



A Michigan Works! Agency

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MEETING:	DESC Corporate Board Meeting	DATE:	November 17, 2025
ATTENDEES:	DESC Corporate Board Members: Alice Thompson, Chris Uhl, Lena Barkley, Dannis Mitchell, Ric Preuss, Terri Weems, Rian English Barnhill, John Perkins, Gail Taylor	LOCATION:	DESC Corporate Offices
	DESC Staff: Darilyn Draper, Robert Shimkoski, Rachel May, Dana Williams, Madelyne Bernard-Diab, Sheila Johnson, Lynnette Robinson, Tara Lukas, Kevin Naud, Cassandra Ricks (remote), Angela Smith, Anthony Davis, Talitha Johnson, Lucia Seed (remote), Carmen Bender (remote), Herman Parry (remote)	CALLED TO ORDER:	1:40 pm
ABSENT:	Excused: None Unexcused: None	ADJOURNED:	2:59 p.m.
PUBLIC ATTENDEES:	Karen LeGendre, Michelle Hodges, Bill Tucker, Steven Reinhold (remote), Kafi Howard (remote)		
FACILITATOR:	Alice Thompson, Board Chairperson	DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:	March 2, 2026

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 November 17, 2025, meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Terri Weems Seconded: Rian English Barnhill Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p> <p>Ms. Thompson called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the August 25, 2025, meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Chris Uhl Seconded: Lena Barkley Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	



<p>II. Board Chair Report</p>	<p>Alice Thompson, Board Chairperson reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DESC Recognition: John Perkins, Dave Bing Young Leader Award at the Detroit Free Press' 18th Annual Shining Light Awards, highlighting leaders that work across boundaries to foster community and understanding in southeast Michigan. <p>Ms. Thompson called for a motion to approve the 2026 meeting dates for the DESC Board and its committees:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Terri Weems Seconded: Lena Barkley Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bylaws Update: No changes currently. Encouraged all board members to review bylaws. Bylaws state: “To carry out Detroit Workforce area strategic plan and the goals and objectives of the local workforce development of Detroit.” It’s important to note that we don’t do strategy, we carry it out. We must understand our relationship to the Workforce Development Board. The bylaws govern our behavior as board members. 	<p>Action item: Include copy of bylaws with meeting follow up documents</p>
<p>III. Mayor’s Workforce Development Board Report Update</p>	<p>Terri Weems, Group Executive Workforce & Detroit at Work, City of Detroit, reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment Data: Suspended due to the government shutdown. As of August, the unemployment rate had gone down. • Mayoral update: Historic change in city administration with the first female mayor in Detroit’s history, Mayor-Elect Mary Sheffield. Transition team in place to assist with planning the mayor-elect’s first 100 days. Ms. Weems met with mayor-elect Sheffield to talk about her priorities which include workforce and education. • State Barriers Committee Update: Ms. Weems is the chair of the state barriers committee. A mobility committee has been formed to work on a transportation playbook. 	
<p>IV. President’s Report</p>	<p>Dana Williams, DESC President, reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative Update: We are out of the government shutdown. We continue to wait for the reauthorization of WIOA and confirmation of Fiscal Year 2026 funds. • Metrics & Dashboards: We have developed system KPIs, and programmatic and operational dashboards for the organization to monitor itself accordingly. 	
<p>V. Program Services Committee Update</p>	<p>Alice Thompson, Board & Committee Chair, reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow Detroit’s Young Talent 2025 Placements: 8,054 placed in summer experiences, 495 Industry-led training and pre-apprenticeships, 4,100 community-based partners & customized experiences, 354 employer-hosted placements, 250 junior police & fire cadets, and 2,855 affiliate partner work experiences. • Adult Career Center Services Objective: To innovate the system for the next generation of jobseekers and employers, prioritizing quality, maximizing resources, and ensuring flexibility adaptable to changing legislation and unknown regulations. 	<p>Action item: Notice of confirmation of funding for WIOA Adult/Dislocated Worker and Youth to board by end of November</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career Center Footprint next steps: We moved from 9 career centers down to 8, sunsetting the Southwest Economics Solutions location. All customers there were referred to other career centers of ours or 3 new community locations (libraries, community center). Further updates include moving the W. McNichols location to a PATH-only location and addressing performance concerns at the Collingwood location, reducing it from two partners to one. • Youth Services: Highlighted upcoming youth services RFPs including Year-Round Youth Services RFP to be released during Q1 2026, Key WIOA Youth Program Elements to be identified as stand-alone services for bidders to propose as a single offering in their application <p>Board discussion ensued.</p>	
<p>VI. Audit & Finance Committee Update</p>	<p>Chris Uhl, Audit & Finance committee chair reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of approved policies from prior Audit & Finance Committee Meeting including Debt Collection, Accounts Payable and Attendance & Timekeeping • Internal Audit & Compliance review. More detail planned for next meeting <p>Bill Tucker, CPA, Principal, Director, Maner Costerisan reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY2025 Audit Report • Provided an overview of the audit, including the auditor’s report, management’s discussion and analysis, and basic financial statements including general fund balance sheet, snapshots of assets, liabilities and fund balance as of June 30, 2025. • No deficiencies and no material weakness identified. • Explained differences in the net asset reporting in the FY24 audit and beginning balance for FY25. Described a last-minute change to the draft audit results the board received in advance of the meeting, resulting from the firm’s initial and incorrect interpretation of DESC’s revenue recognition policy. <p>Significant committee discussion ensued asking questions of Mr. Tucker.</p> <p>Ms. Thompson called for a motion to approve the FY2025 Audit as presented:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Chris Uhl Seconded: Lena Barkley Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	<p>Ric Preuss did not move to approve the audit as presented</p> <p>Action Item: Form smaller workgroup with members of A&F and Board to determine financial resolution</p> <p>Action item: Talk through contract report at all board meetings.</p>

	<p>Dana Williams, DESC President and Karen LeGendre PSS Senior Manager, Rehmann reported:</p> <p>Finance Report Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Williams provided a summary of recent financial journey, highlighting the complexities of managing the ARPA programs, vacancies in financial leadership, deep-dive analysis of signature programs and major grants. Ms. LeGendre identified the net deficit detail and plan to close the gap. <p>Committee discussion ensued.</p>	
VII. Public Comments	There were no public comments	
VIII. Adjournment	<p>Ms. Thompson called for a Motion to Adjourn the meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Ric Preuss Seconded: Dannis Mitchell Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	

DRAFT SUBMITTED BY:

Printed Name: Rachel May Title: Executive Assistant to the President

Signature: /s/ Rachel May Date: 11/20/2025

DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED: 03/02/2026 **Initials:** RMM

NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 2, 2026 @ 2 PM