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A Michigan Works! Agency

MEETING:	MWDB: Mayor's Workforce Development Board Meeting	DATE:	September 17, 2025
ATTENDEES:	MWDB members: Alice Thompson, Alycia Meriweather, Christine Estereicher, Colleen Allen, Conrad Mallett, Darienne Hudson, Denise Brooks Williams, Josh Sirefman, Mike Haller, Rashida Patterson, Sylvester Hester, Krystal Gardner, Heidi Maygar, Christine Jackson Staff: Stephanie Nixon, Ericka Page, Renard Richmond, Victor, Robert Shimkoski, Kevin Naud, Dana Williams, Rachel May, Meranda Elias, Terri Weems, Madelyne Bernard-Diab, Carmen Bender Remote: Carla Walker-Miller, Alex Hill, Jonathan Clark, Michelle Sourie-Robinson, Teri Braddock	LOCATION:	Detroit Public Safety Headquarters 1301 Third St., Detroit, MI 48226
		CALLED TO ORDER:	3:08 p.m.
ABSENT:	Excused: Andra Rush, Angelique Power, Bruce Dall, Byron Osbern, Bill Kingsley, Curtis Ivery, Jeff Donofrio, Jonathan Nipper, Dr. Kimberly Espy, Mark Gaffney, Mark Reuss, Mike McLauclan, Mike Aaron, Mike Pemble, Nikolai Vitti, Unexcused:	ADJOURNED:	4:51 p.m.
PUBLIC ATTENDEES:	Patrick Cooney, Joel Hurd		
FACILITATOR:	Darienne Hudson & Josh Sirefman	DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:	December 3, 2025

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION ITEM(S)
I. Welcome & Introductions	Darienne Hudson called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.	
II. Agenda Approval / Minutes	Dr. Hudson asked for approval of the agenda for the June 11, 2025, meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motioned: Denise Brooks Williams • Supported: Mike Haller • Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously Dr. Hudson asked for approval of the Minutes for the March 26, 2025, meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motioned: Alice Thompson • Supported: Conrad Mallett • Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously 	



<p>III. Co-Chairs Report</p>	<p>Josh Sirefman reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detroit Resident Employment report for July 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment increased 0.4% in July, with 1,007 more Detroiters employed than in June. At 241,752, employment is above the 2024 average (238,606) and the average for 2025 so far (238,547) and is at its highest since December 2023 (242,322). <p>Dr. Hudson reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MWDB Executive Committee Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of State and Federal activities • Annual review of board appointments • Board Member Update acknowledging retiring Kofi Bonner, Bedrock and incoming Jared Fleisher, Bedrock • MWDB Committee Structure Overview acknowledging the new Barriers Committee and first meeting date Oct 22, 2025 • Barrier Removal Collaboration with United Way of Southeastern Michigan and Autism Alliance of Michigan. • MWDB recognition of former MWDB Executive Director Nicole Sherard-Freeman and current MWDB member Denise Brooks-Williams for their Crain's 2025 Women of Influence acknowledgement. • MWDB recognition of board member Carla Walker-Miller for her participation with Per Scholas Detroit's Power Up: Detroit to Fuel Energy Innovation and Tech Workforce Growth. <p><i>Questions and comments from board members ensued.</i></p>	
<p>IV. Executive Director's Report</p>	<p>Ms. Terri Weems reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative Landscape Update • Update on potential changes with the Detroit at Work Career Center Footprint • Detroit at Work by the Numbers report highlights including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2931 Trained • 4445 Placed • \$18.21 average hourly wage of career center grads • 8054 GDYT Youth placements • State Barriers Committee Update • New date/location for December 3, 2025 MWDB meeting <p><i>Questions and comments from board members ensued</i></p>	

<p>V. Presentation: Grow Detroit's Young Talent (GDYT) Report</p>	<p>Stephanie Nixon, Chief Program Services Officer, DESC reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GDYT 2025 Placements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8054 Youth placed in summer experiences with a 97% participation rate • 354 employer-hosted placements • 495 Industry-led training & pre-apprenticeships • 4100 community-based partners & customized experiences • 2855 affiliate partner experiences • 250 Junior Police & Fire Cadets • Top Credentials Earned: of the 421 youth who participated, 338 credentials were attained including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSHA 10 • Abelton Live • Python Programmer • Certified Nursing Assistant • IT Coding & Design Thinking • Digital Business Development • AI for Professional Communication • Social Media & Broadcast Communication • 417 GDYT Participants worked with 28 City of Detroit Municipal Worksites • New for 2026: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased employer wage contributions • Flexible work start/end dates • Partnerships with community violence interrupters (CVI) to refer and support youth at risk of engaging in violence • Better aligned Police Cadet programming with community policing activated that demonstrate positive police engagement • Follow up surveys to track youth progress post GDYT <p><i>Questions and comments from board members ensued.</i></p>	
<p>VI. Presentation: Career & Education Advisory Council (CEAC) Report</p>	<p>Alycia Meriweather, Deputy Superintendent, DPSCD (CEAC Chair) reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight of DPSCD's Mission, Vision and Core Values • Graduate Profile including College & Career Readiness, Leadership & Collaboration, Critical Thinking & Adaptability, Global & Social Engagement and Social-Emotional Intelligence & Resilience • Overview of Career Technical education and Career Pathway Living Plan • 2024/2025 CTE Enrollment at Technical Centers: Breithaupt (408); Golightly (145) and Randolph (330) for a total of 883 enrolled. • 2024/2025 CTE Enrollment at High Schools: 1418 enrolled. • 2024/2025 Earned industry certifications 1425 • 2024/2025 Student Experiences 2278 High School and CTC student participation in work-based learning activities and 1479 work-based learning experiences with industry partners 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CTSO student outcomes & district highlights • New Advanced Manufacturing Annex coming to Southeastern High School • Davis Aerospace High School returns to Coleman Young Airport providing hands-on flight training for 200 students (Fall 2026) <p><i>Questions and comments from board members ensued.</i></p>	
VII. Presentation: Benefits Cliff	<p>Patrick Cooney, Vice President, Michigan Future reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The benefits cliff is a sudden and often unexpected decrease in public benefits that can occur with a small increase in earnings. The following programs can be affected when this occurs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Assistance Program (FAP/SNAP) • Family Independence Program (FIP/TANF) • Healthy Michigan (Medicaid) • Housing assistance (Section 8/housing choice voucher) • Child Development and Care program (childcare subsidies) • Supplemental Security Income (SSI) • Many of the meaningful reforms would have to occur at the federal level • Michigan has already utilized some of the tools available to states. Other tools are available, but many would not yield meaningful change • To meaningfully impact the negative impacts of benefits cliffs at the state level would require significant investment • Room for innovation at the local level through employer partnerships • Potential solutions (local and employer level) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits navigators • Innovations to reduce frictions in the application process • Expand FSS participation • Expand FSS program design to all programs through employer partnerships • Potential solutions (local and employer level) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits navigators • Innovations to reduce frictions in the application process • Expand FSS participation • Expand FSS program design to all programs through employer partnerships <p><i>Questions and comments from board members ensued.</i></p>	
VIII. Public Comments	None	
IX. Adjournment	<p>Dr. Hudson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Conrad Mallett • Supported: Mike Haller • Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously <p>Meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.</p>	

DRAFT SUBMITTED BY:



Printed Name: Rachel May

Title: Executive Assistant to the President, MWDB Staff

Signature: /s/ Rachel May

Date: 09.19.2025

DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED: 12/03/2025

Initials: RM

NEXT MEETING: December 3, 2025