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A Michigan Works! Agency

MEETING:	DESC Corporate Board Meeting	DATE:	December 15, 2020
VIA ZOOM ATTENDEES:	DESC Board Members: Cal Sharp, Alice Thompson, Don O'Connell, Lena Barkley, Ric Preuss, Chris Uhl, Nicole Sherard-Freeman, Maria Woodruff-Wright DESC Staff: Terri Weems, Michelle Rafferty, Stephanie Nixon, Elizabeth Hennessey, Robert Shimkoski, Sheilah Clay, Alessia Baker-Giles, Madelyne Bernard-Diab, Carmen Bender, Mel Polk, Angela Polk, Robin Johnston, JaNae' Combs, Dana Williams, Sheila Johnson, Chioke Mose-Telesford, Katrina Moss, Maxie Jones, Raven Scott, Sandra Walker	LOCATION:	Zoom Meeting
		CALLED TO ORDER:	9:47 am
ABSENT:	Excused: Toney Stewart, Dannis Mitchell, Mike Aaron Unexcused: None	ADJOURNED:	11:13 am
PUBLIC ATTENDEES:	John Allen, Chris Phillips, Paul Bryant, Shawanna Jackson, Veronica Peavey		
FACILITATOR:	Cal Sharp, Board Chair	DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED:	January 26, 2021

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION ITEM(S)
I. Welcome & Introductions	<p>Cal Sharp, Board Chair, called the meeting to order and read a statement regarding the state's recent amendment to the Open Meetings Act and how it impacts our virtual meeting. For the purpose of the minutes, all Board members attending remotely identified themselves and the location they were joining from:</p> <p>Cal Sharp from Bloomfield Township, MI Alice Thompson from Detroit, MI Nicole Sherard-Freeman from Rochester Hills, MI Chris Uhl from Berkley, MI Don O'Connell from Royal Oak, MI Ric Preuss from Detroit, MI Lena Barkley from Detroit, MI Maria Woodruff-Right from Farmington Hills, MI</p>	



<p>II. Agenda and Minutes Approval</p>	<p>Cal Sharp asked for approval to the agenda for the December 15, 2020 meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Don O’Connell Seconded: Lena Barkley Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p> <p>Cal Sharp called for approval of the meeting minutes for the Board meeting on August 25, 2020:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion: Chris Uhl Seconded: Ric Preuss Motion Carried – Approved Unanimously</p>	
<p>III. DESC Board Chair Report</p>	<p>Cal Sharp reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sharp congratulated to DESC for being so successful and innovative in their response to the challenges faced and in providing services to Detroiters during the COVID-19 crisis. 	
<p>IV. DESC President Board Report</p>	<p>Terri Weems reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you, Mr. Chair, for your support and acknowledgement of the team and all their tremendous work. • Our partners are doing a great job too, we look at progress and statistics in their remote or possibly hybrid instruction. • We receive wonderful feedback from our customers, which is very encouraging. 	<p>Mr. Sharp asked that when things are more secure, we are able to see the virtual materials being used.</p>
<p>V. Mayors Workforce Development Board Update</p>	<p>Nicole Sherard-Freeman commented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlighting resident employment, just before Covid, we had 230,000 Detroiters employed. After Covid hit that number dropped to 130,000. As of October, the numbers are back on the rise to about 220,000 Detroiters employed. Of that number there is a significant bump from the residents that have accepted positions at FCA, 3,800 are already working in temporary positions in anticipation of their full-time positions starting. • Workforce talent and training rises to the top of the list for employers hiring Detroiters. That is why the Mayors strategy for putting workforce and economic development together is such a strong strategy moving forward. • Detroit’s small and micro-business community (1 – 49 employees) could become the largest jobs generator in the future. Our job is to provide them assistance with technical support and capital. • Lastly, we have helped to close the digital divide by providing devices to young people. We’re offering 5,000 devices and connectivity packages to adults enrolled in some of our programs, to even the divide and show potential employers, in these days of remote work that Detroiters have the skills needed to compete. 	

