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A Michigan Works! Agency

MEETING:	DESC Corporate Board Meeting	DATE:	December 2, 2024
ATTENDEES:	DESC Corporate Board Members: Terri Weems, Chris Uhl, Rian English Barnhill, Maria Woodruff-Wright, Alice Thompson, John Perkins, Gail Taylor, Matt Closs, Ric Preuss, Lena Barkley, Dannis Mitchell DESC Staff: Dana Williams, Sara Azu, Traci Sassak, Robert Shimkoski, Kevin Naud, Todd Drysdale, Carmen Bender, Stephanie Nixon, Rachel May, Elizabeth Hennessey, Sheila Johnson, Madelyne Bernard-Diab	LOCATION:	DESC Corporate Offices
		CALLED TO ORDER:	11:47 a.m.
ABSENT:	Excused: Unexcused: None	ADJOURNED:	1:30 p.m.
PUBLIC ATTENDEES:	Bill Tucker		
FACILITATOR:	Alice Thompson, Board Chairperson	DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:	February 24, 2025

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION ITEM(S)
I. Welcome & Introductions	<p>Alice Thompson, Board Chairperson, called the meeting to order.</p> <p>Ms. Thompson called for a motion to approve the agenda for the December 2, 2024 meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Terri Weems Seconded: Ric Preuss Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p> <p>Ms. Thompson called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the August 26, 2024 meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Lena Barkley Seconded: Rian English Barnhill Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	
II. Board Chair Report	<p>Alice Thompson, Board Chairperson relayed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted challenges ahead of us with changes in administration Great mayor who provides great wisdom 	



<p>III. MWDB Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We're poised to face any uncertainty with great optimism <p>Terri Weems, Group Executive, Workforce Development & Detroit at Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor announced he will not be seeking another term • More uncertainty as we roll into the next year • DAW will continue to be a part of any administration's strategy • Reauthorization of WIOA pending • Fundraising focus for 2025 as ARPA funding sunsets • Focus on unemployment numbers, layoff strategy <p>Questions and comments from board members ensued</p>	
<p>IV. President's Report</p>	<p>Dana Williams, DESC President presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board member acknowledgement to departing member Maria Woodruff-Wright • The required operating cost requirement by the city is approved for the lease at Northwest Activities Center • MiCareer Quest, statewide effort inspiring the next generation of workers, highlighting students that attended from JMG Pershing High and JMG Osborn High • Detroit Regional Chamber 2024 State of Education and Talent: Perception challenges around higher education are increasing employee talent challenges; A high number of students are not earning degrees; Adult education is essential to reaching the 60% by 2030 goal; Progress toward 60% by 2030 post-high school educational attainment continues <p>Question and comments from board members ensued</p>	
<p>V. Audit & Finance Update</p>	<p>Chris Uhl, Committee Treasurer</p> <p>Financial & Single Audit Results presented by Bill Tucker, Principal Maner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Tucker gave an overview of the recent audit, citing this was the first year of conducting the audit for DESC and noted it went tremendously well for the first year. • The purpose of an audit is to provide an opinion as to the fair presentation of the financial statements in court principles. • Very good financial statements and clean in their opinion. <p>Questions and comments from board members ensued</p> <p>Mr. Uhl called for a motion to approve the audit report:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Chris Uhl Seconded: Ric Preuss Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	

	<p>Finance Update presented by Traci Sassak, CFO, DESC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 2024 Balance Sheet, operating costs and deferred revenue and variance explanation • September 2024 Income Statement, revenues and expenditures overview and variance explanation • FY2024/2025 Budget Updates, highlight of new funding items and revised funding <p>Internal Audit & Compliance Update presented by Sara Azu, Chief Administration Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently in the middle of fiscal monitoring with Gaffney & Associates • Programmatic Monitoring, planning underway • Single Audit Tracker, annual updates in progress • External Compliance Reviews • Internal Audits, Segregation of Duties, Annual Policy Signoff, Review of DESC Equipment 	
<p>VI. Program Services Committee Update</p>	<p>Ms. Thompson introduced Stephanie Nixon, DESC Chief Programs Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARPA Funded Programs Review • Highlight of ARPA Programs including Skills for Life, Learn to Earn, JumpStart, Grow Detroit's Young Talent and Detroit at Work Training • Achievements to date 8,324 includes skills gain, GED, Job Training, Credentials and Employment. • Grow Detroit's Young Talent Review • 8,534 Youth placed in summer experiences, 820 industry led training and pre-apprenticeships, 4,834 community-based partners & customed experiences, 1,953 affiliate partner work experiences, 418 employer placements, 618 junior police & fire cadets <p>Questions and comments from board members ensued.</p>	
<p>VII. Public Comments</p>	<p>There were no public comments</p>	
<p>VIII. Adjournment</p>	<p>Ms. Thompson called for a Motion to Adjourn the meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Ric Preuss Seconded: Terri Weems Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	

DRAFT SUBMITTED BY:

Printed Name: Rachel May _____

Title: Executive Assistant to the President _____

Signature: /s/ Rachel May _____

Date: 12/10/2024



DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED: February 24, 2025

Initials: RMM

NEXT MEETING: February 24, 2025 @ 1:45 PM