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A Michigan Works! Agency

MEETING:	DESC Program Services Committee Meeting	DATE:	February 14, 2024
ATTENDEES:	DESC Committee / Board Members: Alice Thompson, Lena Barkley, Dannis Mitchell, Ric Preuss, Terri Weems DESC Staff: Stephanie Nixon, Traci Sassak, Dana Williams, Carla Phelps, Anthony Davis, Robert Shimkoski, Rachel May	LOCATION:	DESC Corporate Offices 115 Erskine, 2nd Fl Detroit, MI 48201
		CALLED TO ORDER:	10:06 am
ABSENT:	Excused: NONE Unexcused: NONE	ADJOURNED:	11:12 am
PUBLIC ATTENDEES:	NONE		
FACILITATOR:	Alice Thompson, Board Secretary and Committee Chairperson	DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:	June 5, 2024

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION ITEM(S)
I. Welcome & Introductions	Alice Thompson, Board Chair and Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order.	
II. Agenda Approval / Minutes	Ms. Thompson asked for approval of the agenda for the February 14, 2024 meeting: <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Ric Preuss Seconded: Lena Barkley Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	
III. Chairperson Update	Ms. Thompson gave the Committee an update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everything going on at a state and local level regarding funding seems to be going well. • I am pleased with the folks in development and the work coming from DESC. DESC is a major impetus for what is happening now, and I am proud to work with you. • Keep your eyes on the State budget. There is a stalemate at the moment but there are good indications that will change in the near future. • The Governor in the upcoming budget is allocating a 2.5% increase in education funding, but we must ask for more, with most ARPA funding expiring in 2024. DESC is on the right track, with the right folks in place to move this work forward. 	



<p>IV. Interplay Learning Demonstration</p>	<p>Carla Phelps, Manager, Specialized Services presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level demonstration of a virtual reality software program being used in the Skilled Trades field, and other programs, to train in the skilled trades, allowing the participants to achieve certifications. • It has been going so well that the learning platform Interplay did a press release about their partnership with us. • One of our grantors, Midwest Urban Strategies, did a learning lab to demonstrate to other grantees the success we have had with this platform. • The MDA group is asking us to do another session with their grantees as well. • Ms. Phelps demonstrated the software and hardware, and showed how easy it is to navigate. • The package is currently being used with our Youth, Choices, JAG and YouthBuild programs. <p>Ms. Phelps and Stephanie Nixon fielded questions from the Committee members.</p>	
<p>V. DESC Reorganization Overview</p>	<p>Dana Williams presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented an overview of the continuation of the major strategic plans which consists of post-ARPA planning. • The plan consists of three parts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ People / personnel ○ Programs ○ Philanthropy • We have combined our two programs' teams; Stephanie Nixon has agreed to lead this large team. She is uniquely qualified to lead this team and we appreciate her leadership. • We are focusing on three primary areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Career Center Operations (Adult & Youth Centers, led by Madelyne Bernard-Diab) ○ Employer Engagement ○ Education & Training <p>Committee discussion ensued.</p> <p>Ms. Williams continued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are two other areas we are addressing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Signature Programs (focused on pilots, learning, special programs as needed, currently includes CHC & Jumpstart, led by Nneka Carter-Young) ○ Direct Services • Community Health Corp (CHC) has transitioned to the City of Detroit, as anticipated. It will have a new focus on the homeless population. We have been intentional with helping our staff transition, and the City is trying to hire as many of them as their 	

	<p>budgets will allow. We have also gotten our Career Centers to find them resources and new positions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will continue to think about how we work with high barrier groups. <p>Stephanie Nixon announced that the group be informed as part of the meeting record that the contract previously discussed with City Connect has been terminated.</p>	
VI. Public Comments	There was no public comment.	
VII. Adjournment	Ms. Thompson adjourned the meeting.	

DRAFT SUBMITTED BY:

Printed Name: Elizabeth Hennessey Title: Project Coordinator, Human Resources

Signature: /s/ E Hennessey Date: 4/01/2024

DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED: June 5, 2024 **Initials:** EH

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 @ 10:00 AM