	Board discussion ensued.	
VI. Audit & Finance Committee Update	<p>Alessia Baker-Giles introduced Paul Bryant and Shawana Jackson of Plant Moran with an update on our annual audit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Bryant commended the DESC Finance team for their exceptional work on this, their first virtual audit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The audit opinion will be an unmodified opinion, which is the best opinion that auditors can give to an organization based upon the audit that we performed, this is also known as a clean audit. • Ms. Jackson continued regarding the Financial statements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Highlighted Forgivable Payroll loan that was received. ○ There has been a slight decrease in revenue from the prior year, which we have seen with many other organizations during this time. • We conducted two single audits, one on WIOA and one on TAA. We additionally concluded with an unmodified opinion, which is another good outcome for the programs. <p>Alessia Baker-Giles continued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As an update we have submitted the application for forgiveness for the PPP. Our lender who is CRM USA has 60 days to review our application. Once they're done the SBA has 90 days to give us our final approval, we received \$1.7 million for a 24-week period we reported payroll costs of \$3.3 million. We believe we should qualify for forgiveness, due to an increase in our employment numbers over the period. 	
VII. Program Services Committee Update	<p>Alice Thompson reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We had a very productive Program Services Committee meeting on December 11, 2021. • Stephanie Nixon, our CPO and Ericka Page, our Director of Youth Programs gave an update on one of our providers, and some recommendations on moving forward with them, and gave us insight into the provider review process. • We provided the score card before you to display the matrix providers are expected to achieve so we are transparent in the event changes have to be made to providers in the future. <p>Board discussion ensued.</p>	
VIII. Program Update – Learn to Earn (L2E)	<p>Carmen Bender reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Learn to Earn program offers adults, the opportunity to pursue a high school equivalency or high school diploma, while earning a stipend. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This program is executed in partnership with Detroit Public school community district. And we also provide a laptop, a calculator, and a Wi-Fi hot spot. • Participants have to be 21 or older, and willing to commit 20 hours a week to their program completion. • If a participant is not up to the level of standards we have set in math, science, English/language arts and social studies, instruction will be provided, allowing the participants to complete their GED. • Participants also receive career exploration and coaching from the Detroit at work career centers. We have all nine centers involved in this process, and they have been wonderful partners in helping to execute this new program. • We also coordinate supportive services, in cases where homelessness or other barriers are in place, through our Career Centers. • The program began in early July and as of today 875 people have applied for the program. We have enrolled 122 into the program with a goal of 150 people from the initial funding date. To date we have distributed \$70,000 in stipends and have had 2 people graduate the program. <p>Board discussion ensued.</p>	
<p>IX. People Plan</p>	<p>Nicole Sherard-Freeman commented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We recently had our first funding launch for The People Plan. In 2015 we were at nearly 40% poverty in the city. We wanted a plan to reduce that number. With roughly a \$5,000 investment per person, we can achieve that goal. Not just bringing Detroiters out of poverty, not just breaking cycles of intergenerational poverty but solidly onto a path to the middle class. • We can achieve this with the programs we have in place, like Learn to Earn, training available at the Detroit at Work Career Centers. <p>Michelle Rafferty continued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The People Plan is our attempt to raise additional funds to make sure that we are providing the most promising practices and innovative programs. • We have 3 goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase residential employment ○ Reduce poverty ○ Improve economic mobility <p>Board discussion ensued.</p>	
<p>X. Public Comments</p>	<p>There was no public comment.</p>	
<p>XI. Adjournment</p>		

	Cal Sharp adjourned the meeting.	
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DRAFT SUBMITTED BY:

Printed Name: Elizabeth Hennessey

Title: Executive Assistant to the President

Signature: /s/ E Hennessey

Date: 12/23/2020

DATE MINUTES APPROVED/ADOPTED: 01/26/2021 **Initials:** E Hennessey

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 @ 9:45 AM
