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A Michigan Works! Agency

MEETING:	DESC Corporate Board Meeting	DATE:	April 28, 2025
ATTENDEES:	DESC Corporate Board Members: Alice Thompson, John Perkins, Matthew Closs, Gail Taylor, Lena Barkley, Rian English Barnhill Remote: Kevin Naud, Joe Bradfield, Sara Azu, Terri Weems, DESC Staff: Dana Williams, Robert Shimkoski, Madalyne Bernard-Diab, Stephanie Nixon, Carmen Bender, Rachel May, Elizabeth Hennessey	LOCATION:	DESC Corporate Offices
		CALLED TO ORDER:	1:55 pm
ABSENT:	Excused: Chris Uhl, Dannis Mitchell Unexcused: None	ADJOURNED:	2:24 pm
PUBLIC ATTENDEES:	None		
FACILITATOR:	Alice Thompson, Board Chairperson	DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:	

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 April 28, 2025 meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Motion: Matt Closs Seconded: John Perkins Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously </p> <p>Ms. Thompson called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the February 24, 2024 meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Motion: Lena Barkley Seconded: John Perkins Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously </p>	
II. Board Chair Report	<p>Alice Thompson, Board Chairperson relayed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Thompson opened her report acknowledging the recent executive orders that would lead to cuts in education funding and how that directly impacts the work of 	

	DESC. She noted the importance of the upcoming elections for Detroit's Mayor and Michigan's Governor emphasizing that elections have consequences.	
III. President's Report	<p>Ms. Thompson turned the meeting over to Dana Williams, DESC President, who reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Williams opened her report announcing the upcoming launch of the Detroit Youth at Work website, acknowledging DESC's focus on youth. The website will help assist young jobseekers create a career pathway. She continued with a look at DESC's fundraising focus which aims to fund three key areas: Skilling (career readiness, foundational skills, occupational skills); Youth (intensive services, career exploration, outreach & awareness); Retention (support services, service flexibility, special populations.) Ms. Williams echoed Ms. Thompson's sentiment with an update on the Legislative Landscape noting that the team is working daily to monitor the movement and prepare for how these changes may affect DESC. <p>Board discussion ensued.</p>	Invite the Board to the staff Town Halls.
IV. Audit & Finance Committee Update	<p>Dana Williams, DESC President, provided the Audit & Finance Committee Update in Chris Uhl's absence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Williams provided an update from the March Audit & Finance Committee Meeting with a look at the diverse funding sources for DESC, highlighting the spike in FY 23-25 with ARPA funds. She noted that a post-ARPA plan is in place as that funding sunsets at the end of June. She continued by noting the estimated budget for FY 25/26 and how the budget will be spent between categories such as Training, Innovative Programming, Youth Services, Grow Detroit's Young Talent, Administrative & Operating Costs, Career Center Operating, Case Management & Supportive Services. She closed by highlighting two key topics covered at the March meeting including a new healthcare model introduced for DESC staff and an update on compliance and monitoring. <p>Board discussion ensued.</p>	
V. Public Comments	There were no public comments	
VI. Adjournment	<p>Ms. Thompson called for a Motion to Adjourn the meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Motion: Rian English Barnhill Seconded: Lena Barkley Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously </p>	

DRAFT SUBMITTED BY:

Printed Name: Rachel May

Title: Executive Assistant to the President

Signature: /s/ Rachel May

Date: 5/2/2025

DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED: _____ **Initials:** _____

NEXT MEETING: Monday, June 23, 2025 @ 1:45 PM