

MINUTES

Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation (DESC) Board
Program Services Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Location: 440 East Congress, Conference Room 3R
Facilitating: Mark Gaffney, Chair

Directors Present: Mark Gaffney, Laura Hughes (via conference call), Lena Barkley, Cal Sharp, Toney Stewart, Jeff Donofrio
Director(s) Excused: Ric Preuss
DESC Staff Present: Jose Reyes, Kristin Bailey, L'Tanya Clegg, Stephanie Nixon, Robert Shimkoski, Rose Wilson, Carla Phelps, Brandon Jessup, Chauncey Samuel, Jessica Carr

Proceedings

A motion was made by Director Jeff Donofrio to approve the Draft Agenda of April 19, 2016, supported by Director Lena Barkley. Motion Carried Unanimously. The meeting of Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation Board (DESC) Program Services Committee was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chair Mark Gaffney. Chair Gaffney noted that the next committee meeting would take place in June.

Chair Gaffney thanked DESC staff for their preparation for today's meeting. He thanked all for their attendance at this first meeting of the calendar year with the newly reconstituted Board/committee membership. Chair Gaffney shared that this committee, per the Corporation Board Bylaws, is expected to meet four (4) times a year and noted that the committee's duties and responsibilities are subject to change by the Corporation Board. Per the bylaws as stated today, the duties and responsibilities of the committee currently include but are not limited to the following:

- (1) Lend expertise to ensure that training strategies meet employer labor market needs;
- (2) Provide policy guidance to the Board to ensure that job seekers (including special populations) and business service customers can best utilize DESC resources; and
- (3) To review performance data in order to analyze outcomes and recommend strategies to the corporation board for improvement.

Chair Gaffney noted that this committee is not responsible for reviewing the agency's fiscal activities, as this responsibility is assigned to the Audit and Finance Committee.

Programs Update

Ms. Stephanie Nixon, Director of Program and Service Innovation, DESC, offered an overview of DESC's programs and discussed program integration, noting that the ultimate goal is for participants to become employed. Ms. Nixon stated that although DESC focuses on Detroiters, anyone can come into a One-Stop and be serviced.

Ms. Nixon provided an overview of the federal programs for the benefit of the newest members. Ms. Nixon explained that the One-Stop Career Center Services, Employment Services Program and Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program information is grouped together in the packets because these are the programs that are delivered in the One-Stop Career Centers. She briefly explained all of the services that are available and how the process works.

She shared that the Employment Services system design consists of bringing together individuals seeking jobs with employers seeking workers as the core of the labor exchange system. In accordance with Wagner-Peyser (funding) regulations, these services are provided at no cost to employers or job seekers. Information is shared

with appropriate agencies to facilitate labor exchange activities and to ensure compliance with federal and state regulations and trade services based on eligibility of the people coming in the door.

She also reviewed with the group the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program. TAA is a federal program that assists U.S. workers who lost their jobs as a result of foreign trade. The program seeks to provide these trade-affected workers with opportunities to obtain the skills, resources and support they need to become reemployed. She subsequently reviewed program metrics that showed the services customers used and the populations that were served. DESC reviews its metrics on special populations on a regular basis in order to help gauge the effectiveness of the agency's service delivery model.

Mr. Reyes recommended that staff add intensive service to the charts in order to show members many unemployed individuals that need help DESC has served. Director Jeff Donofrio asked whether DESC tracks individuals that utilize the mobile unit. Ms. Nixon stated that this could be done and she will ensure that this will be tracked on a separate report going forward. The mobile unit is really busy in the community several times every week. Brief discussion ensued about the number of non-Detroiters visiting the One-Stops, as well as the lower traffic coming to the One-Stops from Program Year (PY) 2014 to PY 2015.

The group discussed the fact that DESC wants to expand its recruitment efforts and the fact that transportation is an issue for Detroiters, particularly given the number of opportunities outside of the city of Detroit.

