



A Michigan Works! Agency

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

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>DESC Corporate Board Meeting</b>	<b>DATE:</b>	<b>February 26, 2024</b>
<b>ATTENDEES:</b>	<b>DESC Corporate Board Members:</b> Alice Thompson, Lena Barkley, Ric Preuss, Terri Weems, Chris Uhl, Rian Barnhill (Remote) <b>DESC Staff:</b> Dana Williams, Robert Shimkoski, Traci Sassak, Rachel May, Sara Azu, Anthony Davis	<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>DESC Corporate Offices</b>
		<b>CALLED TO ORDER:</b>	<b>9:56 am</b>
<b>ABSENT:</b>	<b>Excused:</b> Maria Woodruff-Wright, Dannis Mitchell <b>Unexcused:</b> None	<b>ADJOURNED:</b>	<b>10:50 am</b>
<b>PUBLIC ATTENDEES:</b>	NONE		
<b>FACILITATOR:</b>	Alice Thompson, Board Chairperson	<b>DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:</b>	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION ITEM(S)
I. Welcome & Introductions	<p><b>Alice Thompson, Board Chairperson, called the meeting to order.</b></p> <p>Ms. Thompson called for a motion to approve the agenda for the February 26, 2024 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 12, 2023 meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Motion:</b> Chris Uhl  <b>Seconded:</b> Lena Barkley  <b>Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</b></p>	<p>Terri Weems and Chris Uhl had changes to the minutes and agreed that with this notation the minutes could be approved during this meeting.</p>
II. Board Chair Report	<p><b>Alice Thompson, Board Chairperson presented:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alice Thompson provided a quick review of DESC's previously held Program Services Committee meeting, which included a highlight of a new partnership with Interplay Learning and Detroit at Work's C.H.O.I.C.E.S (Choosing Honorable Options Increasing Chances to Establish Success) program, a community-based violence intervention program dedicated to reducing gun violence in Detroit.</li> </ul>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interplay Learning is the leading provider of immersive skilled trades training. Its innovative virtual reality training equips students with valuable skills that open doors to a brighter future. Through this partnership, students learn skills in high-demand fields like HVAC, Plumbing, Electrical, Multifamily Maintenance, and Facilities Maintenance.</li> <li>• This new virtual reality training program is a critical piece of the C.H.O.I.C.E.S. program where students are being exposed to 21st century learning and technology and are excited to learn through this advanced teaching.</li> </ul>	
<b>III. President's Report</b>	<p><b>Dana Williams, DESC President presented:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dana Williams provided an overview of the restructuring of the organization.</li> <li>• Under this new structure, our Program Services will unite under five key areas of service: Career Center Operations; Employer Engagement; Education &amp; Training; Signature Programs; Direct Services.</li> <li>• At the core of the organization will be Career Center Operations, Employer Engagement and Education &amp; Training. This will cover three major areas of service including Career Access, Job Placement and Skills Obtainment.</li> <li>• Signature Programs will focus on system building and will house Grow Detroit's Young Talent and Community Health Corps, while Direct Services will focus on our target populations and will cover programs like Skills for Life, Friends &amp; Family, Youth Build, JMG/JAG, and Pathways Home.</li> <li>• Other areas of improvement include a post-ARPA program evaluation and a data analysis exercise currently underway.</li> </ul> <p>Board discussion ensued.</p>	
<b>IV. MWDB Update</b>	<p><b>Terri Weems, Group Executive, Workforce Development &amp; Detroit at Work:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gave an overview of the recent uptick of unemployment rates, the positive aspect of this is that there are 10,000 more people seeking employment and entering the labor force. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Jumpstart Program has directly impacted these numbers, which is good news.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Detroit Regional Workforce Partnership has identified a director. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ They have seated that work within the organization that Nicole Sherard-Freeman works with, which will make the work start faster and diminish the administrative work needed.</li> <li>○ Their purpose is to convene employers.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The MWDB Disabilities Committee has a pilot underway to provide temporary work experiences for the disabled community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If there are any members that have an interest in the Employing the Disabled Worker Toolkit, please connect with Terri Weems or Dana Williams.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Board discussion ensued.</p>	

<b>V. Public Comments</b>	<b>There were no public comments</b>	
<b>VI. Adjournment</b>	<b>Ms. Thompson called for a Motion to Adjourn the meeting:</b>  <b>Motion: Chris Uhl</b> <b>Seconded: Lena Barkley</b> <b>Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</b>	

**DRAFT SUBMITTED BY:**

Printed Name: Elizabeth Hennessey

Title: Project Coordinator, Human Resources

Signature: /s/ E Hennessey

Date: 4/10/2024

**DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 22, 2024 @ 1:45 PM**