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MEETING:	**DESC Audit & Finance Committee Meeting**	**DATE:**	**August 10, 2026**
ATTENDEES:	**DESC Committee Members:** Chris Uhl, Alice Thompson, Mark Redman, **DESC Staff:** Terri Weems Stephanie, Rachel May, Taylor Smith, Sam Talbot, Lexus Lenton, Ira Thompson II, Angela Smith, Lynnette Robinson, Maleece Barry, Geraldine Mann, Shiela Johnson, Talitha Johnson, Calethia Binion, Tara Lucas, Cassandra Ricks, Carmen Bender, Stephan Jones (remote), Rochelle Buford (remote), Crystal Perry (remote), Stephanie Pettaway (remote)	**LOCATION:**	DESC HQ 115 Erskine, 2nd Fl Detroit, MI 48201
		CALLED TO ORDER:	`10:07 a.m.
ABSENT:	**Excused:** Ric Preuss, Gail Taylor **Unexcused:** None	**ADJOURNED:**	10:37 a.m.
GUESTS & PUBLIC ATTENDEES:	None		
FACILITATOR:	Chris Uhl, Committee Chair	**DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED**	October 26, 2026

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION ITEM(S)
I. Welcome & Introductions	**Chris Uhl, DESC Board Treasurer and Audit & Finance Committee Chair**, called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.	**ACTION:** August 10, 2026 Agenda and June 8, 2026 Minutes will be approved at the next meeting due to lack of quorum
II. Chairperson's Report	**Mr. Uhl, DESC Board Treasurer and Audit & Finance Committee Chair:** Mr. Uhl began his report noting a startling figure that 41% of construction workers are due to retire by 2031, reinforcing the construction sector as an area of focus for DESC. He provided a DESC Finance Staffing Update:	

	• Mr. Uhl announced DESC's new Chief Financial Officer **Ira Thompson II** who rounds out the team of **Geraldine Mann,** Budget Director and **Maleece Barry,** Fiscal Planning & Analysis Manager. • Rehmann relieved of finance support. On hand to assist with the audit and transition support on an as-needed basis through the audit period. Mr. Uhl continued with an update on the DESC Audit with Plante Moran. • The audit is currently underway • Draft report expected Mid-October • Committee approval needed of final audit • Audit cost previously requested by the committee is reported as $90K Mr. Uhl closed his report with a review of the proposed Audit & Finance Committee meeting dates for 2027, which will go in front of the board on August 24 for approval.	

III. Finance Report	**Ira Thompson II, DESC** presented preliminary financial data, highlighting cash flow positivity and adjustments to the deficit projection.
	
	• **Preliminary June 2026 State of Financial Position**
	  • Positive cash movement
	  • Stabilization expected by Oct./Nov. timeframe
	
	• **Statement of Activities**
	
	• **Cashflow Projection**
	  • Remains cashflow positive
	  • Managing a large payable due in the fall
	
	• **Closing the Gap Updates**
	  • Total unrestricted deficit remains unchanged as reported in June
	  • Additional opportunities remain to close the gap
	  • Funder conversations underway
	
	• **Finance Department Improvements**
	  • Improving how it handles receivables
	  • Adjusting data
	  • Building new & different processes
	
	• **Audit Update**
	  • Audit going well	

	• Team providing timely responses to audit requests	

IV. President's Report	**Terri Weems, Interim President, DESC** outlined the mayor's workforce strategy, emphasizing the need to address job retention, wage growth, and barriers like the benefits cliff. Ms. Weems also discussed changes to the career center footprint, aiming to reduce costs while expanding access through flex centers.
	
	Ms. Weems opened her report with an update on the Rise Higher: Workforce Strategy.
	• Working with Mayor Sheffield to develop Rise Higher Workforce Strategy. Focusing on:
	  • Poverty Elimination
	  • More wraparound supports
	  • Employer-led initiatives
	  Budget amendment request likely to come in October
	
	She continued with an update on the Career Center Footprint noting where we are currently and the cost-saving changes we expect to see October 1, 2026.
	
	Currently operating 7 Detroit at Work Career Centers, 7 Detroit at Work Flex Centers and 1 Innovation Center.
	
	The Detroit at Work Career Centers are brick and mortar locations, the flex centers are pop up locations inside of libraries, family centers, etc., the innovation center is located inside WCCCD and serves as a jobs hub for students.
	
	While some brick-and-mortar locations may close, the footprint will expand by allowing Detroit at Work to serve residents at more flex center locations across the city.	

V. Public Comments	**Mr. Uhl called for public comments:** None	
VI. Adjournment	**Mr. Uhl adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.**	

DRAFT SUBMITTED BY:

Printed Name: Rachel May **Title:** Senior Executive Assistant

Date: 8/10/2026

DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED: **10/26/2026** **Initials: RMM**

NEXT MEETING: August 10, 2026