

Julie Cayo, President & CEO

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Cavalier Johnson, Mayor, City of Milwaukee  
**Chief Elected Official**

Carla Cross, **Chair**

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## EMPLOY MILWAUKEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING

**Wednesday, August 6, 2025 – 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

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

### APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

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**Members Present Virtually:** Jolene Cooley, Karen Sotak, Sharlen Moore, Bevin Christie, Chee Thao, La Toya Sykes, Deshea Agee, Julie Cayo

**Guests:** Alec Fisher

**Employ Milwaukee Staff Present:** Romell Greer, Suzanne Reinstein, Oscar Delgado Kodi Harding, Wylbur Holloway, Marcia Blackman, Brenda King

Julie Cayo called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

- I. Minutes from May 7, 2025, Meeting** – Sharlen Moore motioned for approval of the minutes, Jolene Cooley seconded. The approval of minutes passed unanimously.

**II. General Updates**

**Youth Resources and Information**

The Milwaukee Public Library’s Teen Advisory Board is open to Milwaukee residents aged 13-18, with the ability to gain community service hours and a stipend while serving on the board.

**III. Youth Program Reports**

**Growth Opportunities Milwaukee Grant**

Wylbur Holloway shared with the committee the details of a \$2M grant from the Department of Labor to serve 160 justice-involved or high-risk youth. Programming phases include intake, leadership training, work experience, and follow-up.

**Camp RISE**

Romell Greer shared that over 200 youth ages 10-13 participated this year. Career Day featured speakers from Adidas, Milwaukee Fire Department, and the Judicial System. Participants also heard from a formerly incarcerated individual, Ed Hennings. An incentive system using “Rise Bucks” that rewarded good behavior motivated campers.

**Earn & Learn**

Kodi Harding shared that 680 youth participated this summer, 90% are on track for completion, and 58 opened their first bank account. The highlighted work sites for this year’s program are: UCC, DNR-Havenwoods, Milwaukee Baseball Club, and UWM Design & Build.

**YouthBuild**

Oscar Delgado shared that the 2023 cohort showed increases in skill gains and received more placements. The 2025 cohort currently has 19 enrolled and 16 have earned credentials.

### **Brighter Futures**

Romell Greer shared that the program goal is to serve 125 youth, with a focus on job readiness, SEL, and employment. SEL numbers are expected to rise with the school year.

### **WIOA Title 1B In-School and Out-of-School Youth Program**

Suzanne Reinstein shared that ISY and OSY programs served many youths and a waitlist was implemented for training and work experience due to budget monitoring.

## **IV. Committee Member Updates**

### **Fundraising Strategy**

Marcia Blackman outlined ways the committee members can support fundraising, including social media sharing, donor outreach and monthly giving. The Youth Committee discussed fundraising tools and will be provided with employer outreach materials.

## **V. Other Items**

None.

Meeting Adjourned 2:45 p.m.

