



## CITY OF DETROIT MAYOR'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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Wednesday, March 6, 2024

3:30-5 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 3:42 p.m.

#### **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 increased 0.6% in December, with 1,304 more Detroiters employed than in November. At 236,934, employment is above the 2023 average (231,171) and is at its highest since September (237,226). Employment is also up by 8,910 compared to December 2022. Regionally, according to DTMB, the Detroit MSA was the only labor market area in the state to see an employment increase this month.

He continued with an update on the Grow Michigan Together Council noting it was established by Governor Gretchen Whitmer in June 2023 and will develop a long-term vision that addresses current and future challenges and sets Michigan up for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He closed by announcing that the Detroit Regional Workforce Partnership has named Jayme Powell as its new Executive Director.

*Questions and comments from board members ensued.*

#### **Executive Director's Report – Terri Weems**

Ms. Weems opened her report with two board member acknowledgements highlighting co-chair Darienne Hudson and her recent honor from the Michigan Chronicle as a 2024 Standout Black Non-Profit Leader in Southeastern Michigan as well as Faye Nelson for her recent honor from the Michigan Chronicle as a Women of Excellence 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Ms. Weems continued with an economic development update highlighting the Future of Health CBO, a new sweeping community development from developers of Henry Ford Health, Michigan State University and the Detroit Pistons that will bring connectivity between Henry Ford's hospital campus footprint to the north and south of West Grand Blvd., while transforming

the section of new Center which currently houses the headquarters of both Henry Ford health System and the Detroit Pistons.

Ms. Weems closed her report with a look at the Detroit at Work metrics, highlighting data from the \$100M Scholarship program noting the total for participant enrollment and breaking down those that earned a GED/Diploma, Finished Job Training and those that got a job.

*Questions and comments from board members ensued.*

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **State of Michigan Workforce Plan – Susan Corbin, Larry Good**

Mr. Good opened the presentation by noting that the plan is organized around 3 stellar ideas: People – to have the skills, opportunities and support needed to thrive and prosper; Employers - - to hire the talent they need to locate and grow in Michigan; Communities, Regions & the State – catalyze workforce, education and economic development assets to set up Michigan as a leading state in income mobility, good jobs and equity for decades to come.

Key factors in this plan include racial and gender equity, job quality, collaboration and coordination, accountability and continuous improvement. He closed the report by noting the plan's goals which include helping more Michiganders earn a skills certificate or degree, increase access to opportunities that grow the middle class and support business and entrepreneurial growth through talent solutions.

*Questions and comments from board members ensued.*

### **The Road to Restoration Clinic – Jocelyn Benson**

Ms. Benson opened her report with an introduction to the Road to Restoration series of clinics, noting the program was started by the Michigan Department of State after the enactment of the Clean Slate to Drive laws, which terminated certain violations and infractions from the records of thousands of Michigan drivers in 2021, enabling them to safely return to the wheel and help guide them on their next steps.

To date, they've held 35 clinics, 6 in the city of Detroit and two mini clinics partnering with the Detroit Police Department and City Council President Sheffield.

Ms. Benson noted that while over 200 people have successfully regained their driving privileges, more could have if they had the money. Some residents are unable to regain driving privileges because of mounting fines and fees, which causes a vicious cycle of debt and limited employment opportunities. She closed her report by noting that the Road to Restoration fund was created by DTE and the Canton Community Foundation to help economically challenged Michiganders clear barriers to regain a license and encouraged our partners to donate to help more residents remove this barrier for an opportunity to return to work.

*Questions and comments from board members ensued.*

## **Public Comment**

Co-Chair Dave Meador asked for public comment. Shaniece Bennet, Executive Director and Founder of Femme Solutions asks that the board considers certificate programs of completions that are done by professionals.

**Adjournment**

Co-Chair Darienne Hudson adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

**Board Member Attendees**

Angelique Power, Andra Rush, Bill Kingsley, Bruce Dall, Carla Walker-Miller, Colleen Allen, Curtis Ivery, Dave Meador, Darienne Hudson, Jocelyn Benson, Edgar Vann, Mark Gaffney, Michelle Sourie-Robinson, Mike Haller, Mike McLaughlan, Nia Winston,