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A Michigan Works! Agency

MEETING:	MWDB: Mayor's Workforce Development Board Meeting	DATE:	October 2, 2024
ATTENDEES:	MWDB members: Alice Thompson, Alycia Meriweather Andra Rush, Angelique Power, Bruce Dall, Carla Walker-Miller, Colleen Allen, Conrad Mallett, Curtis Ivery, Darienne Hudson, Denise Brooks, Jonathan Nipper, Josh Sirefman, Sylvester Hester. Staff: Dana Williams, Terri Weems, Meranda Elias, Lexus Lenton, Stephanie Nixon, Robin Johnston, Carmen Bender	LOCATION:	Detroit Public Safety Headquarters 1301 Third St., Detroit, MI 48226
		CALLED TO ORDER:	3:13 p.m.
ABSENT:	Excused: Unexcused:	ADJOURNED:	4:54 p.m.
PUBLIC ATTENDEES:	None		
FACILITATOR:	Darienne Hudson & Josh Sirefman	DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:	December 11, 2024

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION ITEM(S)
I. Welcome & Introductions		
II. Co-Chairs Report	<p>Co-Chair Mr. Sirefman opened the report with a look at the Resident Employment noting employment increased 0.9% in July, with 1,968 more Detroiters employed than in June. At 231,111, employment is below the 2023 average (233,244) and at its second-lowest level in 2024 (June was lower at 229, 143). Employment is down 3,834 compared to July 2023 but up 4,086 compared to July 2022.</p> <p>Mr. Sirefman provided an acknowledgement for former Executive Director Nicole Sherard-Freeman noting her as a recent recipient of a Proclamation from the City of Detroit and as the new leader of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.</p> <p>He highlighted additional acknowledgements for current board members including co-chair Dr. Hudson, noting her role in a panel discussion by Foundation Leaders as part of the Crain's Detroit Business Philanthropy Summit and Black Family Development Institute's Guest Honoree; new board member Denise Brooks who earned three nods (University of Michigan Black Alumni Conquering Heroes Award, Congressional Black Caucus Community Hero Award and Crain's Detroit Business Notable Black Business</p>	



	Leaders); Carla Walker-Miller (Crain’s Detroit Business Notable Black Business Leaders); Bishop Edgar Vann (Black Family Development Institute’s Lifetime Achievement Honoree and Guest Honoree.) <i>Questions and comments from board members ensued.</i>	
III. Executive Director’s Report	<p>Ms. Weems welcomed the board members to the meeting and thanked them for attending the Summer Rooftop Social where board members gathered atop NewLab for an open-air social gathering that included a tour of Michigan Central.</p> <p>Ms. Weems continued by noting that Michigan has been designated a mobility hub by the Biden/Harris administration noting that the National Economic Advisor traveled to Michigan to announce several new Michigan workforce hub commitments and investments in our region to help prepare Michiganders for good paying jobs.</p> <p>She highlighted the goals for the MWDB including the board’s vision and mission noting a ramped-up focus on youth to ensure every student leaving high school has a post-secondary plan and is connected to opportunities, apprenticeships, jobs, training, etc.</p> <p>Next, Ms. Weems highlighted L’Apple Automotive, a city employer that signed a Priority Hiring agreement with the city, joining 16 other employers committed to making Detroiters a priority in their hiring process.</p> <p>Ms. Weems closed her report with a quick look at the National Report: Detroit Rewrites Workforce Playbook, an overview of our successful programs that other municipalities and cities can learn and work from.</p> <p><i>Questions and comments from board members ensued.</i></p>	
IV. Presentation: DESC Annual Review	<p>Dana Williams, President & CEO of DESC opened her presentation with a few data points from the DESC metrics noting that the number trained, placed, and the average hourly wage has steadily increased, attributing that to the work and commitment of this board. Ms. Williams also highlighted the steady increase of GDYT Youth placements at 8,643 for 2023-2024.</p> <p>Ms. Williams continued with a look at new system enhancements which included preparing Detroiters for the work of the future, Innovating the system for the next generation job seeker, continuing to remove barriers to employment and executing a post-ARPA plan.</p> <p><i>Questions and comments from board members ensued.</i></p>	
V. Presentation: ARPA-Funded Programs Review	<p>Stephanie Nixon, Chief Program Services Officer, DESC, opened her presentation with noting three key things that ARPA funding has allowed us to do: expand access to programs offered by Detroit at Work; provide unique, intensive services to Detroit job seekers with multiple barriers to employment; provide a stipend or wage to compliant individuals.</p>	

