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A Michigan Works! Agency

MEETING:	**DESC Executive Committee Meeting**	**DATE:**	**August 24, 2026**
ATTENDEES:	**DESC Executive Committee Members:** Brittney Hoszkiw, Lena Barkley, Dannis Mitchell, Alice Thompson **DESC Staff:** Ira Thompson II, Stephanie Nixon, Terri Weems, Carmen Bender, Kevin Naud, Robert Shimkoski, Calethia Binion, Rachel May	**LOCATION:** **CALLED TO ORDER:**	**DESC Corporate Offices** **1:08 p.m.**
ABSENT:	**Excused:** Chris Uhl **Unexcused:**	**ADJOURNED:**	**1:46 p.m.**
PUBLIC ATTENDEES:	Autumn Jackson-Hines, Sam Talbot, Taylor Smith		
FACILITATOR:	Alice Thompson, Board Chairperson	**DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:**	**November 16, 2026**

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION ITEM(S)
I. Welcome & Introductions	Alice Thompson, Board Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.	
II. Approval Agenda/Minutes	Ms. Thompson called for a motion to approve the agenda for the August 24, 2026, meeting: **Motion:** Lena Barkley **Supported**: Dannis Mitchell **Motion Carried – Unanimously** Ms. Thompson called for a motion to approve the minutes for the May 11, 2026, meeting: **Motion**: Dannis Mitchell **Supported:** Lena Barkley **Motion Carried – Unanimously**	
III. Board Chair Report	**Alice Thompson, Board Chairperson reported:** **Board Composition & Succession Planning:** The committee moved to appoint DESC Board chairs including a change to member Dannis Mitchell as chair of the Program Services Committee. All remaining chair positions are unchanged.	

	Ms. Thompson called for a motion to approve all committee chairs including Dannis Mitchell as the chairperson for the Program Services Committee, effective immediately: **Motion**: Brittney Hoszkiw **Supported:** Lena Barkley **Motion Carried – Unanimously** **President Succession Planning:** The committee moved to approve a leadership succession plan noting Stephanie Nixon, Ira Thompson II and Calethia Binion as proposed successors in that order. This is in case something occurs with the President. Also proposed to review this annually. Ms. Thompson called for a motion to approve the proposed succession plan as presented. **Motion**: Brittney Hoszkiw **Supported:** Lena Barkley **Motion Carried – Unanimously** Ms. Thompson commented further that the board has appreciated the work Ms. Weems has done since being appointed Interim President. There is a high level of comfort and confidence and transparency in Ms. Weems.	**ACTION ITEM**: Review Succession planning for DESC chair positions and DESC Leadership plan annually.
IV. President's Report	**Ms. Weems, Interim President, reported:** **Interim President Update:** Ms. Weems provided an update on the progress of DESC, noting a few key highlights including the following: • More employer-driven training models • Grow Detroit's Young Talent: Closed the funding gap, places over 8,000, added 2-week career readiness, targeted outreach to youth over 18. • Increased fiduciary services • Realigned CEAC work with broader workforce strategy • PATH plan to support poverty elimination • Finance & Operations: Continued deficit reduction efforts, key finance roles filled, regular and timely updates provided to committee, Improved subrecipient contracting processes • Reshaping our Service Footprint: reducing administrative costs while broadening reach • Addressed structure of president role	
V. Public Comments	none	
VI. Closed Session	Ms. Thompson called for a motion for closed session pursuant to section 8A of the Michigan Open Meetings Act to consider evaluation of an employee at the request of the employee. Terri Weems requested and recommended quarterly reviews of her performance in consideration of DESC's past years performance:	

	Motion: Brittney Hoszkiw **Seconded:** Lena Barkley **Motion Carried – A roll call vote was approved unanimously** At 1:32 p.m. all persons other than the DESC Executive Committee and the Interim President were excused from the meeting. The doors to the meeting room were closed and the committee proceeded to closed session. Doors to the meeting room were reopened at 1:45 p.m. and Ms. Thompson reopened the public meeting. Ms. Weems verbally called outside the meeting doors to inform any persons present that the meeting was back in session. **Ms. Thompson and other board members shared favorable comments regarding the Interim President**	
VII. Adjournment	**Ms. Thompson called for a Motion to Adjourn the meeting at 1:46:** **Motion:** Lena Barkley **Second:** Dannis Mitchell **Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously**	

DRAFT SUBMITTED BY:

Printed Name: Rachel May Title: Senior Executive Assistant

Signature: /s/ Rachel May Date: 8/24/2026

DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED: 11.16.2026 Initials: RMM

NEXT MEETING: 11.16.2026