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Cavalier Johnson, Mayor, City of Milwaukee
Elected Official

Carla Cross, **Chair**

EMPLOY MILWAUKEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board of Directors
Thursday, December 14, 2023
8:30am-10:00am
Via Zoom Technology
APPROVED MINUTES

Members: Chytania Brown, Carla Cross, Andres Gonzalez, Jennifer Fogarty, Edgard Delgado, Mark Kessenich, Don Layden, Matt Martin, Parker Rios, Nancy Nelson, Dr. Keith Posley, Sylvia Swan, Shanan Lesselyoung, Deshea Agee, Randy Crump, Maysee Herr, Ugo Nwagbaraocha, Ernest Jones, Rodrick Cureton

Absent Members: Eduardo Garza, Darryl Morin, Amanda Manthey, Dan Bukiewicz, Kevin Jeskie, Jeff Mehrhoff, Dr. Phillip King, Alan Perlstein, Karen Spindler

Guests: Tom Walsh, Wisconsin Dept. of Workforce Development Labor Market Economist

Employ Milwaukee Staff: Julie Cayo, Annemarie Probst

Chair Carla Cross called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. and introduced new board members.

1. The meeting minutes from September 14, 2023, were unanimously approved after a motion from Andres Gonzalez, seconded by Randy Crump.
2. Guest Speaker Tom Walsh gave an overview of the labor market conditions for Milwaukee County and the 7-county Southeastern Wisconsin region. Tom provided labor market statistics, the DWD Milwaukee County economic profile, and insight into key areas of economic focus moving into 2024. The labor market continues to have historically low unemployment and it is not anticipated to go away due to an aging population. This can create challenges for employers in finding workers. Potential solutions include engaging workers not being utilized, or underutilized. Addressing barriers to employment including transportation, childcare, housing, and broadband will be key to accessing these workers and providing them opportunities they have not been able to access in the past.
3. Chytania Brown provided the CEO update, which included introducing the Board's new executive leadership, an overview of last quarter's community speaking engagements, new grants and funding, and reports on this year's impact in social media, employer engagement and program service delivery. Chytania noted that the agency has been awarded \$18M in funding since January 1, 2023, has increased

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its social media presence, hosted 22 employer hiring events serving 225 employers and 600 job seekers, 5,432 active caseloads, 9,032 individuals served, and a new bimonthly First Source Hiring Event to match construction contractors with workers certified through the City of Milwaukee's Resident Preference Program (RPP). Julie Cayo provided an overview of Employ Milwaukee's new \$5M Dept. of Labor grant, Skills to Build, which will train almost 500 individuals over 5 years in the areas of engineering, advanced manufacturing, and IT.

4. The Governance, Nominating, and Compliance Committee did not meet this quarter, so no update was provided by Chair Edgard Delgado.
5. Carla Cross provided the Executive Committee update, which included updates on contracts approved, an updated On-the-Job Training policy, healthcare/vision/dental insurance approvals, and a line of credit with the Milwaukee Economic Development Cooperation (MEDC) for the Community Resource Navigator and summer youth employment programs (Earn & Learn and Camp RISE).
6. Mark Kessenich provided the Program Committee update, which included contracts approved and an updated On-the-Job Training policy.
7. Chytania Brown provided an update on the Youth Committee because Chair Dr. Katrice Cotton was not in attendance. The Youth Committee received informational resources and report outs on the in school, out of school, and summer youth employment programs and discussed plans for 2024.
8. Andres Gonzalez provided the Personnel, Finance, and Audit Committee update. Andres noted that Employ Milwaukee staff successfully negotiated health insurance rates down several percentage points, which was a huge win for the agency.

Chair Carla Cross requested a motion to enter closed session pursuant to Section 19.85 (1)(e) of the Wisconsin Statutes. Andres Gonzalez moved and Chytania Brown seconded. The motion was unanimously approved, and the board moved into closed session at 9:35 AM.

Matt Martin moved to leave closed session at 9:57 AM. Andres Gonzelez seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chair Carla Cross adjourned the meeting at 9:58 AM.

Next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for March 7, at 8:30 a.m.