



## EMPLOY MILWAUKEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Board of Directors

**Wednesday, June 11, 2025 – 8:30 am – 10:00 am**

2342 North 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Milwaukee, WI 53210 – and Via Microsoft Teams

### APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

**Members Present In-Person:** Carla Cross, Julie Cayo, Andres Gonzalez, Alan Perlstein, Jeff Mehroff

**Members Present Virtually:** Shannon Chestnut, Angela Beatriz, Randy Crump, Matthew Martin, Houston Jamison, Erik Kennedy, Rodrick Cureton, Mark Kessenish, Dan Bukiewicz

**Guests:** Alex Fischer, Tom Walsh (Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Labor Market Economist)

**Employ Milwaukee Staff Present:** Kodi Harding, Mildred Coby, Marcia Backman, Romell Greer, Carrie Hersch, Annemarie Probst, Brenda King

Chair called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

- I. **Minutes from March 12, 2025, Meeting:** Erik Kennedy motioned for approval of the minutes, Matthew Martin seconded. The approval of minutes passed unanimously.
- II. **Presentation**  
Tom Walsh presented on the State of the Labor Market. The current labor market is tight with historically low unemployment rates due to an aging population and workforce, a trend seen since the pandemic. Tom expressed the need to utilize technology and artificial intelligence automation in a way that will address worker shortages.
- III. **Chair Report- Executive Committee**  
Chair Carla Cross requested a motion to approve the current board and committee members with the chair leadership confirmed by Julie Cayo. Matthew Martin moved to approve, Jeff Mehroff seconded. The approval passed unanimously.

#### Interim CEO Report

Julie Cayo shared that Wisconsin's WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Activities Program allotments for PY2025 decreased by 5-6% across the 3 programs. Large cuts in discretionary spending could impact CDBG, Job Corps and WIOA in the FY26 budget. All federal discretionary grants remain intact. Employ Milwaukee will focus on fiscal recovery, increased efficiency, high impact investment, planning and forecasting, precise budgeting/grants management, and alternate funding sources over the next two years.

**Personnel, Finance, and Audit Committee** Andres Gonzalez shared that EMI will be mindful of expenditures and incoming cashflow.

#### CFO Report

Annemarie Probst shared that EMI predicts a net gain for FY25, though revenue is expected to decrease to around \$14.5-\$15 million due to uncertainties in government funding. EMI's MEDC line of credit, currently at \$725,000, was extended until October 21 and will be restructured to support day-to-day expenses and address the cash

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deficit. Matthew Martin motioned to approve the FY26 budget, seconded by Erik Kennedy. The approval passed unanimously.

**IV. Closed Session**

The committee entered closed session at 9:29 A.M. pursuant to Section 19.85 (1) (c) of the Wisconsin Statutes upon a motion by Andres Gonzalez, seconded by Jeff Mehrhoff, which was unanimously approved.

The Committee exited closed session at 9:40 A.M. upon a motion by Erik Kennedy, seconded by Jeff Mehrhoff. The approval passed unanimously.

**V. Approval of CEO.**

Andres Gonzalez motioned to appoint Julie Cayo as the permanent President and CEO of Employ Milwaukee, Erik Kennedy seconded. The approval passed unanimously.

**VI. The Governance, Nominating, and Compliance Committee**

The board will have two vacancies as of July 1, 2025, and will need two business representatives to fill these spots.

**VII. Program Committee**

Mark Kessenich shared that the committee approved two grants, and that a One Stop Regional Operator position will be opening.

**VIII. Youth Committee**

Julie Cayo reported that Mr. Harris, Interim Chief School Administration Officer of MPS, conducted the Youth Committee meeting. They discussed the outcomes of EMI's youth programs and Wylbur Holloway introduced a new reentry grant focused on justice-involved or at-risk youth called GO MKE.

**IX. Other Items**

No other items.

Meeting adjourned 10:25 a.m.