

## DRAFT MINUTES

Detroit Workforce Development Board  
Friday, March 13, 2015

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
Location: MSU Detroit Center, 3408 Woodward, Detroit, MI  
Facilitating: Al Nelson, Chairman

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Directors Present: Malinda Jensen, Veronica Madrigal, Gwen McNeal, Larry Steward, Robert Troutman, Al Nelson, Lena Barkley, Mark Gaffney, Kevin Smith, Shawn Blanchard, Toney Stewart, Michael Aaron, QuanTez Pressley, Cal Sharp, Paula Autry, Shawna Forbes, Thomas Habitz, Jannette Howard, Alice Thompson

Directors Absent: Jean Meyer, Andrew Gutman, Dwayne Haywood, Robert Garcia, Yvette Harris, Chris Uhl

Staff Present: Pamela Moore, Jose Reyes, Kristin Bailey, L'Tanya Clegg, Robin Johnston, Stephanie Nixon, Alessia Baker-Giles, Robert Shimkoski, Chauncey Samuel, Malindia Westbrook, Cherre Morgan

Guests: Richard Acosta, John Iannucci Waller, Alfred Taylor, Marsha Cheeks, Jeannine LaPrad, Janet Howard, Liz Colon, Maxie Jones, Willie Walker, Brenda Motley-Aikens, Anne Menefee, Tyra Thompson, Richard Carson, Amy Amador, Clarence Grimes, Benne Baker, Ajay Parikh

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### Proceedings

The meeting of the Detroit Workforce Development Board (DWDB) was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Director Al Nelson, Chair. Chair Nelson welcomed all to the meeting and asked new Board members to introduce themselves to the group. A motion was made by Director Mike Aaron to approve the Draft Agenda of Friday, March 13, 2015, supported by Director Gwen McNeal. Motion Carried Unanimously. A motion was made by Director Mark Gaffney to approve the Draft Minutes of Friday, December 19, 2014, supported by Director Lena Barkley. Motion Carried Unanimously.

### Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation's (DESC) CEO Report

Ms. Pamela Moore, President/CEO, DESC, shared the following updates:

New Funding: This is non-federal, private and foundation dollars that DESC pursued last year. Thanks to Robert Shimkoski (Director of Planning, DESC) and his team, DESC has been awarded approximately \$1.6M.

Placements: Last year, there were over 12,000 placements which is a huge increase over the past three years. Ms. Moore explained that this number spans across all programs, but the majority of placements come through the One-Stop centers. DESC trained over 3,000 individuals last year, served 1,720 businesses and 33,000 individuals walked through the doors.

Audits and Compliance: Cycle II and III audit findings have been completed and are clean. IRS tax return 990PF has been submitted to the IRS.

Program Year 2014-15 Budget: DESC expenditures are on track, DESC is at about 54% of the budget through January 2015 and all line items are on target. The budget for travel is 92% expended.

DESC is preparing to submit a United States Department of Labor (USDOL) partnership grant, due in April 2015. It is a \$1M grant distributed over five years. DESC is partnering with Wayne County, CVS and others. In addition, DESC has advanced to the second round in consideration for a Jobs for the Future/Aspen Social Innovation Fund Grant. The potential award amount for this project is \$300K with a mandatory 50/50 match to total \$600K and will involve a cohort of 30 youth; 20 for CVS's Management Training Program and on to

DRAP to complete the CVS Management Apprenticeship Program. The remaining 10 are enrolled in the Youth Build Program at SER-Metro Detroit.

One-Stop Transition: DESC plans to bring over the Business Services team, a few IT positions, and the Data Validation piece.

P.A.T.H.: The work participation rate is now at 64% (50% is required) and the placement rate is currently 58%.

Detroit Registered Apprenticeship Program (DRAP): To date, 129 apprentices have been placed into employment in skilled trades, construction and pharmacy sectors with an average wage of \$16/hr. In February, DESC expanded its focus on IT occupations. In February and March, five skilled trades pre-apprentice cohorts will be trained by Wayne County Community College District.

