



EMPLOY MILWAUKEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, June 3, 2026 – 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Cross Management- 425 W. Walnut Street, Milwaukee, WI 53205

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Carla Cross, Andres Gonzalez, Dan Bukiewicz, Anthony Cruz, Edgard Delgado, Kay Eilers, Houston Jamison, Matthew Martin, Aaron Shapiro, Julie Cayo, Shannon Chestnut, Alan Perlstein, Brandon Ramey, Erik Kennedy, Thomas Deslongchamps, Mayor Cavalier Johnson

Guests: Nadiyah Johnson, Alec Fisher, Mai Yang

Employ Milwaukee Staff Present: Annemarie Probst, Brenda King, Carrie Hersh, Marcia Blackman

Chair called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

I. Call to Order – Mayor Cavalier Johnson welcomed the Board and thanked them for their commitment and dedication to their communities.

II. Minutes from March 4, 2026, Meeting – Andres Gonzalez motioned for approval of the minutes, Aaron Shapiro seconded. The approval of the minutes passed unanimously.

III. Presentation: WIOA Youth AI Training Pilot

Nadiyah Johnson of Milky Way Tech Hub reported out on the successful completion of a four-week training program conducted in partnership with UNCOM and Employ Milwaukee, titled “AI Ready: After-School Future Workforce Program.” She noted that each session connected AI concepts to academic learning, workplace readiness, career planning, and problem-solving, with a focus on responsible use rather than reliance on AI as a shortcut. By the end of training, students demonstrated the ability to explain foundational AI concepts, develop structured prompts, critically evaluate AI-generated outputs, and apply AI tools to real-world tasks.

IV. Chair Report

a. Executive Committee Report

Carla Cross informed the Board that, in conjunction with the annual meeting requirements, it was necessary to review and approve the slate of Board of Directors officers and committee members. She noted that there is currently a vacancy for the position of Board Secretary, which Aaron Shapiro was nominated to fill. Andres Gonzalez motioned to approve Aaron Shapiro as Employ Milwaukee’s Board Secretary, Erik Kennedy seconded. The approval of Aaron Shapiro as Board Secretary passed unanimously. Erik Kennedy motioned to approve the existing officers and committee members, Anthony Cruz seconded. The approval of existing officers and committee members passed unanimously.

b. CEO Report

Julie Cayo presented the results of the WIOA procurement process. Nine proposals were received for the Adult and Adult Dislocated Worker programs, two proposals for the In-School Youth program, and five

proposals for the Out-of-School Youth program. She noted that evaluation committees comprised of internal staff, external stakeholders, and Board members reviewed the submissions. The selected providers remain unchanged, with increased funding allocated to youth programs and an anticipated increase in the number of individuals served.

Julie reported that Employ Milwaukee was awarded new funding through the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) Talent Recruitment Grant. She explained that this initiative represents a new area of work for the organization and is designed to address critical talent shortages in healthcare, engineering, information technology, and public safety. The grant will support the development of a comprehensive “welcome ecosystem,” including employment assistance, housing support, services for spouses, and community integration.

Additionally, Julie shared the results of the 2025–2026 Annual Coordinated Monitoring conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD). Five grants were monitored, including WIOA Title IB programs, and the review identified one promising practice, four areas of strength, nine areas of concern, and a total of 31 findings (15 programmatic, 11 fiscal, and 5 related to Equal Opportunity compliance). Employ Milwaukee has submitted responses to DWD, including challenges to certain findings, with a response from DWD anticipated in July. Julie also reported that the agency recently completed monitoring by the U.S. Department of Labor related to the Nursing Expansion Grant, with results expected within 45 days.

Julie outlined organizational goals for the upcoming year, including strengthening Employ Milwaukee’s position as the region’s leading workforce development organization by advancing partnerships with employers, educational institutions, government agencies, and community organizations. Additional priorities include diversifying and strengthening the organization’s portfolio and enhancing organizational capacity through leadership structure improvements and succession planning.

She also highlighted goals for the Board of Directors, including continuing to provide timely, transparent, data-driven information; partnering with Board leadership to strengthen governance practices, strategic planning, and overall Board engagement; and increasing the Board’s visibility and involvement in key workforce initiatives to further support the agency’s mission.

V. Personnel, Finance, and Audit Committee

Annemarie Probst presented the Fiscal Year 2027 budget noting projected revenues exceeding \$18.5 million, continued Department of Labor grant activity, reduced ARPA funding, and a conservative forecast for certain training programs pending state approvals. Carrie Hersh reviewed the Affirmative Action plan, which was prepared to satisfy state contract compliance requirements associated with Wisconsin funding, while also acknowledging the need to reconcile state requirements with federal guidance.

VI. Future Talent and Strategy Committee

Aaron Shapiro provided a summary of the Future Talent and Strategy Committee report. The committee reported approvals and recommendations related to WIOA contracts for Adult, Dislocated Worker, Out-of-School Youth and In-School Youth Programs, and NBA Foundation Contracts, along with policy reviews concerning Incumbent Worker, Website Policy and the WIOA Local Plan Modification.

VII. Other

Andres Gonzalez shared that Board Members are welcome to join any of the other committees that Employ Milwaukee has.

Meeting Adjourned 9:45 a.m.