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A Michigan Works! Agency

MEETING:	MWDB: Mayor's Workforce Development Board Meeting	DATE:	June 10, 2026
ATTENDEES:	MWDB members: Alice Thompson, Christine Jackson, Bruce Dall, Christine Estereicher, Angelique Power, Jared Fleisher, Darienne Hudson, Mark Gaffney, Rashida Patterson, Andra Rush, Michelle Sourie-Robinson, Denise Brooks-Williams, Mike Haller, Alycia Meriweather, Conrad Mallett; Reginald Humphrey Staff: Terri Weems, Rachel May, Kevin Naud, Sam Talbot, Taylor Smith, Talitha Johnson, Herman Parry, Jason Hanna, Michael Lewis, Robert Shimkoski, Stehanie Nixon, Carmen Benter, Ericka Page Remote: Kylee W, Dixie Samanego, Reginald Humphrey, Dr. Ivery, Detroit Documenters, Madelyne Bernard-Diab, Detroit Notetaker, Caletia Binion, Mikyia Aaron Guests: Rian English Barnhill, Derrick Meeking, John Perkins, Karen Parker, Brianna Brazell	LOCATION:	DPSH, 1301 Third St., Detroit, MI 48226
		CALLED TO ORDER:	3:16 p.m.
ABSENT:	Excused: Byron Osbern, Carla Walker-Miller, Richard Bierschbach, Dannis Mitchell, Jeff Donofrio, Jonathan Nipper, Mark Reuss, Mike McLaughlan, Mike Pemble, Dr. Vitti, Sylvester Hester Unexcused:	ADJOURNED:	4:45 p.m.
PUBLIC ATTENDEES:	None		
FACILITATOR:	Darienne Hudson	DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:	September 30, 2026

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION ITEM(S)
I. Welcome & Introductions	Darienne Hudson called the meeting to order at 3:16 p.m.	
II. Agenda Approval / Minutes	Dr. Hudson asked for approval of the agenda for the June10, 2026, meeting and the minutes for the March 4, 2026 meeting: • Motioned: Mark Gaffney • Supported: Angelique Power • Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously	

III. Co-Chairs Report	Dr. Hudson reported: Dr. Hudson reported: • MWDB Composition: New member Richard Bierschbach, J.D. President, Wayne State University • MWDB Recognition: Sylvester Hester, President & CEO, LM Manufacturing to implement a vehicle repair and purchase program through a small grant and transportation pilot to help eligible employees maintain reliable transportation to work. • MWDB Recognition: Alice Thompson, CEO, Emeritus, Black Family Development & CEO, BFDI Educational Services and Alycia Meriweather, Deputy Superintendent, DPSCD were among the recipients for the 2026 Skillman Visionary Awards, honoring leaders who are helping transform public education across Detroit and Michigan. • Mackinac Policy Conference: The theme of the conference was A Quest for Common Ground. Some of the highlights included: • Conversations centered around growing population and workforce. • Bipartisanship matters more than ever • Artificial Intelligence reshaping every sector • Poverty reduction becoming a core strategy • Mayor Sheffield made a business case for poverty elimination not just being about social policy, but economic policy and why investing in people is essential to Detroit's long-term success. She explained cycles where one positive investment creates a chain reaction of benefits that reinforce one another. • Resident Employment Report: Detroit Data Update – April 2026: Resident employment in April increased in Detroit. It's up 1,260 compared to March and is above the 2025 average. Regionally employment decreased in 16 labor markets areas except for Detroit. The unemployment rate is down from March to 8.9% and so is the number of people unemployed. Both unemployment and the unemployment rate are their lowest since a year ago. Some of this is attributable to the labor force has declining from March, although it is slightly higher than a year ago. • MWDB Executive Committee Update: The Executive committee met on May 6th. We discussed the Workforce plan and will continue to refine as we develop our workforce strategies. We discussed the Talent Pipeline Strategy. We had good discussion around how we identify and target industries, gain insights in the workforce participation rate, the education levels of Detroiters, demographics and barriers faced. From that conversation we suggested that Detroit at Work focus on three industries that are emerging as high in demand and volume: construction, healthcare and hospitality. We asked Detroit at work to look into the programs and efficacy of programs in these areas for the purpose of building out some really good proven pathways. Ms. Hudson introduced MWDB board member and DESC Board chair Alice Thompson for an update from DESC.	
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	Ms. Thompson reported that the GDYT financial gap had been closed, the FY26/27 budget had been approved, critical financial hires had been completed and that the deficit had been significantly reduced. <i>Board discussion ensued.</i>	
IV. Executive Director's Report	Ms. Terri Weems reported: WIOA Update: Ms. Weems highlighted some of the changes to the WIOA plan including: - MWDB's Vision, Mission & Goals - Language as recommended by the Federal Government - Workforce Strategies, programs and activities - Target industries identified in the plan Ms. Weems highlighted a timeline of next steps and asked for approval of the requested WIOA updates: Motioned: Mike Haller Supported: Denise Brooks Williams Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously Ms. Weems continued with a review of the Mayor's Community Feedback and highlighted Detroit at Work's response in the areas of Education & Youth and Economic Development. She provided an update the work underway with the Career & Education Advisory Council (CEAC) and provided an outlook of topics to be discussed at an upcoming CEAC retreat. Ms. Weems closed her report with a look at one of the MWDB Executive Committees suggestion industries of focus: Construction noting some of the key work underway in that field including development of a skilled trades pipeline, highlights from its quarterly construction report and closing with a video noting the success of the recent Carpenters Combine Making the Cut Hiring event. <i>Questions and comments from board members ensued</i>	
V. Detroit's Thriving Peer Cities Report	Kevin Naud, Director Employer Engagement & Workforce Strategy, DESC reported: In this framework for benchmarking employment & economic inclusion, Mr. Naud reported on Detroit at Work goals to see Detroit's employment rate exceed that of thriving peer cities and its poverty rate significantly lower than thriving peer cities. Mr. Naud provided statistics on where Detroit stands today and its progress from 2013-2024, noting a recovery from the largest municipal bankruptcy in US history to measurable, sustained recovery with unemployment dropping 8 points, the poverty rate dropping 5 points and with over 29K Detroiters employed.	

	He reviewed city-by-city data comparing population, labor force and poverty statistics, reviewed the unemployment and poverty rates across thriving peer cities and revealed key findings noting that Detroit faces a significant gap on both measures of employment and poverty. Mr. Naud closed his report noting a suggested path to advancing toward thriving peer cities status requires coordinated action from the City of Detroit and Detroit at Work including reporting annually to the board on these statistics, and pursuing sector strategies across three tiers: Healthcare, Construction and Retail & Hospitality among others. <i>Questions and comments from board members ensued</i>	
VI. Public Comments	None	
VII. Adjournment	Dr. Hudson adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.	

DRAFT SUBMITTED BY:

Printed Name: Rachel May

Title: Senior Executive Assistant, MWDB Staff

Signature: /s/ Rachel May

Date: 06/12/2026

DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED: 09/30/2026

Initials: RM

NEXT MEETING: September 30, 2026 at 3-5 p.m.