

Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation (DESC) Board
Program Services Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Location: 440 East Congress, 4th Floor
Facilitating: Mark Gaffney, Chairman

Directors Present: Mark Gaffney, Malinda Jensen, Dwayne Haywood, Kenyetta Bridges
Directors Absent: Yvette Harris, (excused) Veronica Madrigal (excused)
Guest Present: Jacqueline Beneguehe, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
DESC Staff Present: Pamela Moore, Kristin Bailey, L’Tanya Clegg, Robert Shimkoski, Barkley Scott,
Carla Phelps, Chauncey Samuel, Jose Reyes, Jessica Carr

PROCEEDINGS

The meeting of Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation (DESC) Board’s Program Services Committee was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Director Mark Gaffney, Chairman. A motion was made by Director Dwayne Haywood to approve the Draft Agenda of June 2, 2015, supported by Director Melinda Jensen. Motion Carried Unanimously. A motion was made by Director Jensen to approve the Draft Minutes of February 5, 2015, supported by Director Haywood. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Ms. Pamela Moore, President/CEO, DESC, offered a brief overview of the Mackinac Policy Conference, which took place Tuesday, May 26 through Friday, May 29, 2015. She attended, along with Mr. Jose Reyes (Chief Operating Officer, DESC), Mr. Robert Shimkoski (Director of Planning, DESC), and Mr. Robin Johnston (Communications Manager, DESC). The themes for the conference included talent development, urban revitalization, as well as cohesion. She also shared that J.P. Morgan Chase conducted a panel focused on their workforce mapping initiative in the city of Detroit.

Ms. Moore then discussed the upcoming budget cuts for FY 2015-2016, noting that the cuts take away a large portion of DESC’s in-school youth funding. These funds will be shifted to older youth (18-24). Wagner-Peyser funds (for employment services) were also cut. PATH (TANF) funding information will be released in October. The agency is waiting to get more information from the State of Michigan about this funding. Also, the agency’s budget is impacted by the fact that it doesn’t have carry-in dollars for the upcoming fiscal year. Ms. Moore also shared information about a Demonstration Grant from The United States Department of Labor (USDOL).

FEDERAL PROGRAMS UPDATE

DESC has procured a new One-Stop Service Center Contractor: SERCO/SER Metro. Grant Associates left at the end of April. SER Metro interviewed and kept approximately 80% of those employed with Grant Associates. Ms. Moore explained that DESC brought the Business Services Unit in-house. The final number of placements for Grant Associates was 3,857 from July 2014 – April 2015. While reviewing the documents, the group noted that staff should provide a more condensed format of the data for easier review. Chair Gaffney noted that he would like the documentation to show the people served and then broken out into their respective places of employment.

Chair Gaffney inquired about the size of DESC's returning citizen customer base. Ms. Moore shared DESC worked with 585 customers for those ten months, sharing that many of these individuals are coming through DESC's returning citizen's workshop. Ms. Moore also shared that DESC is aware of the employers that will hire returning citizens. Approximately four-thousand (4,000) returning citizens come into Detroit on an annual basis. Brief discussion ensued regarding Michigan Economic Development Council's cuts that have offered funding for these type programs. Ms. Moore also noted that Mayor Duggan's team is interested in working closely with the Department of Corrections and work with this population.

Year-Round Youth – Ms. Moore noted that DESC failed a measure, which is not acceptable. DESC uses five (5) youth providers to do this work. While monitoring program performance, staff took note of a youth provider with eleven (11) deficiencies. A corrective action was issued based on these deficiencies.

PATH – This is DESC's welfare-to-work program, where nine (9) providers conduct this work for the agency. Mr. Barkley Scott, Senior Program Analyst, DESC, noted that the work participation rate is trending up to 55.3% (the goal is 50%). The only thing that is trending down is enrollment, and discussion ensued that there are different issues that individuals face that keep them from participating in these types of programs.

Food Assistance Employment and Training (FAET) – DESC received a \$1M grant for a pilot program. This program is voluntary for able-bodied adults (mostly returning citizens). Previously there was no training component with this program. This funding allows for a training component to be put in place for these individuals. This is the SNAP program and has 200 participants over a two-year period.

Trade Adjustment Assistance Program Report (TAA) – Tracks the number of individuals utilizing TAA services offered in the One-Stop-Service Centers on a monthly basis. To date, there are no required performance standards for this program.

Employment Services Report – This report tracks the number of customers registering for unemployment services within each One-Stop on a monthly basis. This report assists in managing resource distribution as it tracks volume percentage per center.

NON-FEDERAL FUNDING PROGRAM UPDATE

DESC has provided a schedule of funding balances for non-federal funding for the following: Demand-Driven Detroit Training (Chase Funds); DTE Energy Foundation; Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant; Detroit Environmental Employment Program; Aspen Grant; Henry Ford Health Systems; Illitch Funds; and Jobs for Michigan Graduates.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was presented before the committee.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Program Services Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Prepared by: L'Tanya Clegg