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A Michigan Works! Agency

MEETING:	DESC Program Services Committee Meeting	DATE:	February 12, 2025
ATTENDEES:	DESC Committee / Board Members: Alice Thompson, Terri Weems, Lena Barkley, Ric Preuss DESC Staff: Stephanie Nixon, Dana Williams, Madelyne Bernard-Diab, Sam Marvin, Taiwan Waters, Rachel May, Patrice Wright, Carla Phelps	LOCATION:	DESC Corporate Offices 115 Erskine, 2nd Fl Detroit, MI 48201
		CALLED TO ORDER:	10:40 a.m.
ABSENT:	Excused: None Unexcused: None	ADJOURNED:	12:02 p.m.
PUBLIC ATTENDEES:			
FACILITATOR:	Alice Thompson, Board Secretary and Committee Chairperson	DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:	June 9, 2025

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION ITEM(S)
I. Welcome & Introductions	Alice Thompson, Board Chair and Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order	
II. Agenda Approval / Minutes	<p>Ms. Thompson asked for approval of the agenda for the February 12, 2025 meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Ric Preuss • Seconded: Terri Weems • Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously <p>Ms. Thompson asked for approval of the Minutes for the November 13, 2024 meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Terri Weems • Seconded: Ric Preuss • Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously 	
III. Chairperson Update	Ms. Thompson opened her presentation by acknowledging the work done earlier this month at the Board member orientation, stating it was an insightful and engaging presentation. She followed with a look at the federal legislative landscape, noting some of the Executive Orders and the work ahead of us to ensure our programs continue to reach and serve Detroit residents.	

IV. Program Services Presentation: Opportunity Youth Programming	<p>Stephanie Nixon, Chief Programs & Services Officer, opened the Program Services update with an introduction to Sam Marvin, Director, Special Initiatives, DESC.</p> <p>Sam began with an overview of the growth opportunities for re-entry youth noting the Growth Opportunities grants prepare justice-involved youth and young adults for the world of work through education and training, paid work experiences, mentorship and leadership development.</p> <p>He noted that DESC and its partners will enroll participants that meet the Go Network eligibility criteria including 18-24 years old; current or future (post-release) Detroit resident; those expelled for school or justice involved; one or more risk factors.</p> <p>Mr. Marvin continued with a review of the program model highlighting three key areas: vetting, assessment and programming.</p> <p>In closing, Mr. Marvin noted that in areas such as enrollment, entered training and/or GED and completed training and/or GED, we have met or exceeded our goals.</p> <p>Questions and comments from board members ensued.</p>	
V. Presentation: PATH Program	<p>Ms. Nixon introduced Madelyne Bernard-Diab, Executive Director, Career Centers System and Darilyn Draper, Director, Career Centers System for their PATH presentation.</p> <p>Madelyne opened the presentation with an overview of what PATH is. PATH stands for Partnership, Accountability Training and Hope. It's designed to assist Michigan families who are receiving limited cash assistance through Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. It's a referral based and can include single parent or two-parent families with dependent children. Through the Michigan Works offices, they assess, evaluate and prepare applicants to attain employment, meet federal work participation requirements and work towards self-sufficiency.</p> <p>Darilyn highlighted some of the services provided including Career Coaching, Occupational Training and Barrier Removal, as well as some of the core activities including on-the-job training, work experience programs, educational activities and more.</p> <p>The program closed with a look at how we're measured and how we're compared with other areas in Michigan noting for the program's FY 23/24, DESC received 15,186 referrals as compared to 67,819 for the state.</p> <p>Committee discussion ensued</p>	
VI. Public Comments	No public present	
VII. Adjournment	Ms. Thompson adjourned the meeting.	

DRAFT SUBMITTED BY:

Printed Name: Rachel May

Title: Executive Assistant to the President

Signature: /s/ Rachel May

Date: 2/25/2025

DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED: 6/9/2025

Initials: RMM

NEXT MEETING: June 4, 2025