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A Michigan Works! Agency

MEETING:	DESC Corporation Board Meeting	DATE:	August 24, 2021
ATTENDEES:	DESC Corporation Board Members: Cal Sharp, Alice Thompson, Christian Phillips, Nicole Sherard-Freeman, Ric Preuss, Maria Woodruff-Wright, Lena Barkley, Dannis Mitchell, Mike Aaron DESC Staff: Terri Weems, Elizabeth Hennessey, Sara Azu, Chanelle Manus, Sam Marvin, Sheila Jackson, Sheilah Clay, Mel Polk, Alessia Baker-Giles, Chioke Mose-Telesford, Dana Williams, David Bowser, Robin Johnston, Robert Shimkoski, Michelle Rafferty, Stephanie Nixon, JaNae' Combs, David Jackson, Greg Anderson	LOCATION:	DESC Corporate Offices
		CALLED TO ORDER:	9:55 am
ABSENT:	Excused: Chris Uhl, Toney Stewart Unexcused: None	ADJOURNED:	11:34 am
PUBLIC ATTENDEES:	John Allen, Dave Meador		115 Erskine, 2nd Floor, Detroit MI 48201
FACILITATOR:	Cal Sharp, Board Chair	DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION ITEM(S)
I. Welcome & Introductions	Cal Sharp, Board Chair, called the meeting to order and asked for Introductions from the Board and DESC attendees.	
II. Agenda Approval	Cal Sharp asked for approval of the agenda for the August 24, 2021, meeting: Motion: Lena Barkley Seconded: Alice Thompson Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously	
III. Mayors Workforce Development Board Address	Dave Meador, Co-Chair of the Mayor’s Workforce Development Board (MWDB) addressed the Board members and shared: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a great deal of progress and momentum made on mass-employment efforts for large developments in Detroit including Stellantis, Bedrock and the Gordie Howe. • The MWDB and DESC’s Corporate Board and staff are working together to have as many Detroiters as possible working at a livable wage to prevent people from becoming part of the working poor. • Thank you to DESC’s staff for being on the front lines and are getting results, efforts are appreciated. 	



<p>IV. Meeting Minutes Approval</p>	<p>Cal Sharp called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the June 29, 2021, meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Dannis Mitchell Seconded: Mike Aaron Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	
<p>V. DESC Board Chair Report</p>	<p>Cal Sharp shared that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He's extremely proud of the work and special programming that the DESC team has accomplished. • Over the past few years, the DESC has grown rapidly in revenue and the number of funding streams and contracts. • The team has greatly overcome challenges this year – in addition to serving customers in a COVID environment, Detroit at Work has initiated several new programs including Skills for Life, Friends and Family and Community Health Corp. • DESC has been adding more diverse funding streams including investment from initiatives that has additional compliance requirements including Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). 	
<p>VI. DESC President Board Report</p>	<p>Terri Weems shared that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DESC continues to be very optimistic about the work that we're doing, future opportunities to support Detroit residents and businesses, and as an organization, we continue to reach our targets. • Highlighted all employees and staff for their efforts in ensuring the great work that we do continues on. • During the meeting, updates would be provided on special programming and that Board Members would be able to directly hear from program participants on the difference DESC/Detroit At Work is making in their lives. • A Skills for Life contract would be brought to the Board for approval – the first of our proposed contracts leveraging the American Rescue Plan Act funding received from the City. • She's grateful to the Board Members, for their support and that without them, the work that we do would be impossible. <p>Board discussion ensued. Ms. Weems fielded questions from the Board of Directors.</p>	
<p>VII. Detroit at Work Vision and Economic Development</p>	<p>Terri Weems introduced a video from Fox2 News, in which Nicole Sherard-Freeman featured, speaking about the work Detroit at Work does bringing training and blue-collar jobs to local Detroiters, and its big impact on the local unemployment rate.</p> <p>Nicole Sherard-Freeman:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remarked how impressive it is that DESC's funding streams have grown from roughly \$37 million to nearly \$100 million in the past five years. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stephanie Nixon and her team have done amazing work in working towards eliminating gun violence, the CHC has made huge strides in helping in communities where it is needed the most. There are very favorable trends on blue-collar job growth, and that there is an increased focus on middle-class opportunities – which is the next frontier. 	
VIII. Annual Items	<p>Terri Weems:</p> <p><u>Cal Sharp called for a motion to approve:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2022 DESC Board & Committee Meeting Dates/Times <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Lena Barkley Seconded: Alice Thompson Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	
IX. Program Services Committee Update	<p>Alice Thompson:</p> <p>Thanked the Board for their continued support of the Program Services Subcommittee and gave an overview of their recent meeting including Career Center Updates, Special Programming Highlights, and submitted a Skills for life Contract to the Board.</p> <p>Sam Marvin provided details and expected outcomes for the Skills for Life program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gave details on the RFP process, and what the criteria were for funding <p><u>Cal Sharp asked for a motion to approve:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matrix Human Services & EDSI (Co-grantees) - Skills for Life <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Dannis Mitchell Seconded: Lena Barkley Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	
X. Programs Update	<p>Stephanie Nixon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided a high-level overview of the most recent statistics and program metrics for Grow Detroit’s Young Talent (GDYT) and the Friends & Family Choices Program. <p>Sheilah Clay & Gregory Anderson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared details on the CHC program, program metrics, statistics and its successes since the program’s inception. <p>Board discussion ensued.</p>	
XI. Success Stories & Testimonials	<p>Gregory Anderson introduced:</p>	

	<p>DeSha McCurdy, who shared the services that the CHC program helped her with and expressed her gratitude for the resources.</p> <p>Stephanie Nixon introduced:</p> <p>Jordan Jackson, who shared his experiences with the Jobs for Michigan Graduates and how he has developed his skills working on the Amazon site project.</p> <p>Markuis Cartwright, who shared his many experiences with the GDYT program, and how he plans to use those experiences and certifications to become Mayor of Detroit.</p> <p>Ms. Weems commended each of the participants, and the Board gave them rounds of applause.</p>	
XII. Public Comments	There were no public attendees and no public comments.	
XIII. Adjournment	<p>Cal Sharp called to adjourn the meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Alice Thompson Seconded: Lena Barkley Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	

DRAFT SUBMITTED BY:

Printed Name: **Elizabeth Hennessey**

Title: Executive Assistant to the President

Signature: /s/ E Hennessey

Date: 8/26/2021

DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED: _____ **Initials:** _____

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 @ 9:45 AM