

Notes from April 23, 2019 CDC Meeting

Attendees

MEDC Staff: Amanda Bright-McClanahan, Christine Roeder, Dave Greco, Josh Hundt, Lynne Feldpausch, Keli Edmonds, Doug Kuiper, Jeff Mason, Greg Tedder, Michelle Grinnell

CDC Members: Birgit Klohs, Bob Trezise, Dan Hunter, Diane Rekowski, Jennifer Owens, Jim McBryde, JoAnn Crary, Marty Fittante, Rob Cleveland, Ron Kitchens, Steve Erickson, Tyler Rossmassler, Bill Raymond, John Avery, Matt McCauley, Barry Matherly

Guest: Gabe Rodriguez-Garriga, Detroit Regional Partnership

Josh Hundt, Executive Vice President and Chief Business Development Officer (CBDO) Welcomed all and introduced the guest speakers from McKinsey with round robin introductions.

Dany Matar, Engagement Manager; Ben Safran, Associate Partner; and Mike Kerlin, Partner (McKinsey and Company) presented on developing a cluster strategy for the State of Michigan by mapping state and regional assets that make the State competitive.

CDC feedback: focus on what the State of Michigan can do for their regions – taking into account the vast differences and similarities. Focus on keeping young people in the state, attracting and retaining talent, money for crumbling infrastructure, education requirements and including “Doing Business” to the Pure Michigan marketing campaign.

McKinsey team asked for any regional reports or studies. Will be connecting directly with CDC members to further conversation

John Groen, Kaitlyn Ahlers and Steve Bakkal with MEDC Policy and Research gave a presentation on the internal MEDC Rural Taskforce.

David Greco, Legislative Director, MEDC shared the MEDC 2017 – 2018 Key Enacted Legislation and Legislative 2020 budget overview. Greco stated the Pure Michigan \$5M budget has been restored plus an additional \$500K. On the House side, be prepared to see major cuts across all State departments. Legislative activity is currently in a holding pattern until the budget is approved. Until then, we’ll likely see movement on No Fault moving forward but no movement on road funding. Good Jobs for MI will likely be extended.

Jeff Mason, President & CEO, MEDC opened up a discussion on the possibility of an economic slowdown, asking members to share thoughts and ideas to prepare Michigan moving forward. Many suggestions from ramping up Entrepreneurial programs, incentives for leveling urban/suburban strip malls, shovel ready sites, and foreign direct investment activities. CDC members shared that during a recession they see many people become entrepreneurs and an increase in community college enrollment. It was also stated the foreign direct investment activities are critical during a recession. This group will continue discussion on this topic at the June meeting.

Mason shared the Governor appointed a number of new Board members to the MEDC Executive Committee, with their first meeting scheduled May 7, 2019. The MEDC budget will be shared and then voted on at the July 17, 2019 meeting. Governor's priorities are skilled trades, education, road funding and getting the budget passed. Governor and Lt. Governor are very supportive of the MEDC and the work we do. Both have attended several meetings/events the past few months in supporting the programs and tools we have in place.