Partnership.Accountability.Training.Hope (PATH) – Custodial parents applying for cash assistance through the Family Independence Program (FIP) are referred to PATH. It is a recently renamed and redesigned program launched by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in partnership with the Workforce Development Agency and Michigan Works! Agencies. PATH replaces the Jobs, Education and Training (JET) work participation program that has been in effect since 2007. Ms. Nixon stated that DESC is currently looking to integrate services for PATH participants.

Food Assistance Employment & Training (FAET) – The FAE&T program provides employment skills, job search and job placement training and literacy and academic skills training for Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs). The program's goal is to place at least 60% of those enrolled into unsubsidized employment for at least ninety (90) calendar days.

SNAP – This pilot initiative is designed to recruit two hundred 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.

Grow Detroit's Young Talent (GDYT) – Ms. Nixon explained that this is the Mayor's Initiative to place 8,000 youth in employment and summer work experiences this year. She noted that there were 5,600 placements last year, and stated that DESC is working directly with the Mayor's office, SER Metro Detroit and City Connect. The program is based on a "hub and spoke" model.

Director Donofrio inquired as to whether DESC has conducted a secret shopper audit of the One-Stop Centers to see what type of service customers are receiving. Mr. Reyes noted that DESC has conducted secret shopper audits but not within the past two years. Ms. Nixon noted that the agency needs to start doing these audits again.

Special Initiatives

American Apprenticeship Grant – Ms. Jessica Carr, Program Analyst, DESC, explained that CVS is a part of this grant awarded October 1, 2015 (which continues through 2020). Ms. Carr explained that there are fifty (50)

slots at average of \$5,000.00 per training. Currently, thirteen individuals have been enrolled through Grand Circus. There is a six-week internship program followed by a 12-month apprenticeship program.

Detroit Demonstration Grant – This is DESC’s largest grant award at the moment, which focuses on reducing recidivism of at-risk youth. The total amount of the grant is \$4.2M over a two-year period. This grant includes a training component.

Environmental Protection Agency – This initiative provides Detroiters with demolition and hazmat training with a target of enrolling and training 60 individuals. So far, 58 individuals have been enrolled. Ms. Carr stated that the Mayor recently announced additional dollars for this program. DESC is partnering with Reclaim Detroit, which will provide individuals with hands-on training.

Ms. Carr briefly reviewed the National Emergency Grant which benefits long-term workers that have been out of work for twelve weeks or more.

Discussion ensued about working more closely with trade unions and the need to be closer aligned.

Grant Opportunities

Mr. Robert Shimkoski, Director of Planning, DESC, explained that another program that is not on the list is the Aspen Institute where DESC is responsible for outcomes for thirty (30) youth, explaining that staff recently attended a conference in Chicago about this project. He explained that Director Barkley and Linsey Gillery, Project Manager, DESC, gave a presentation which was received well by conference attendees.

Mr. Shimkoski also shared that as part of the program, DESC is working with Corporation for a Skilled Workforce (CSW) to do some collective impact work with other organizations. The University of Michigan Dearborn campus has agreed to serve as a core partner. He noted that DESC is excited about getting this work and moving it forward.

Mr. Shimkoski discussed two particular grants with the group: the Tech Hire Grant, a \$4M United States Department of Labor (USDOL) grant which serve 420 youth. This grant has three tiers of services: (1) bootcamp with Grand Circus; (2) apprenticeships, a longer-term program; (3) Bridge program, which would take people that are in need of GED support and other basic needs and give them long-term support into the other categories and ultimately into employment. These are strictly focused on IT, 11th grade or higher with longer or more protracted training.

Lastly, a grant was submitted for a USDOL Summer Jobs Pathways, a \$2M grant to be administered over two years. The goal of the grant is to take the summer youth program and expand it over the rest of the year.

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 10:35 a.m.

Prepared by: L’Tanya Clegg