

MINUTES

Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation (DESC) Board
Program Services Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location: 440 East Congress, Conference Room 3R
Facilitating: Mark Gaffney, Chair

Directors Present: Mark Gaffney, Lena Barkley, Cal Sharp, Toney Stewart, Ric Preuss,
Directors Absent: Laura Hughes
DESC Staff Present: Jose Reyes, Kristin Bailey, L'Tanya Clegg, Stephanie Nixon, Robert Shimkoski,
Cassandra Ricks, Joycelyn Malcomcarr, Shirley Munoz
Guest Present: Justin Kimpson, Veronica Sanchez-Peavey, Reginald Davis, Andrew Cartwright, Nigel Taylor, Ed Duggan

PROCEEDINGS

The meeting of Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation Board's Program Services Committee was called to order at 10:40 a.m. by Chair Mark Gaffney. Chair Gaffney thanked staff for their preparation for today's meeting and thanked all for their attendance. A motion was made by Director Ric Preuss to approve the Draft Agenda of June 7, 2016, supported by Director Lena Barkley. Motion Carried Unanimously. A motion was made by Director Lena Barkley to approve the Minutes of April 19, 2016, supported by Director Toney Stewart. Motion Carried Unanimously.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS UPDATE

NON-FEDERAL FUNDING PROGRAMS UPDATE

Ms. Stephanie Nixon, Director of Programs and Service Innovation, DESC, provided an overview of the One-Stop report. She noted that the number of individuals that have engaged in DESC services to date as of April is 1,036 customers, and the quarter began in April with 1,753 individuals last year this time. DESC is running a little behind in the numbers this year from last year. Discussion ensued that DESC had no training dollars, which in part is the reason for the drop in numbers.

Partnership.Accountability.Training.Hope (PATH) – Custodial parents applying for cash assistance through the Family Independence Program (FIP) are referred to PATH. In order to continue with benefits, they have to engage in work activity over the month. Ms. Nixon stated that DESC is at 73% work participation rate (the goal is 50%). At one time, DESC's rate was 25%. The numbers are decreasing, which means people are moving on into employment or they are not making it into the program.

Food Assistance Employment & Training (FAET) – The FAE&T program provides employment skills, job search and job placement, training, literacy, and academic skills training for Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs). Most of these participants are challenged adults, and in most cases with one or more challenges. The majority of this population is male. Director Gaffney asked about where these individuals are finding work, and Ms. Nixon assured the members that she would have this information in the future. Ms. Nixon also noted that this is a paid work experience.

SNAP 2.0 – This pilot initiative is designed to recruit 200 eligible, low-income individuals over a two-year period offering supportive employment activities such as subsidized employment and on-the-job training, along with vocational skills training and various enhanced employment and training activities and supportive services.

Special Initiatives American Apprenticeship Grant – This grant supplied DESC with DESC training dollars, particularly given the decrease in WIOA dollars.

WIOA Youth Performance – Ms. Nixon stated that the WIOA youth program is for older youth, ages 19 – 21. Ms. Nixon explained that DESC monitors the programs, but the work is performed by YMCA, NSO, Midnight Golf and SER Metro. Ms. Nixon noted that all numbers are low and need to be further examined.

JAG - Ms. Nixon shared that the JAG program is run out of Cody and Osborn high schools and is a very successful program. The graduation rate for JAG is 90%. This program offers a structured approach. It is self-reported data on the family, not just the youth but the entire family. The annual budget for Jag is around \$1.5M which is integrated into the regular academics.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Mr. Robert Shimkoski, Director of Planning, DESC, spoke briefly about the \$2M Opportunities Grant from the United States Department of Labor (USDOL), explaining that this will open re-engagement centers at the One-Stop Centers, providing services for 500 in-school youth and 500 out-of-school youth. The Youth Bill application is due on July 6. Mr. Shimkoski also provided an overview of TechHire, which is a \$4M grant.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was presented to the committee.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Prepared by: L'Tanya Clegg