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A Michigan Works! Agency

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>DESC Corporate Board Meeting</b>	<b>DATE:</b>	<b>February 24, 2025</b>
<b>ATTENDEES:</b>	<b>DESC Corporate Board Members:</b> Alice Thompson, John Perkins Matthew Closs, Chris Uhl, Ric Preuss, Gail Taylor, Lena Barkley, Dannis Mitchell, Terri Weems, Rian English-Barnhill <b>DESC Staff:</b> Dana Williams, Robert Shimkoski, Madalyne Bernard-Diab, Stephanie Nixon, Darilyn Draper, Rachel May, Elizabeth Hennessey	<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>DESC Corporate Offices</b>
		<b>CALLED TO ORDER:</b>	<b>1:47 pm</b>
<b>ABSENT:</b>	<b>Excused:</b> None <b>Unexcused:</b> None	<b>ADJOURNED:</b>	<b>2:56 pm</b>
<b>PUBLIC ATTENDEES:</b>	Paul Blatt		
<b>FACILITATOR:</b>	Alice Thompson, Board Chairperson	<b>DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:</b>	<b>April 28, 2025</b>

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 February 24, 2025 meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Motion:</b> Ric Preuss <b>Seconded:</b> Chris Uhl <b>Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</b></p> <p>Ms. Thompson called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the December 2, 2024 meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Motion:</b> Ric Preuss <b>Seconded:</b> Lena Barkley <b>Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</b></p>	
II. Board Chair Report	<p>Alice Thompson, Board Chairperson relayed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There was an excellent Board Orientation meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup> that was done for the new Board members. So many areas were covered, and my knowledge was refreshed in areas of this Board's governance, it was a truly informative session, and I am recommending that the presentation that was used be sent out to the entire Board membership.</li> </ul>	Send the Board Orientation packet to the whole Board membership.

<p><b>III. MWDB Update</b></p>	<p><b>Ms. Thompson introduced Terri Weems Group Executive, Workforce Development &amp; Detroit at Work:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are keeping an eye on the unemployment rate. As we started with the new “One Detroit” strategy, we are looking at pre-pandemic numbers. We are currently facing staff reduction by our manufacturing partners the auto companies in particular. We are working on developing an unemployment strategy, as well as an employment strategy. We are planning to have discussions with auto manufacturers around where layoffs are an anticipated and they have agreed to allow us to come in earlier and partner with other Michigan Works! Agencies. Currently the manufacturers are located outside Detroit and so the local MWA! is called in to help, but we know that Detroiters are employed outside Detroit at these manufacturers and so being able to reach those people will be greatly helpful to moving into an unemployment strategy.</li> <li>• We are focused on our talent pipeline strategy as well. We look at Bureau of Labor Statistics to assess what our target industries and occupations will be. We will be revisiting our relationship to retail industries. We are reconsidering energy and non-traditional occupations. It’s becoming clear that there is more need to look to skill sets versus industries and fields where people put use their acquired skills to enter new industries.</li> <li>• Ms. Weems is now the chair for the State Barriers Committee. They are discussing areas where they are homing in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pilots for barriers</li> <li>○ Career coaching models</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Board discussion ensued.</p>	
<p><b>IV. President’s Report</b></p>	<p><b>Ms. Thompson turned the meeting over to Dana Williams, DESC President, who reported:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are currently keeping an eye on two of the recent Executive Orders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ birthright citizenship and immigration</li> <li>○ WIOA - We are anticipating some news on WIOA given a March 15<sup>th</sup> deadline, although we are not sure what this will entail.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• We are hopeful on the Department of Labor nominee and will be watching the confirmation process.</li> <li>• In conjunction with our legal counsel, we have developed a checklist of developments that we will need to move on if changes come.</li> <li>• We are preparing for the next fiscal period budget. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We have retained the services of Rehmann Group to assist in the process and advise on the Finance department and ideal state there.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• We encountered a technical challenge with our ability to send texts through our Vonage system. It caused us to review our system and utilize our resources better moving forward.</li> <li>• With everything happening in the world now, we want to keep an eye on what our employees are experiencing and thinking. We have team meetings, and I lead Town Halls for our staff where we talk through operational, and programs changes and</li> </ul>	<p>Invite the Board to the staff Town Halls.</p>

	<p>updates. You as our Board may have interest in attending these meetings to get a view into them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a tool, we have been surveying our staff, most recently in August we sent staff a Gallup Q12 poll, which showed that even in these times, we only dropped .9% in respondents from the previous year. More recently we did a Pulse survey, which resulted in requests for more communication, and interest in leadership opportunities, and moral and team building.</li> </ul> <p>Board discussion ensued.</p>	
<p><b>V. Program Services Committee Update</b></p>	<p><b>Ms. Thompson commented positively on the recent Program Services Committee meeting and introduced Stephanie Nixon CPSO, DESC to elaborate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Nixon gave a high level overview of a new grant in which we are participating. Growth Opportunities (GO) grants prepare justice-involved youth and young adults for the world of work through education and training, paid work experiences, mentorship, and leadership development.</li> <li>The GO program simultaneously addresses multiple core issues important to youth and young adults in low-income communities. These issues include mentorship, conflict resolution, leadership development, education, and employment opportunities in in-demand industries, with a focus on paid work experiences during program enrollment. DESC supplements the salary to limit the liability of the employers. They are then given the opportunity for training and long term employment opportunity.</li> <li>We met or exceeded all goals with the exception of employment placement, but that is an ongoing exercise, and we expect to meet it.</li> <li>Ms. Nixon relayed the story of a young woman named Alexis, a young single mother of 4 children. Rental support was provided to her and her family, she successfully completed training with MicroWorks and eventually received a job with Centria Healthcare and recently was approved to purchase her own home.</li> <li>Go participants in follow-up/retention will continue to receive support until 12/2025.</li> </ul> <p>Board discussion ensued.</p> <p><b>Ms. Thompson introduced Madilyne Bernard-Diab, Executive Director, Career Center Systems to talk about PATH:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Diab-Bernard began by stating that PATH is one of largest state funding sources beside WIOA.</li> <li>PATH is an acronym for Partnership Accountability Training and Hope.</li> <li>The PATH program features a 10-day application eligibility period (AEP) during which local Michigan Works! offices assess, evaluate, and prepare applicants to attain employment, meet federal work participation requirements, and work towards self-sufficiency.</li> <li>Designed to assist Michigan families who are receiving limited cash assistance through Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Referral based and can include a single parent or two-parent families with dependent children.</li> <li>• Resources provided include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1:1 Career Coaching</li> <li>○ Occupational Training</li> <li>○ Barrier Removal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Vehicle purchase &amp; insurance</li> <li>▪ Work uniforms</li> <li>▪ Clothing</li> <li>▪ Internet services</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• DESC has a 56% participant rate statewide and have met or exceeded Work Participant Rates since she has been with us.</li> </ul> <p>Board discussion ensued.</p>	
<b>VI. Public Comments</b>	<b>There were no public comments</b>	
<b>VII. Adjournment</b>	<b>Ms. Thompson called for a Motion to Adjourn the meeting:</b>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Motion:</b> Terri Weems  <b>Seconded:</b> Ric Preuss  <b>Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</b></p>	

**DRAFT SUBMITTED BY:**

Printed Name: E. Hennessey Title: Special Projects Administrator

Signature: /s/ Elizabeth Hennessey Date: 03/13/2025

**DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:** April 28, 2025 **Initials:** EH

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, April 28, 2025 @ 1:45 PM