



CITY OF DETROIT MAYOR'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Wednesday, September 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 3:03 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 Conrad Mallett, supported by Andra Rush. Motion Approved.

REPORTS

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

Resident Employment Update: Co-Chairs Dave Meador and Darienne Hudson opened the report with acknowledgements for Terri Weems on her new appointment as Executive Director to the board, Dana Williams on her new role as President & CEO of Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation, former co-chair Cindy Pasky for her service to the board, and board member Carla Walker-Miller for her inclusion in Crain's Detroit Business as one of the Notable Leaders in Energy.

Mr. Meador continued with the Resident Employment Data, noting employment numbers have risen past pre-covid data to 232,849 for July 2023.

Ms. Hudson continued the report with a look at Childcare needs in the workforce, citing data from the ALICE report. She noted that 47% of families struggle to meet their basic needs in Wayne County. In Detroit that number increases to 65%. Childcare is consistently the greatest expense. There is a significant gap in current funding levels and potentially over a thousand childcare centers will close in our state. It is estimated that there are 30,000 Detroiters not participating in the workforce due to childcare issues.

Mr. Meador closed the report with a review of the key regional workforce challenges, noting that the Regional Workforce Group (a CEO-led regional intermediary) would look at the following key areas: economic development, workforce development, education, regional transit and public spaces.

Questions and comments from board members ensued.

Executive Director's Report – Terri Weems

Ms. Weems opened her report with data from Detroit at Work noting steady increases in the number of people trained, job placements, and wages. She continued with a further dive into the Detroit Resident Employment report noting that Detroit has the highest level of employment ever. Ms. Weems highlighted the economic outlook for 2022-2028 which projects more jobs and wages to continue to increase. From 2014-2021, the average annual wages of residents increase by 47%, which is a testament to the work this board has been doing.

Ms. Weems closed her report with a look at economic development, noting the new the District Detroit Opportunity center which opened next to the Fox Theatre. The resource center is dedicated to linking residents with employment and housing opportunities in the area. Amazon recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its distribution center and has entered a Priority Hiring agreement with the city, where Detroit at Work has prepared residents for work there. Finally, Cure Auto Insurance has partnered with the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation to bring their office to the city.

Questions and comments from board members ensued.

NEW BUSINESS

Career & Education Advisory Council Report Out - Alycia Meriweather, Deputy Superintendent, Detroit Public Schools Community District

Ms. Meriweather opened her report with a look at the yearly metrics for CEAC, the educational arm of the workforce board. The 2022-2023 metrics report tracked 4638 participating students in career awareness, exploration, preparation, and training, through a series of work-based learning activities including Wayne County Manufacturing Day, Sachse Academy Construction Day, DTE Energy Day, Urban Alliance, and Jobs for America's Graduates. She continued noting that all the high schools in DPSCD have been redesigned to include career academies that are focused around high-demand, high-wage jobs, with over 3000 students enrolled in a career pathway. There are Career Technical Education (CTE) programs at every DPSCD high school, with over 1300 students enrolled in CTE. At the Career Tech Centers (Randolph, Breithaupt and Golightly) there are over 500 students enrolled in skilled-trades training.

Ms. Meriweather closed her report by encouraging board members to think about ways to connect with the school system.

Questions and comments from board members ensued.

PRESENTATIONS

City of Detroit Housing - Donald Rencher, Group Executive, Housing, Planning & Development, City of Detroit

Mr. Rencher opened his report by noting his work with the Detroit Land Bank, the Detroit Housing Commission, and the Housing Revitalization Department of Planning department to invest in neighborhoods and provide equitable opportunities for Detroit residents to essentially live every day. Mr. Rencher continued by highlighting a multi-faceted approach that the Strategic Neighborhood Fund is doing to bring investments, like streetscapes, blight elimination, commercial activity, parks and open spaces, to neighborhoods with affordable housing.

With a total investment of \$261 million to those neighborhoods, 378 affordable housing units were created and over 173 single-family rehabs completed and another 94 in the pipeline.

Questions and comments from board members ensued.

GDYT Summer 2023 Outcomes - Stephanie Nixon, Chief Program Officer; Chauncey Samuel, Manager, Fund Development & Employer Engagement; Misty Evans, GDYT, Director of Program Operations

Ms Nixon opened the report by noting another successful year for the Grow Detroit's Young Talent program with 8,546 youth placed in summer work experiences including industry-led training, pre-apprenticeships, junior police & fire cadets among others. She noted that the program increased its wages to \$15/hr to remain competitive in the market. Partnerships and funding also increased. In the program's industry-led opportunities where participants can earn a credential, there were 650 available slots and 87% of youth earned a credential in 2023. Among those include IT coding, Certified Nursing Assistant, Drone Operations, OSHA 30 and Social Media Marketing.

Ms. Nixon closed her report with highlights and testimonials from the GDYT youth experiences.

Questions and comments from board members ensued.

Public Comment

Co-Chair Darienne Hudson asked for public comment.

Miranda Boyd-Automation Workz, asked about adaptive skill training, noting that challenged learners have a hard time communicating in work settings. Executive Director Terri Weems noted the Skills For Life program and its career-readiness focus where participants work 3 days a week and train 2 days per week.

Dana Williams reviewed an inquiry from one of Detroit at Work's training providers entering into record 3 specific questions:

- 1.) This is the global epicenter of mobility funding that the region has been provided to support the Ev jobs academic. And they're wondering how much funding that the city of Detroit, DESC, Detroit at work has received out of this pot of money.
- 2.) How many of the DESC current training providers have been approved to participate as a part of the upscaling providers in the Ev Jobs Academy?
- 3.) When was the training provider application to become a Detroit at work approved provider issued?

Adjournment

Co-Chair Dave Meador adjourned the meeting at 4:58 p.m.

Board Member Attendees

Alice Thompson, Andra Rush, Bill Robinson, Bruce Dall, Byron Osbern, Colleen Allen, Conrad Mallett, Curtis Ivery, Darienne Hudson, Dave Meador, Faye Nelson, Josh Sirefman, Michelle Sourie-Robinson, Mike Haller, Tony Tomczak, Heaster Wheeler, Alycia Meriweather.