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A Michigan Works! Agency

MEETING:	MWDB: Career & Education Advisory Council	DATE:	April 10, 2025
ATTENDEES:	MWDB CEAC members: Alycia Meriweather, Dana Hughes, Dr. CharMaine Hines, Diane Antishin, Ajay Parikh (virtual), Mark Gaffney, Terri Weems (virtual), Emily Thompson DESC Staff: Dana Williams, Lexus Lenton, Rachel May, Stephanie Nixon, Ericka Page, Dr. Joseph Bradfield, Lester Gayden, Carolyn Gonzalez-Bright, Philip Caldwell, Robert Shimkoski Remote: Krista McKinney-King, Kandy Kalbfleish Lazell, Kellee Miller	LOCATION:	DESC Corporate Offices 115 Erskine, 2 nd Fl Detroit, MI 48201
		CALLED TO ORDER:	1:05 p.m.
ABSENT:	Excused: None Unexcused: None	ADJOURNED:	2:03 p.m.
PUBLIC ATTENDEES:	None		
FACILITATOR:	Alycia Meriweather, Chairperson	DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:	July 31, 2025

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION ITEM(S)
I. Welcome & Introductions	Alycia Meriweather, Board Chair, called the meeting to order	
II. Agenda Approval / Minutes	<p>Ms. Meriweather asked for approval of the agenda for the April 10, 2025, and October 24, 2024, meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Mark Gaffney • Seconded: Dr. CharMaine Hines • Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously <p>Ms. Meriweather asked for approval of the Minutes for the July 18, 2024, and October 24, 2024, meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Mark Gaffney • Seconded: Dr. CharMaine Hines • Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously 	

III.	Opening Remarks	Ms. Meriweather welcomed everyone to the meeting	
IV.	Presentation: DAW Youth Strategy	<p>Ericka Page, Director Youth Program Services, presented a 3-tier strategy on how to create a service that connects Detroit youth to resources supporting their post-secondary goals.</p> <p>Included in this 3-tier approach are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensive Services: Expand year-round, comprehensive work readiness programs for youth needing significant support to become job ready. • Opportunity & Justice-Involved Youth: Develop targeted programs to help opportunity and justice-involved youth build skills, overcome barriers, and secure stable jobs. • Build a Unified System That Leverages Existing Resources: Use GDYT as an entry point to streamline connections across services, unifying them under the Detroit Youth at Work brand <p>Education Partners: Build partnerships with educational institutions to offer workshops, work experiences, career mentorship, and staff support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathways to Success: Launch school clubs and training programs using JAG and Year Up models to teach workforce skills and career planning. • Marketing and Outreach: Drive awareness and engagement in youth workforce development through targeted marketing, community outreach, and technology, including a DYAW app. <p>Some aspects of this work are already ongoing, while others are set to launch at various times throughout the next year.</p> <p>Council discussion ensued</p>	
V.	Discussion	<p>Ms. Meriweather discussed the recent Executive Order that calls for the closure of the U.S. Department of Education. While only Congress can formally shut down the Department, the order signals a major shift in federal education policy.</p> <p>Key Concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of Essential Programs: Pell Grants, career and technical education (CTE), adult education, and services for individuals with disabilities would be at risk. • Civil Rights Enforcement: The Department plays a critical role in ensuring equal access to education for all students, including those with disabilities. • Burden on States: Transferring education responsibilities to states could overwhelm agencies that lack the funding and capacity to manage them. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weakened Oversight: Moving programs to less-equipped federal agencies may disrupt services and reduce accountability, especially for working families and small businesses. <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track Congressional actions • Collaborate with partners for advocacy and outreach • Develop public-facing materials to raise awareness <p>Council discussion ensued</p>	
VI. Public Comment	None	
VII. Adjournment	Ms. Meriweather adjourned the meeting	

DRAFT SUBMITTED BY:

Printed Name: Lexus Lenton Title: Executive Assistant

Signature: /s/ Lexus Lenton Date: 4/14/2025

DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED: July 31, 2025 **Initials:** LL

NEXT MEETING: July 31, 2025