**Employ Milwaukee Board of Directors MEETING**

**June 10, 2021 • 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

2342 North 27th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53210 – Via Zoom

**MINUTES**

**Members Present**: Deshea Agee, Chytania Brown, Carla Cross, Randy Crump, Pam Fendt, Jennifer Fogarty, Eduardo Garza, Andres Gonzalez, Jakeim Jackson-Bell, Maysee Herr, Tasha Jenkins, Mark Kessenich, John Kissinger, Donald Layden (Chair), Brian Levins, Steve Martin, Darryl Morin, Alan Perlstein, Dr. Keith Posley, Karen Spindler, Sylvia Swann, Wallace White

**Designees Present:** Laura Bray, Jennifer Abele, Parker Rios

**Members Absent:** Dan Bukiewicz, Sheila Cochran, Michael Daily,Ossie Kendrix, Steve Martin, Dr. Vicki Martin, Lupe Martinez, Dr. Mark Mone, Patricia Woodard

**Guests:** Secretary Designee Amy Pechacek (WI DWD), Renee O’Day, WI DWD, Edgard Delgado (WI DWD)

**Staff Present**: Julie Cayo, Lowell Raven, Vanesa Carmona-Lewis, Eileen McMahon

Board of Directors Chair Don Layden called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 11th, 2021**

After brief discussion, members approved meeting minutes from March 11th, 2021, as circulated.

1. **Presentation – Department of Workforce Development**

* Secretary Designee Amy Pechacek

Ms. Pechacek has been in current role with WI DWD since September 2020, to assist with unemployment crisis. She was born and raised in Milwaukee and has been working at executive level for 20 years, specifically for the government for 13 years. Her strengths include crisis/risk management, compliance, operational and public relations issues.

WI DWD recently partnered with AI firm and built a super adjudicator to strategically work through claims using data. This is the beginning of long-term fix needed at DWD for modernization of system as current system is 50+ years old. This makes benefits far more accessible and biggest priority now is fund development for full system modernization.

As you all know, the pandemic escalated trends and certain industries (healthcare and hospitality) were the most impacted. Currently focusing on those groups that were disproportionately impacted (women of color and women with children) by the economic downturn and working to remove barriers for engaging in workforce. There is now a high demand for jobs post-pandemic as we all figure out the ‘new normal.’ Statewide there are not enough workers to fill the vacancies and childcare continues to be an issue as one in four daycare centers closed in 2020. American Rescue Plan (ARP) dollars should help with this barrier as well as transportation and housing issues. ARP funding was originally anticipated at $3.2 billion but reduced to $2.5 billion when averaged nationwide with States that were more negatively impacted. Workforce and economic issues continue to be critical issues to recovery of Wisconsin. Your role and service on EMI board helps so much in the community and the State with workforce issues.

Question was posed regarding programs for youth graduating high schools with disabilities? Ms. Pechacek responded with collaboration between school districts, businesses, and State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, actively getting students placed on site at various businesses. Recently attended graduation in Superior and students were placed in local hospitals, grocery stores, Walgreens and Quality Inn. Every single youth obtained full time employment and their families never imagined their child employed with sustaining wages. This is one of my favorite programs since coming to DWD.

Chair Layden thanked Ms. Pechacek for presentation and expressed the Board’s enthusiasm for the work the State is doing. Enjoyed hearing insights and hands on approach that is being taken.

1. **Chair Report**

* **CEO Update**

Ms. Brown reported on highlights for the past quarter. The agency audit and FY 22 budget are complete and American Job Centers are open. The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act includes $394.2 million in direct local recovery assistance for the City of Milwaukee. Mayor Barrett is working with City Departments and EMI to allocate the ARP payments under strategies to build on Milwaukee’s momentum to bring the COVID 19 pandemic under control; address the urgent needs of residents, families and neighborhoods hardest hit by the COVID-19 public health emergency; and make investments to catalyze broader economic recovery and rebuilding. Employ Milwaukee has submitted funding requests to support skills training, transitional jobs, digital equity, and EARN and LEARN.

The Compete Midwest grant is closing out its successful $13 million portfolio of Department of Labor H-1B Skills Training Grants. Successes include new partnerships, innovative training programs, and stronger post-secondary partnerships with MATC, UW-M, MSOE, and Marquette. During the grant, 2,716 individuals served, 2,023 completed training, 1,792 placed, with average wage of $16.85 hour.

