



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:	November 12, 2025
ATTENDEES:	DESC Committee / Board Members: Alice Thompson, Lena Barkley, Ric Preuss, Rian English Barnhill, John Perkins (remote) DESC Staff: Stephanie Nixon, Rachel May, Madelyne Bernard-Diab Remote Staff: Kevin Naud, Lucia Seed, Carmen Bender, Shiela Johnson Guests: Jim Willis, Stephen Reinhold (remote)	LOCATION:	DESC Corporate Offices 115 Erskine, 2nd Fl Detroit, MI 48201
		CALLED TO ORDER:	10:07 a.m.
ABSENT:	Excused: Dannis Mitchell, Terri Weems Unexcused: None	ADJOURNED:	11:11 a.m.
FACILITATOR:	Alice Thompson, Board Secretary and Committee Chairperson	DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:	February 3, 2026

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 November 12, 2025 meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Ric Pruess • Supported: Lena Barkley • Motion Carried – Unanimously Ms. Thompson asked for approval of the Minutes for the August 12, 2025 meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Lena Barkley • Supported: Rian English Barnhill • Motion Carried – Unanimously 	
III. Chairperson Update	Ms. Thompson reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are challenging times for many • With our talents we're making a difference 	
IV. Program Services Update: GDYT (Grow Detroit's Young Talent) Program Overview	Stephanie Nixon, Chief Program Services Officer, presented an overview of Grow Detroit's Young Talent (GDYT): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total youth placed: 8,054 with a 97% participation rate • Partners: 354 employer partners, 4,000+ community partners, 2,855 affiliate partners • Training Opportunities: 495 industry-led / pre-apprenticeship slots 	Action item: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in tracking returning youth and long-term outcomes



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Programs: 250 Junior Police Cadets (pilot at Pershing HS) • Credentials Earned: 339 credentials including OSHA 10, Ableton Live, Python, CNA, IoT coding, AI, social media/broadcasting, digital business development and more • New for 2026: Increased engagement from employers for youth wages; Flexible work start/end dates; Expanded career readiness training; Partnerships with Community Violence Interrupters; Police Cadet programming aligned with community policing activities; Enhanced follow up surveys; Growth of year-round work-based learning opportunities <p>Committee discussion ensued.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation for a social media storytelling team • Need to align credential tracks with workforce priorities • Suggestions for capstone experiences at major Detroit venues • Financial literacy training provided through partner organizations
<p>V. Program Services Update: Adult Career Services</p>	<p>Darilyn Draper, Director of Adult Programs, shared an update on Adult Career Services:</p> <p>The network includes 8 Adult Career Centers across Detroit, offering comprehensive, program-specific, and flexible access points. The Bagley site contract was not renewed and has been replaced with three new community partners; the State recognized the library-based model as a best practice.</p> <p>A proposed enhancement would transition the West McNichols Center to a PATH-only site beginning January 1, due to higher PATH demand in that area. WIOA participants can be served at nearby centers without disruption.</p> <p>At the Collingwood location, providers EQUUS and Gesher continue to face performance challenges, including staffing issues, customer complaints, data problems, property loss, and billing concerns. Both were placed on a Performance Improvement Plan effective July 1 and were given a short-term contract extension through December 31. Renewal decisions will be based on performance, with assurance that either provider could fully meet program requirements.</p> <p>Committee discussion ensued.</p>	
<p>VI. Program Services Update: Youth Services Upcoming RFP Highlights</p>	<p>Ericka Page, Director of Youth Program Services, presented an overview of Youth RFP:</p> <p>The new RFP will be released in Q1 2026 with services beginning July 1, 2026, featuring a three-tier model focused on mentoring, tutoring, and expanded work-based learning. Providers must outline detailed plans for each area.</p> <p>She noted a potential loss of WIOA Youth funding, which could impact required service elements but may also allow for more flexible, locally tailored programming.</p> <p>The youth strategy aims for every Detroit student to graduate with a clear post-secondary plan, addressing challenges such as limited job-search awareness, low Detroit Promise</p>	

	<p>knowledge, and minimal plan review in schools. Priorities include increased school engagement, stronger employer partnerships, and expanded year-round work experiences.</p> <p>One provider remains on a performance improvement plan; two were placed on PIPs this year.</p> <p>Committee discussion ensued.</p>	
VII. Public Comment	There were no public comments	
VIII. Adjournment	<p>Ms. Thompson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Ric Preuss • Seconded: Rian English-Barnhill • 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: 11/24/2025

DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED: 02/23/2026

Initials: LSL

NEXT MEETING: