



CITY OF DETROIT MAYOR'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Wednesday, December 13, 2022

3-5 p.m.

Location: In-person at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters

Proposed Meeting Minutes **Co-Chairs: Dave Meador & Darienne Hudson**

Call to Order

Co-Chair Dave Meador called the Mayor's Workforce Development Board Meeting to order at 3:12 p.m.

Approval of Agenda & Minutes

September 2023 Agenda and June 2023 Minutes

Co-Chair Dave Meador asked for a motion to approve the Agenda & Minutes as presented. Moved by Alice Thompson, supported by Conrad Mallet. Motion Approved.

REPORTS

Co-Chair's Report – Dave Meador & Darienne Hudson

Resident Employment Update: Co-Chair Dave Meador opened the report with a review of the resident employment chart noting employment decreased 1.9% in October, with 4,510 fewer Detroiters employed than in September. At 232,716, employment remains high and is above the average for 2023 so far (230,171) but is down from the 14-year high seen last month (237,226). Employment increased in Michigan and in the nation (0.2%, 0.004% respectively).

Mr. Meador continued with acknowledgement of new board member Dr. Kimberly Andrews Espy, President of Wayne State University

Board member Alice Thompson gave an update on the Governor's Grow Michigan Council noting recent PISA data that shows where students in America rank globally on performance in reading, science, and math. She noted that 80% of U.S. students can recognize a main idea, cause and effect, and if conclusions are warranted; 60% of U.S. students can compare the distance across two different routes on a road or convert currency; only 14% can distinguish fact from fiction; 9% can apply scientific knowledge to an unfamiliar situation; 8% can model complex situations in math equations and compare and evaluate different ways of solving problems.

Questions and comments from board members ensued.

Executive Director's Report – Terri Weems

Ms. Weems opened her report noting data from the Detroit Regional Chamber on the State of Talent & Education. She outlined that while there has been progress on the goal to get 60% credentialed by 2023, noting we've moved 3% from 50% to 53%, the startling news is that although there are more people obtaining a degree, there are less people entering colleges and universities. She noted that Detroit at Work continues to partner with K-12 organizations and with colleges and universities in the city, highlighting partnerships with board members Alycia Meriweather (DPSCD), Dr. Espy (Wayne State University) and Dr. Ivery (WCCCD) as well as a new partnership with Michigan State University and DPSCD to provide more opportunities for collaboration, especially around the new Henry Ford Health site.

Ms. Weems continued by noting an announcement from September regarding an investment of \$3 billion dollars over the next decade to transform the New Center area into a vibrant, walkable community that includes a hospital expansion, commercial real estate, and intent to provide affordable housing. This project will generate 8,900 new jobs, most of those in construction.

Ms. Weems highlighted some of the innovative Detroit at Work programs including JumpStart, a program that supports individuals who have been out of the workforce and education program for 24 weeks or more. The program has drawn interest from over 3,000 Detroiters. Programs like this are attracting more people to the workforce and helping to increase the labor participation rate. She noted that for the first time in 24 years, the labor participation rate for black people (60.1%) has increased slightly higher than for white (60%). She continued her program highlights with an update on Skills for Life, a paid-work, paid-training program for City of Detroit workers. Over 300 people have joined the program where participants work and train at the same time. Continuing, Ms. Weems provided an update on Community Health Corps, a resource navigation program that assists vulnerable and disconnected Detroit residents, noting that simply removing barriers is not enough to get a person employed. There's more that needs to be done to address poverty, housing, food insecurity, etc. Learnings show that we need more wraparound support to get folks to work. Lastly, Ms. Weems highlighted Learn to Earn, a high school and GED completion program, noting that this program works especially well for folks who test at an eight-grade education level or above, noting that work is being done to scale the program to meet folks in different stages of education.

Questions and comments from board members ensued.

NEW BUSINESS

Work Experiences for People with Disabilities – Colleen Allen

Ms. Allen opened her report with an overview of a new Temporary Work Experiences pilot program designed to connect the disabled community to jobs in the city. She noted there's great data to demonstrate the value of hiring from this untapped talent pool. Ms. Allen continued noting that 8 out of 10 adults in Detroit with a disability do not work. She highlighted the myths and benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities and discussed effective practices to recruit and hire. She closed her report with a call to action, asking board members to engage their HR and DEIA leadership about this pilot and to commit to hiring candidates through the TWE opportunity or by direct hire.

Questions and comments from board members ensued.

PRESENTATIONS

Detroit Economic Forecast – Gabriel Ehrlich

Mr. Ehrlich opened his presentation with a review of the Quarterly Average Payroll and Resident Employment for the city of Detroit, noting that while it was forecast that payroll employment in Detroit would nudge up to the pre-pandemic level by the end of this year, the data came in a little bit weak and the expectation is that the recovery will take longer, but the fundamental trajectory that we expect growth to continue shouldn't change. The forecast notes about 5,000 job gains in 2023, about 4,300 in 2024, and 3,000 in 2025. He continued noting the average annual wage and salary income earned by employed Detroit residents grew by almost 47% from 2014-2021, from about \$26,600 to a little over \$39,000. So far this year, Detroit's unemployment rate has averaged about 7.3% compared to 24% in 2010. He noted that about 36% of primary earners in Detroit earn a living wage, compared to other cities like Chicago that land at 60%, and explained that while in Chicago, 53% of primary earners have a bachelor's degree, in Detroit, only 24% do.

Mr. Ehrlich closed his presentation explaining that this analysis is designed to identify how many working Detroiters are earning a living wage; compare the share of workers earning a living wage to other large midwestern cities; identify factors that help explain the variation in workers earning a living wage between cities.

Questions and comments from board members ensued.

Public Comment

Co-Chair Dave Meador asked for public comment. No public comment.

Adjournment

Co-Chair Dave Meador adjourned the meeting at 4:44 p.m.

Board Member Attendees

Alice Thompson, Angelique Power, Bill Kingsley, Byron Osbern, Colleen Allen, Conrad Mallett, Curtis Ivery, Dave Meador, Darienne Hudson, Kimberly Espy, Edgar Vann, Mike McLaughlan, Mike Haller, Tony Tomczak, Hester Wheeler,