	<p>She continued with a highlight of the ARPA-funded programs including Skills for Life where participants work 3 days/wk and attend job training 2 days/wk while earning a stipend for school and payment for work. The program saw 130 participants hired in the city with post-program wages at \$18+/hr. Learn to Earn, a high school completion program, saw more than 500 academic achievements. JumpStart a first-of-its-kind adult basic education, workforce training and supportive services strategy for those who have been out of work/training for 6 months or more, saw over 1800 enrollees. DAW Training provides opportunities for Detroiters to engage in training. This program saw over 1500 credentials attained to date including CDL-A, Asbestos Abatement Supervisor, CAN and more, leading to occupations such as Trucker Driver IT Technical Support, Pharmacy Tech and more with average wages at \$17-\$32/hr.</p> <p>She closed her report with a highlight on some of the achievements to date, noting a total of 8,324 and climbing to a goal of 10,000. This includes Skills Gain, GED, Job Training, Credentials and Employment.</p> <p><i>Questions and comments from board members ensued.</i></p> <p>Ms. Weems talked about the impact of these programs by sharing the story of India Jackson, a mom of 4 children that went through the Learn to Earn program, obtained her high school diploma and earned a credential as a Certified Nursing Assistant and is now earning money and pursuing a career as a nurse.</p> <p>Robin Johnston, Communications Manager, DESC introduced in-house guest Jasmine Clark, originally a P.A.T.H. Participant who was later enrolled in WIOA. Ms. Clark told her story of how she enrolled in an information Technology trade course where she obtained an IT Support Education Tech Certificate, CISCO IT Essentials 8/Comp TIA + Course, Intro to Cybersecurity, Google Workspace Admin, Google Certified Educator. Ms. Clark now works with one of our employer partners as an IT support Technician.</p> <p>Mr. Johnston introduced a second in-house guest, Christone West. Mr. West was a 20-year-old, gang-involved young man with a six-year-old son who enrolled in the C.H.O.I.C.E.S program. He told his story of how he took advantage of the guidance, workshops, mentorship and temporary work experiences of the program. He obtained a permanent position with Stellantis and now has two businesses of his own, a porta-potty service and a 360-photo booth.</p> <p><i>Questions and comments from board members ensued.</i></p>	
<p>VI. New Business: Career & Education Advisory Council Report Out</p>	<p>Alycia Meriweather, Deputy Superintendent, DPSCD and CEAC Chair opened her presentation with a briefing on the purpose of the committee to bring education and business together. She highlighted the members of the committee noting it's a mix of education institutions and business.</p>	

	<p>Ms. Meriweather continued by highlighting connections between business, industry and education, noting the DPSCD has 23 high schools, 3 technical centers, career pathway program courses at all high schools and CTE programs. She continued by highlighting some of the metrics, noting 2,926 enrolled in career pathway courses (high schools) and 1,473 enrolled CTE courses. She featured some of the industries covered including business/finance marketing, health sciences, construction, technology and media arts, engineering, manufacturing and transportation and others, noting three of their career technical centers, Breithaupt, Golightly and Randolph.</p> <p>She continued by highlighting some of the middle school level initiatives in place for career pathways including awareness, exploration, preparation and training as well as some of the advanced high school level initiatives in those same categories.</p> <p>She closed her presentation with highlights of some of the student experiences including the NFL Draft, Construction Day, Davis Aerospace, AutoRama and the DTE Energy Line Worker Program noting the total of work-based learning continuum experiences at 5,380, the total number of middle school and high school career assessments in Xello at 16,985 and the total of earned industry credentials at 1,098 and climbing.</p> <p><i>Questions and comments from board members ensued.</i></p>	
VII. Public Comments	None	
VIII. Adjournment	Dr. Hudson adjourned the meeting.	

DRAFT SUBMITTED BY:

Printed Name: Rachel May

Title: Executive Assistant, MWDB Staff

Signature: /s/ Rachel May

Date: 10/11/2024

DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED: 12/11/2024

Initials: RM

NEXT MEETING: March 26, 2025