### **Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation (DESC) One-Stop Report**

Mr. Richard Acosta, Director of the One-Stop Service Centers, noted this would be his last presentation before the Board in light of the upcoming One-Stop Service Center contractor transition. He thanked Ms. Moore, the full DESC Team, and the Board for being supportive of the work being performed in the centers. He noted that in 2013, there were approximately 4,300 placements with an average wage a little over \$10.00/hour. In 2014, the agency reached over 5,300 placements. This program year, DESC is averaging 460 placements per month. Wages now for intensive customers is over \$11.00/hour, and the cumulative wage for all placements is around \$10.86/hour. In addition, DESC almost doubled its training participation rate between 2013 and 2014, and he thanked the agency's partners in the community for that success. Mr. Acosta then allowed for questions and thanked all for their support. The Board thanked Mr. Acosta and his team for their work.

### **Board Member Acknowledgement**

Chair Nelson and Ms. Moore presented Dr. George Swan with a plaque for his service to the DWDB, DESC Board, and the agency. Dr. Swan shared a few words about his experience serving on the Board and thanked all for the opportunity.

### **Communications Strategy Update and DESC Success Stories**

Mr. Robin Johnston, Communications Manager, DESC, presented a new video that is being shown at the One-Stop Service Centers and cable channels. He also introduced two individuals, a jobseeker and an employer, who have taken advantage of DESC's services: Mr. Clarence Grimes and Mr. Ajay Parikh.

Mr. Ajay Parikh, Director of Human Resources at Henry Ford Hospital, shared his experience in hiring individuals through DESC since this relationship began two years ago. He noted Henry Ford Hospital's commitment to hiring staff from within the hospital's communities. He shared that working with DESC has been a great experience, and Henry Ford looks forward to continuing the relationship and hiring more Detroiters.

Mr. Clarence Grimes shared his journey as a jobseeker, which started with DESC approximately one year ago. He entered into a skilled trade apprenticeship program, a five-year program with starting pay at \$19.00/hour. Once it is completed, Mr. Grimes noted that he could make as much as \$40.00/hour.

### **Discussion: Policy Focus Areas for DESC**

Ms. Kristin Bailey, Compliance Manager, DESC, introduced this agenda item and shared DESC's mission with the group in order to set the foundation for today's discussion. Ms. Moore noted the importance of taking time to discuss the policies that impact workforce development.

Director Alice Thompson would like to see DESC expand its work with Detroit Public Schools (DPS) to further prepare youth for today's workforce. Director Kevin Smith agreed with Director Thompson, noting that conversations have started regarding the creation of collaborative hubs. He also noted that DPS has four career technical centers that could offer heavy construction trade. Director Smith believes this would be a great opportunity for a collaboration between DPS and DESC.

Director Sharp noted that transportation is a huge issue that needs to be addressed. Director Sharp talked briefly about one company that has recently located in the area, Vehicles for Change. People starting off at \$10.00 - \$11.00/hour can get a \$1,000.00 car within two to three years.

Director Lena Barkley shared that a new law passed in December 2014 is transitioning the role of a pharmacy technician into a licensed position and noted the importance of training individuals for this type of job opportunity. Director Gaffney shared a specific need for diesel mechanics and urged DESC to help prepare individuals for this job opportunity.

Brief discussion ensued regarding connecting the dots regarding skilled trades, plugging into the prison system and policy around re-entry, and also how to better service the disabled population in the city.

#### **Discussion: DESC Board Update**

Director Sharp noted that during the December Board meeting, it was agreed that DESC would pursue direct operation and management of the One-Stop Service Centers. A decision subsequently took place to bring the Business Services Unit in-house and to procure a One-Stop Service Center provider. Director Sharp informed the Board that proposals started coming in and that DESC staff will be meeting over the next several weeks to review and rate proposals and ultimately make a decision on a provider. After further discussion about the decision change, a motion was made by Director Thompson to approve bringing the Business Services component in-house and releasing an RFP for a provider to run the One-Stop Service Centers, supported by Director Veronica Madrigal. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Director Sharp and DESC staff also shared with the group the following items that were approved by the DESC Board: A contract modification for PATH/ACCESS, a standing Education and Youth Committee, and the 990 PF Form (FY 2014).

#### **Public Comment**

Ms. Amy Amador, Executive Director for Mercy Education Project, noted that she appreciated the One-Stop video and shared that her agency is with DESC as we try to figure out how to find door openers and jobs that will lead to self-sufficiency. Ms. Amador looks forward to working with others in Detroit as we move this city and its residents forward. Chair Nelson thanked Ms. Amador for her comments. Ms. Moore shared a thank you card received from Former Chair David Baker Lewis.

#### **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the DWDB, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Prepared by: L'Tanya Clegg