



A Michigan Works! Agency

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MEETING:	DESC Corporation Board Special Session	DATE:	August 4, 2020
VIA ZOOM ATTENDEES:	DESC Board Members: Alice Thompson, Don O'Connell, Dannis Mitchell, Lena Barkley, Ric Preuss, Cal Sharp, Chris Uhl, Nicole Sherard-Freeman DESC Staff: Terri Weems, Stephanie Nixon, Michelle Rafferty, Sheilah Clay, Elizabeth Hennessey, John Allen	LOCATION:	Zoom Meeting / Conference Call
		CALLED TO ORDER:	10:32 am
ABSENT:	Excused: Mike Aaron, Toney Stewart, Maria Woodruff-Wright Unexcused: None	ADJOURNED:	11:20 am
FACILITATOR:	Cal Sharp, Interim Board Chair	DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:	08/25/2020

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION ITEM(S)
I. Welcome	<p>Cal Sharp, DESC Interim Board Chair, called the meeting to order.</p> <p>Terri Weems, DESC Interim President & CEO read the statement for Mr. Sharp regarding the need to have this meeting remotely in regard to the Governors Executive Order "Stay Home, Stay Safe" of March 2020.</p> <p>Mr. Sharp called for a motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Don O'Connell Seconded: Lena Barkley Motioned Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	
II. DESC Structure	<p>Terr Weems reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisited the structure of DESC in accordance with WIOA. • We have had small department group discussions to walk staff through how we are structured, and what our responsibilities are as the Fiscal Agent. <p>Board discussion ensued</p>	



<p>III. Board Correspondence</p>	<p>Cal Sharp reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An anonymous letter was sent to some of the DESC Board members, with reference to DESC's reporting structure. <p>Terri Weems continued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DESC's structure has recently been reviewed by legal counsel. There are no significant concerns DESC has and will continue to follow legal counsel and the Board's direction. We would like to do a staff survey, addressing staff satisfaction and engagement. <p>Board discussion ensued.</p> <p>Ric Preuss asked how many grievances have been filed over the last year at DESC?</p> <p>Terri Weems replied that over the whole system, including the Career Centers, there has been one grievance fled this year.</p>	
<p>IV. Strategy</p>	<p>Nicole Sherard-Freeman, Executive Director, Mayor's Workforce Development Board reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are drawing clear lines of distinction as to who is responsible for what tasks between DESC, the Mayors Workforce Development Board and Detroit at Work. The hard truth that has become apparent to us, the strategy work, the responsibility to the Workforce Development Board and the Mayor, the title of President is more helpful. The title is a better reflection of the responsibility in Finance, Operations, Metrics, Reporting Systems. The clarification makes clear that the role of President is not responsible for strategy. I would ask that Cal ask for a motion to change the wording of the bylaws to reflect this adjustment in the title from President & CEO to President. <p>Cal Sharp called for a motion to approve changes to the wording of DESC bylaws:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Chris Uhl Seconded: Ric Preuss Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	
<p>V. Board Selection Process</p>	<p>Cal Sharp reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have three options of how we go about appointing the new President to DESC. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We can do a formal search, which will take approximately three to six months ○ We can post the position on various job boards which can take half that time ○ We can appoint someone to the position, which will take a few weeks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I prefer to appoint the incumbent, Terri Weems. • I look for the agreement from the Board. <p>Board discussion ensued.</p> <p>John Allen, DESC Counsel, commented that it is a good idea to separate the questions of using an appointment to proceed, and then to approve the appointment of Terri Weems.</p> <p>Cal Sharp called for a motion to approve appointment of a candidate:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Dannis Mitchell Seconded: Ric Preuss Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	
<p>VI. Community Health Corps</p>	<p>Nicole Sherard-Freeman presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We want to address the most immediate issues effecting Detroiters, immediate safe housing, food insecurity, navigating Health and Human Services, etc. • Fundraising for this will rest solely with me and Conrad Mallett. • We have both funding and resources available through partnering, and the Mayor asked that we take this on under the long-term work of DAW. • Sheilah Clay will lead the program. <p>Sheilah Clay commented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We see this as an equity issue in the community, not being able to navigate the current poverty assistance system and allow citizens to move forward no matter the level of their challenges. <p>Board discussion ensued.</p>	
<p>VII. Public Comment</p>	<p>Cal Sharp asked for comments from the public:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no public comments 	
<p>VIII. Adjournment</p>	<p>Cal Sharp called for a motion to adjourn the meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Dannis Mitchell Seconded: Lena Barkley</p>	

	Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously	
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DRAFT SUBMITTED BY:

Printed Name: **Elizabeth Hennessey**

Title: Executive Assistant to the Interim President & CEO

Signature: /s/ E Hennessey

Date: 8/11/2020

DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED: 08/25/2020 **Initials:** EH

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 @ 9:45 AM
