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A Michigan Works! Agency

MEETING:	DESC Executive Committee Meeting	DATE:	August 29, 2023
ATTENDEES:	DESC Executive Committee Members: Alice Thompson, Chris Uhl, Dannis Mitchell, Maria Woodruff-Wright DESC Staff: Terri Weems, Dana Williams, Traci Sassak, Sara Azu, Rachel May, Elizabeth Hennessey	LOCATION:	DESC Corporate Offices
		CALLED TO ORDER:	9:08 am
ABSENT:	Excused: Lena Barkley Unexcused: None	ADJOURNED:	9:36 am
PUBLIC ATTENDEES:	None		
FACILITATOR:	Alice Thompson, Board Chair	DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION ITEM(S)
I. Welcome	Alice Thompson, Board Chair, called the meeting to order.	
II. Agenda & Minutes Approval	Ms. Thompson asked for a consent approval of the agenda and minutes for the August 29, 2023 and July 11, 2023 meetings.	
III. DESC Board Chair Report	Ms. Thompson continued: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have had some major changes this summer, we have made some big decisions, but we realize we are in good hands and the road is smoothing out before us to make good changes for Detroiters. 	
IV. Presidents Report / DESC Goals	Terri Weems, DESC President presented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have great news regarding our employment numbers, we see over 232,000 Detroiters employed for the first time in 10 years. We have strong evidence that although unemployment rates are rising slightly, we have a high number of candidates seeking work, so that is reassuring in the face of the unemployment statistics. 	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dana Williams has put together some goals for the system, and as she will lead us through this next year, I thought it appropriate that she walk us through at a high level. <p>Ms. Weems introduced Dana Williams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the end of the fiscal year, we are really intentional to take time to close out that previous year before we begin to think about what is next. Those of you with whom I had the honor and pleasure of interviewing with you heard a few of these ideas already, so they should not be too new to you. But we will just highlight a few of the concepts here. • One is to, of course, continue the great work Terri Weems has done within employee engagement. This will also be done across the system • Focusing more on signature program education. • Doing succession planning for our chief level roles to give us flexibility within the model and the plan we want to leave tomorrow. • Taking a deep dive into our outstanding signature programs and seeing what we need to keep as we continue to build new programs moving forward. • Ms. Weems will continue to work in her new role on strategy with the MWDB. We do not anticipate many changes here, but we can tweak our focus to help the next set of needs in our population. For example, we are focusing now on people with disabilities. Determining our next direction, immigrants, single moms, will be guided by the strategy they suggest. • The largest work will be looking at the system as a whole. We do a great job of placing and training people and connecting youth to pathways on a regular basis. Our numbers have continued to increase, since 2015 in all those areas. We need to look at redesigning our system so that we are encouraging more people to go into those career paths that we know are going to lead to even better economic situations for Detroiters. <p>Committee Discussion ensued.</p>	
<p>V. DESC Board Composition & Structure</p>	<p>Ms. Thompson presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directed Committee members' attention to the meeting materials which showed the listing of Board and Committee members. • Queried if any Committee members had questions or issues with the structure of members as it stands in these materials. If no one has comments, I will affirm the composition as required by our bylaws. • Ms. Thompson presented the meeting dates proposed for the 2-24 calendar, and detailed that there is no need for approval, since they would be voted upon at the Board meeting to follow this meeting. <p>Committee discussion ensued.</p>	

VI. Public Comments	There was no public comment.	
VII. Adjournment	<p>Alice Thompson, Board Chair, called to adjourn the meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motioned: Chris Uhl Seconded: Maria Woodruff-Wright Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	

DRAFT SUBMITTED BY:

Printed Name: Elizabeth Hennessey

Title: Administrator, Special Projects

Signature: /s/ E Hennessey

Date: 9/15/2023

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

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 @ 9:00 AM