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A Michigan Works! Agency

MEETING:	DESC Corporate Board Meeting	DATE:	June 23, 2025
ATTENDEES:	DESC Corporate Board Members: Matt Closs, John Perkins, Alice Thompson, Lena Barkley, Ric Preuss, Terri Weems, Rian English Barnhill DESC Staff: Dana Williams, Carmen Bender, Madelyne Bernard-Diab, Lucia Seed, Darilyn Draper, Phillip Caldwell Remote: Chris Uhl, Trudy Matthews, Kafi Howard, Veronica Sanchez, Sheila Johnson, Anthony Davis, Kevin Naud	LOCATION:	DESC Corporate Offices
		CALLED TO ORDER:	1:55 pm
ABSENT:	Excused: Dannis Mitchell, Gail Taylor Unexcused: None	ADJOURNED:	2:56 pm
PUBLIC ATTENDEES:	Paul Gesher, Karen LeGendre, Michelle Hodges, Hector Hernandez		
FACILITATOR:	Alice Thompson, Board Chairperson	DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:	August 25, 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 June 23, 2025 meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Motion: Ric Preuss Seconded: Lena Barkley Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously </p> <p>Ms. Thompson called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the April 28, 2025 meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Motion: Lena Barkley Seconded: Matt Closs Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously </p>	

II. Board Chair Report	Alice Thompson, Board Chairperson reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A very comprehensive ARPA Programs Report was given at the Mayor's Workforce Development Board Meeting with program highlights for Skills for Life, Learn to Earn, Jumpstart and GDYT which noted performance metric goals that were achieved and exceeded. 	
III. Mayor's Workforce Development Board Report Update	Terri Weems, Group Executive Workforce & Detroit at Work, City of Detroit, reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Detroit Resident Employment report notes an improvement over the previous month at 239,092. An update on the Detroit Resident Employment Report noting that the Bureau of Labor Statistics have changed their methodology and have revised the unemployment numbers, going back several years, noting an improvement overall with the new numbers as compared to previous reporting from BLS. She highlighted Detroit's unemployment rate as compared to the state noting our rate is about 3 points higher than the state, a significant improvement from 2014 when we were 10 points higher. Highlights from the Mackinac Policy Conference noting this year's heavy focus on education and a recognition for Mayor Duggan for his transformational leadership and contributions over the last decade to the residents and businesses in the city of Detroit. An update on the legislative landscape, noting a new bill for workforce legislation Making America Skilled Again (MASA) and WIOA funding Highlights from the State Barriers Committee noting work being done with traditional barriers and career navigation A review of the Mayor's Workforce Development Board Goals <p>Board discussion ensued.</p>	
IV. President's Report	Dana Williams, DESC President, reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An acknowledgement for the board chair, Ms. Alice Thompson, who will be honored at the upcoming 70th annual NAACP Detroit Brand Freedom Fund Dinner as an Ida B. Wells Freedom and Justice Awardee A high-level overview of DESC's Strategy Work looking at where we are currently and where we're headed. A look at the strategy structure highlighting goals, objectives and projects & tasks. DESC Next planning noting work underway now with legislation monitoring, strategic planning, ARPA Program Closeouts, Financial Scenario Planning and Service Delivery Model & Management, and provided a look at what's next including System Partnership Mapping, System Communications, Revenue Generating Models and Fundraising and Development. <p>Board discussion ensued.</p>	<p>Invite the Board to the staff Town Halls.</p>

<p>V. Program Services Committee Update</p>	<p>Stephanie Nixon, Chief Program Services Officer, reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed updates for career centers including an Intensive Services Team, Centralized Barrier Removal Services, Weekly Career Coaching Schedules, 2-Week Work Readiness Workshops, Virtual Realty Career Exploration Workshops, among others. <p>Board discussion ensued.</p> <p>Madelyne Bernard-Diab, Executive Director Career Center Services, reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of the current career center footprint, grouping customer density across all 9 centers by small, medium and large capacity. Looking at innovation and how we conduct outreach in our community. Reviewing our physical footprint and reviewing how we best reach our customers, which may be partnerships with non-profits across the city, expanding virtual services, etc. Working to create efficiency as much as possible. Two Career Center partners with concerns: Equus/Gesher at the Collingwood location has issues with contracts, has had corrective actions and is under a performance review to determine the best way forward; Southwest Economic Solutions (SWES) on Bagley. A smaller location that's been on performance improvement plans consistently. Recommending we not renew the contract for next year or not for the full year. <p>Board discussion ensued.</p>	
<p>VI. Audit & Finance Committee Update</p>	<p>Karen LeGendre, CPA, Rehmann, reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance Consulting Group Rehmann has worked with DESC this year to identify high-level focus areas including FY26 budget, cost allocation process, grant compliance and staffing structure and have identified pain points and worked to resolve those. <p>Dana Williams, DESC President, reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding Sources Overview includes a look at funding sources by year. Returning to normal funding levels with ARPA funding sunseting this year. FY 2025/2026 Budget Estimate is \$67.5M parsed into 7 categories: Innovative Programming; Training; Administrative Facilities & Operating; Youth Services; Supportive Services; GDYT; Career Center Operating, Case Management & Supportive Services; Training. FY 2025/2026 Proposed Corporate Budget highlighting current year against previous year, noting variances across categories. FY 2025/2026 Budget Narrative Executive Summary with a focus on the strategies, as defined by the Mayor's Workforce Development Board, aimed at increasing skills and employment and improving financial stability among Detroiters. Audit & Finance Committee approved the budget at the June meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide balance sheet to Audit & Finance Committee at August Meeting Ensure Audit & Finance Committee receive reports in a manner that is prudent for their review.

	<p>Board discussion ensued.</p> <p>Ms. Thompson called for a motion to approve the FY 2025/2026 Budget:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Ric Preuss Seconded: Rian English Barnhill Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously*</p> <p>*with caveats forthcoming at August meeting: Amended FY2025/2026 Budget; Scenario Planning</p>	
VII. Public Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hector Hernandez, MiSide (SWES) 	
VIII. Adjournment	<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: 6/27/2025

DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED: 8/25/2025 **Initials:** RMM

NEXT MEETING: Monday, August 25, 2025 @ 1:45 PM