



115 ERSKINE, 2nd FLOOR
 DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48201
 PHONE (313) 876-0674
 FAX (313) 664-5505
 TYY: 711

A Michigan Works! Agency

MEETING:	DESC Program Services Committee Meeting	DATE:	August 12, 2025
ATTENDEES:	DESC Committee / Board Members: Alice Thompson, Terri Weems, Ric Preuss, Lena Barkley DESC Staff: Stephanie Nixon, Dana Williams, Darilyn Draper, Carmen Bender, Rachel May, Lexus Lenton, Dr. Phillip Caldwell Remote Staff: Lucia Seed, Madelyne Bernard-Diab, Sheila Johnson	LOCATION:	DESC Corporate Offices 115 Erskine, 2nd Fl Detroit, MI 48201
		CALLED TO ORDER:	10:35 a.m.
ABSENT:	Excused: Dannis Mitchell, Rian English Barnhill Unexcused: None	ADJOURNED:	11:28 a.m.
FACILITATOR:	Alice Thompson, Board Secretary and Committee Chairperson	DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:	November 12, 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	Ms. Thompson asked for approval of the agenda for the August 12, 2025 meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Ric Preuss • Seconded: Lena Barkley • Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously Ms. Thompson asked for approval of the Minutes for the June 9, 2025 meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Ric Preuss • Seconded: Lena Barkley • Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously 	
III. Chairperson Update	It is important to put our achievements into perspective and recognize the valuable work being done across the organization. Let's look for more ways to tell our story.	
IV. Program Services Update: ARPA Programs Closeout	Stephanie Nixon, Chief Program Services Officer, presented outcomes from ARPA programs as they get closer to formal closeout. Signature programs that were funded by ARPA include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills for Life offered participants \$15/hour to work for the City three days a week and attend training two days a week, including GED, literacy, technical skills, and credential programs. The program achieved: • Learn to Earn provided a \$10/hour stipend for individuals pursuing a GED, high school completion, or improving reading/math skills. Partnered with three organizations for participants testing below 8th grade. 	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jumpstart served over 1,800 long-term unemployed participants, with over 1,100 gaining employment. • Grow Detroit’s Young Talent (GDYT) provides opportunities for 8,000 young people to work over the summer. • ARPA funding expanded Detroit at Work Job Training that focuses on high-growth, high-demand occupations. <p>Committee discussion ensued.</p>	
V. Presentation: Scenario Planning	<p>Dana Williams, President, and Darilyn Draper, Director of Adult Career Centers, shared plans to explore various service models in partnership with—and under the guidance of—the Mayor’s Workforce Development Board. These models aim to address how we serve customers in the current environment, considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID impacts • Legislative changes • Economic conditions • Funder priorities <p>The goal is to prioritize quality, maximize resources, and maintain flexibility.</p> <p>Currently, we operate nine centers, with one scheduled to close soon per Board support. Seven centers are full service, and five offer Unemployment Insurance (UI) services.</p> <p>The next phase of our customer service infrastructure will be guided by city demographics, budget levels, customer data, and employer insights.</p> <p>Committee discussion ensued.</p>	
VI. Public Comment	There were no public comments	
VII. Adjournment	<p>Ms. Thompson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Lena Barkley • Seconded: Terri Weems • Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously 	

DRAFT SUBMITTED BY:

Printed Name: Lexus Lenton

Title: Executive Assistant to Stephanie Nixon and Madelyne Bernard-Diab

Signature: _/s/ Lexus Lenton

Date: _8/12/2025

DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED: 11.12.2025

Initials: LSL

NEXT MEETING: November 12, 2025