Post pandemic opportunities include an acceleration of existing job growth trends including healthcare, IT, and Automation/ADV Manufacturing. Stimulus funding may accelerate training and job needs in green jobs, infrastructure and public health and safety. EMI will meet the challenge by expanding industry partnerships, investing in short-term, industry-recognized training models that connect to Registered Apprenticeships. In addition, funding paid work experiences for youth and adults, including transitional jobs, and providing a virtual platform with basic IT skills training, devices and connectivity to ensure no job seeker is left behind.

* **Executive Committee Update**

*Packet information – Minutes from Executive Committee on February 25, 2021, Minutes from Special Executive Committee on March 29, 2021*

The Executive Committee meeting was held on May 27, 2021. Committee approved revised Employ Milwaukee Handbook as well as FY22 Budget of $17 million of budgeted revenue and expense, which includes projected contract funding of $14.5 million, with $2.5 million projected for fund development revenue.

1. **Governance, Compliance & Nominating Committee Update**

*Packet Information – Minutes from GCN Committee meeting on February 17, 2021*

Andres Gonzalez reported GCN committee met on May 17th, 2021, and reviewed and approved nomination of Jakeim Jackson-Bell, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Manager for the Milwaukee Bucks to the EMI Board of Directors. He brings a wealth of experience both in workforce and human resources and these skillsets will add value to any committee he lands on. This committee is requesting approval now from the Board.

*Andres Gonzalez motioned to approve Jakeim Jackson-Bell to EMI Board of Directors; Carla Cross seconded; approved unanimously.*

1. **Personnel, Finance & Audit Committee Update**

* **Approval of FY22 Budget**

*Packet information – Minutes from PF&A Committee meeting on February 25, 2021, Minutes from Special PF&A Committee meeting on March 29, 2021, EMI Financial Statement Notes as of March 31, 2021, EMI Comparative Statement of Financial Position as of March 31, 2021, EMI Statement of Activities as of March 31, 2021, FY2022 Budget Narrative and Fund Development Report, FY22 Budget, EMI Budget Comparison FY22 vs FY21, EMI New Hire and Termination Report*

John Kissinger reported PF&A committee met on May 27, 2021, and approved FY22 Budget. He congratulated Mr. Raven and Ms. Brown on current financial condition of agency as all reports are in excellent order. Mr. Kissinger relayed that FY22 budget reflects an increase of $162,000 or 1% increase compared to FY21 budget. Reports depict 87% in direct costs with 7% in administrative expenses. Continuing with contingency fund that was created last year but increased to $1 million to offset any unforeseen expenses. The FY22 budget was also approved by the Executive Committee. Ms. Brown added with the Board of Directors approval today, she will be taking to ICC meeting on Monday, June 14th, 2021.

*Carla Cross motioned for approval of EMI FY22 budget; Pam Fendt seconded; approved unanimously.*

1. **Program Committee Update**

*Packet information – Minutes from Program Committee meeting on February 18, 2021*

Program Committee Chair Carla Cross reported Program Committee met on May 20th, 2021, and approved renewal of Windows to Work (W2W) case management services to Center for Self Sufficiency (CSS). A proposal was also received from America Works and CSS scored highest after review by staff. This renewal was also approved by Executive Committee.

*Carla Cross motioned for approval of renewal of W2W case management services to CSS; Karen Spindler seconded; approved unanimously.*

1. **Youth Committee Update**

*Packet Information – Minutes from Youth Committee meeting on February 10, 2021*

No discussion due to Youth Committee Chair Posley having to leave meeting at 9:00 a.m. Topic tabled until next Board of Directors meeting.

1. **Other**

Chair Layden announced he would be meeting with a special committee of the board this afternoon to conduct Chytania’s annual performance review. He requested Directors send him an email with any feedback this morning. He recently spoke with Mayor Barrett’s Chief of Staff who reported EMI is playing critical role around workforce development issues and was very complimentary of Ms. Brown’s and her staff’s efforts. EMI will be participating in City of Milwaukee post-pandemic strategy.

The Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 9:23 a.m. by Board Chair Don Layden.

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**The next Board of Directors Meeting will take place on September 9th, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. at Employ Milwaukee, 2342 N. 27th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53210 or VIA Zoom Technology.**