherford, Carla Phelps, Cassandra Ricks, Cedric Thomas, Cynthia Mubiru, Deleshia Rogers, Eleanor Dodd, Jocelyn Carr, Kellie Stewart, Lester Gayden, Lynnette Robinson, Robert Shimkoski, Robin David, Stephanie Nixon.</p> <p>Mrs. Weems also recognized Board member, Nicole Sherard-Freeman, for being named as one of Crain's Detroit Business's 100 Most Influential Women.</p> <p>Board discussion ensued.</p>	

<p>V. Mayors Workforce Development Board Update</p>	<p>Dana Williams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared that Workforce Development will begin to include efforts to support small businesses, as studies have shown that a significant portion of Detroit's workforce is employed by small businesses. • Discussed the outcome of meetings with the lieutenant governor's office around the MI New Economy Plan, pulling in key stakeholders from the region to maximize the impact of ARPA dollars in the state. • Shared Skills for Life marketing materials, ahead of the mayor's kick-off of the program. • On behalf of Nicole Sherard-Freeman, congratulated the DESC team on a perfect DOL audit. • Discussed research the team is conducting to understand the large number of jobs available nationwide and hesitation of individuals to return to the workforce. She also discussed University of Michigan's predictions about the City of Detroit's economic forecast related to employment. <p>Terri Weems and Dana Williams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed the plans to redevelop the American Motors Corporation plant. Northpoint, an excellent previous partner to Detroit at Work, is investing to demolish the old facility. This will create 150 pre-construction jobs and 300 permanent jobs. A tenant has not been determined for the new facility, but that tenant will give preferred status to Detroit at Work participants. <p>Board discussion ensued.</p>	
<p>VI. Program Services Committee Update</p>	<p>Alice Thompson provided an update from the Program Services Committee Meeting. She shared the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barton Malow Summer Youth Bootcamp has been successful to-date. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 120 hours of skilled trades and job training experience ○ Mentors that are experienced journeymen ○ Resulting in 123 youth being trained to date, of which 50% have received full time employment and 64% have been offered future job opportunities • DESC continues to provide trauma-informed training and services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is critical to addressing emotional barriers that have become more prevalent during this COVID pandemic. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing staff training ▪ An Ambassador to lead the work ▪ Trauma and resiliency self-assessments by • 2022 WIOA and Youth Services in its upcoming RFP process will focus on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DAW will continue to provide 9 career service centers across the City of Detroit ○ Targeted age groups will be key at Youth Training Centers located around the city 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both the Youth and Career Services Centers will continue to use a hybrid model to maximize the impact and access to services for Detroit residents <p>Board discussion ensued.</p>	
VII. Audit & Finance Committee Update	<p>Alessia Baker Giles introduced Paul Bryant from Plane Moran to discuss the results of the 2021 Finance Audit:</p> <p>Mr. Bryant summarized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The result of this year's audit was a clean opinion, an unmodified opinion, which is the best opinion that can be given to an organization. There were no audit findings. <p>Board discussion ensued.</p> <p>Terri Weems gave accolades to the Finance Team, for working as a lean team, yet providing this excellent audit result.</p> <p>Cal Sharp called for a motion to approve the 2021 Audited Financial Statements:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Alice Thompson Seconded: Lena Barkley Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	
VIII. Career Centers & Youth Services Update	<p>Terri Weems reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DESC is preparing to issue RFPs for the entire Career Centers System and Youth Services System. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results of the RFPs will be shared in upcoming Board meetings <p>Madelyn Bernard-Diab shared the goals of the Career Centers and ongoing efforts to ensure all Detroiters have a pathway to the middle class.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Career Centers current footprint of 9 centers within the city limits will continue Career Centers will remain within a 3-mile radius of all Detroiters There will be a focus on improving existing virtual services offered from the centers Call Center outbound abilities will be expanded, and efforts will be increased to improve the retention of staff Improving the quality of the business services and job seeker experiences will be a focus <p>Stephanie Nixon shared the goals of Youth Services, to continue with the same goals and continue to improve upon the quality services and experiences to our youth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Services will continue concentrating on the footprint of where the densest population of at-risk youth live 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The focus will be to continue to create pathways to secondary and post-secondary credentials and careers while expanding year-round opportunities ○ Integrating the work among public and private collaborative partners will be critical to success ○ Creating a shared data framework and supporting key strategies as part of a collective impact equity model are key 	
IX. Detroit at Work Programs Update	<p>Carmen Bender and Sam Marvin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided an overview of the Skills for Life program. Skills for Life is a paid work and training program projected to serve 1,200 Detroiters over three years. Participants work 3 days a week removing blight and train for 2 days a week in the educational or career training path best suited to their needs & interests. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wraparound services are also provided, including childcare. • Provided updates from The Mayor's Press Conference the preceding week introducing the Skills for Life program. <p>Terri Weems shared visual highlights and experiences of the Thanksgiving meal delivery that she, her family and DAW employees participated in, targeting 20 of our CHC families.</p>	
X. Public Comments	There were no public comments.	
XI. Adjournment	<p>Cal Sharp called to adjourn the meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Lena Barkeley Seconded: Ric Preuss Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	

DRAFT SUBMITTED BY:

Printed Name: **Elizabeth Hennessey**

Title: Administrator, Special Projects

Signature: /s/ E Hennessey

Date: 01/27/2022

DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED: 5-10-2022 Initials: EH

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 @ 9:45 AM