



A Michigan Works! Agency

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MEETING:	DESC Executive Committee Meeting	DATE:	April 28, 2020
VIDEO CONFERENCE ATTENDEES:	DESC Committee Members: Cal Sharp, Alice Thompson, Chris Uhl, Maria Woodruff-Wright, Nicole Sherard-Freeman DESC Staff: Terri Weems, Stephanie Nixon, Marie Hocker, Robert Shimkowski, Sheilah Clay, David Jackson, Elizabeth Hennessey	LOCATION:	440 E. Congress Corporate Board Room Detroit, MI 48226
ABSENT:	Excused: None Unexcused: None	CALLED TO ORDER:	9:04 am
FACILITATOR:	Cal Sharp, Interim Board Chair	ADJOURNED:	9:37 am
		DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:	06/30/2020

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION ITEM(S)
I. Welcome and Roll Call	Cal Sharp, DESC Interim Board Chair, called the meeting to order and read a statement acknowledging our adherence to the Governors Executive Orders of March 2020, and stating that we have provided a means to the public to submit comments for the consideration of this committee.	
II. Agenda and Minutes Approval	Cal Sharp called for a motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting: <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Chris Uhl Seconded: Alice Thompson Motioned Carried – Approved Unanimously</p> Cal Sharp called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes for January 21, 2020: <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Alice Thompson Seconded: Chris Uhl Motioned Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	
III. Interim Board Chair Report	Cal Sharp reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the situation we are under, the Unemployment Insurance piece of our tasks being under stress, it is clear how heavy the load is for our people on the UI side. This topic will 	



	<p>be addressed in the Board meeting coming after this, it is a critical piece at this time to the work we do serving the people of Detroit.</p>	
<p>IV. Interim CEO Report</p>	<p>Terri Weems, DESC Interim President & CEO reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have moved to remote work temporarily. Customers may get support by going to our Detroit at Work website, using our online platform, or by calling Detroit at Work. We are unable to have any in person appointments at the Centers at this time due to COVID. We are actively working to determine the best approach to serve customers who need in person support. We are also pursuing paper options for those people that do not have computer access. We continue to promote our Ready to Work jobs, in areas of high demand in areas like grocery stores and in the medical field. • At the moment, of the 200 to 300 calls Detroit at Work receives a day, well over 50% of them are related to unemployment insurance. While we traditionally do not file claims for people due to liability, we defer to the State for correct information and guidance, we have in the past helped them to meet the requirements for unemployment. We have recently seen filing for unemployment reach a million people, and the State system cannot handle the volume. Michigan Works Associations across the state offered support, and the State has started training our staff to work through the Michigan login and MARVIN, the State of Michigan's unemployment we have about 300 people collectively across the state who have been trained, and we would like to add another 60 people to that training. We can help with the common problems people are having with the unemployment process. Mainly there are issues with password resets and inability to upload documentation. We are launching a campaign to raise awareness around the new requirements associated with unemployment insurance. • GDYT is busy preparing for the summer program. Some cities have cancelled their programs, but we are committed to providing the critical employment experience to youth across Detroit, as well as, in some cases, the critical need for that income. We are currently working to move some or all of our program to remote work. The challenges we face in this COVID-19 situation are that some companies have suspended their summer intern programs, and the technology needs we need to address if the experiences are done virtually. Fortunately, we have had corporations' partner with DESC and the City to provide financial assistance. We may have to contemplate an additional 2,000 students in our budget, due to some of the internships being closed down. Traditionally those students would have been paid through an affiliate we have a relationship with. • We are doing pretty well financially, however, the State has de-obligated two of our funding sources. Coupled with the fact that the State has a significant shortfall. We were urged by the Audit and Finance committee to further consider the Paycheck Protection Plan, and we will be giving that more thought as a leadership team and have engaged our legal counsel to advise us and to help us understand how the program works. The first trench of the CARES Act was depleted quickly. There was a second round announced yesterday, which is being exhausted within the day. There is a time limited opportunity through the Community Reinvestment Fund, and we have found them very helpful to us. We believe it would be prudent to apply. We have 	

	<p>started the process, to gather the documents necessary and the amounts we can apply for. We would need Board approval and have added that to the Board agenda.</p> <p>Committee discussion ensued.</p>	
Public Comments	<p>Cal Sharp, called for public comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no public comment 	
V. Adjournment	<p>Cal Sharp called to adjourn the meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motioned: Chris Uhl Seconded: Cal Sharp Motion Carried. Passed/Approved Unanimously.</p>	
VI.		

DRAFT SUBMITTED BY:

Printed Name: **Elizabeth Hennessey**

Title: **Executive Assistant to the Interim President & CEO**

Signature: **/s/ E Hennessey**

Date: 05/01/2020

DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED: 06/30/2020 Initials: EH

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 @ 9:00 AM