

SEMCA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Wednesday, September 16, 2020
SEMCA Michigan Works! WebEx Meeting
MINUTES

Members Present

Charlie Mahoney-Chair
Chuck Browning
Connie Carroll
Malin Wagner
Bayyinah Robinson
Jason Evers
Lee Graham
Tupac Hunter
Naheed Huq
Chris LaJoy

Alternates Present

Jeff Morris
Mike Smith

Members Absent

Andy Bianco
Pat Chatman/Ledgra Johnson
Patrick Lambrix
Sean Sims
Frank Lopez
Molly Luempert-Coy
Beth Maveal
Wanra Pearson
Khalil Rahal

Staff Present

Gregory Pitoniak
Tamara Lamper-Norrix
Daniel Martinez
Deborah Taylor
Bill Hellar
Rana Al-Igoe
Kate Brady-Medley
Traci Sassak
Jennifer Tucker
Jim Weidman

Guests

Tirria Kendred - RESA
Cheryl Sanford – WDI

Call to Order

Chair Mahoney called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. The virtual meeting took place via WebEx due to Covid-19. Video and telephone options were used by board. Instructions were provide on SEMCA’s website for public participation. She advised that everyone has the ability to unmute themselves to ask questions and to vote. Chat feature was also available for questions.

Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Public Comment

Public comment was requested three times. Guests and presenters Jennifer Tucker of SEMCA and Cheryl Sanford of Workforce Development Institute (WDI) announced their presence for the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Evers to approve the Agenda of September 16, 2020 as presented, supported by Wagner. All voting aye, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Wagner to approve the Minutes of July 15, 2020 as presented, supported by Smith. All voting aye, motion carried.

Board Officers Election

The nomination process to elect Board Officers started at the July Board meeting through July 31. A nomination for each of the current officers were the only ones received by the deadline. Election Runner was selected as the tool for the secure election process. Most voted using Election Runner but Pitoniak did ask if there were any further votes from members unable to vote electronically. Mike Smith, Alternate for Jerry Hesson, noted that he had the authority to cast a vote for each of the current board officers. Pitoniak announced that Charlie Mahoney, Chair, Malin Wagner, Vice Chair and Connie Carroll, Secretary each received 100% of the votes. Mahoney thanked the board for their votes and Wagner and Carroll for agreeing to stay on in their roles for the upcoming year. Pitoniak thanked them for their leadership. Pitoniak asked for feedback regarding Election Runner. No trouble was reported. Hesson was provided with a paper ballot that was hand-delivered to his home because he does not have internet access.

MOTION by Hunter to approve the WDB Officer Election Results for 2020-2021, supported by Evers. All voting aye, motion carried.

CEAC Recommendation

New Region 29 CTE Programs

Evers provided a brief overview of the new Region 29 that serves all high schools in out-Wayne County. Region 30 covers Monroe County. Evers reviewed the new CTE programs for Region 29 that have been reviewed and are being recommended for approval by SEMCA's Career and Educational Advisory Council (CEAC). The programs are aligned with both the Perkins Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment and the WIOA Plans. They are in the areas of Construction, Therapeutic Services, CyberSecurity, HVAC, Machine Tooling and General Education. The Cosmetology program was not approved as it did not meet labor market needs. Evers is seeking board approval of these new programs to submit to the state for approval. Pitoniak noted that Region 30, Monroe County, did not submit new programs for submission this year. Huq inquired if General Education was to train teachers. Evers noted it is a program to teach students to become teachers.

MOTION by Evers to approve the Career & Education Advisory Council's recommendation of the Perkins Region 29 Proposed CTE New Programs as presented, supported by Huq. All voting aye, motion carried.

Evers thanked the board. They have some dynamite programs this year especially in the area of healthcare, great teachers and high engagement with school districts. Mahoney asked if these programs will be virtual. Evers noted in light of the pandemic, these programs are scheduled to begin virtually but most of the districts have plans for a face-to-face return, however the date of return is to be determined. Mahoney also confirmed that the split of regions for Monroe and Wayne counties is for Perkins CTE only. Both counties still report to the SEMCA CEAC and WDB.

2019-2020 CEAC Metrics Final Report

Pitoniak provided a brief review of the 2019-2020 Final CEAC Performance Metrics Report. There are areas that fall short due to the pandemic. MiCareer Quest will fall off the chart because it has been cancelled for this year, and Manufacturing Day will change to a virtual format this year. Jobs for Michigan Graduates excelled even during

these times. Graham inquired if the MiCareer Quest is cancelled totally. Pitoniak noted that it was too big of a project to go virtual so quickly. The plan is to move forward for 2021. Huq asked for clarification that the number across the rows are cumulative for each quarter and Hellar confirmed. Mahoney asked if the numbers are negatively impacted due to the pandemic. Graham noted that National Apprenticeship Week has been scheduled for November 9th and will be conducted virtually.

Tamara asked Hellar to take over hosting because the speakers went out in the SEMCA boardroom and she could no longer hear the meeting and moved to her laptop.

MOTION by Wagner to approve the Career & Educational Advisory Council's recommendation of the CEAC Performance Metrics Final Report as presented, supported by Smith. All voting aye, motion carried.

2020-2021 CEAC Metrics

Hellar reviewed the new performance measures for 2020-2021 and the changes made from last year. New Apprenticeships and Programs have been reduced due to changes to funding available to develop new programs and apprenticeships. Energy Week has been changed to Careers in Energy Week. National Registered Apprenticeship Week's goal has been combined for both Monroe and Wayne counties. Graham asked if we could add Michigan Construction Career Day in the future and Pitoniak affirmatively noted it.

MOTION by Evers to approve the Career & Educational Advisory Council's recommendation of the new CEAC Performance Metrics for July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020 as presented, supported by Wagner. All voting aye, motion carried.

Presentation on Workforce Development Institute (WDI) Drive-Thru Registration/Application/Training Events for Employers

Cheryl Sanford, CEO for WDI, a SEMCA contractor for its Highland Park American Job Center, presented on their current creative ways of working with employers and job seekers during this pandemic with drive-in events in their parking lot or the employer parking lots. Services include job fairs, resume drop off and application and testing events. MAGNA was the first event and they provided the PPE necessary for the applicants and staff. Mask usage and social distancing is observed and applicants remain in their vehicles. The information is sent to jobseekers in advance so they know what to bring to these events. YouTube is used to disseminate information while they are in their vehicles. All items are sanitized. Other employer events included Yanfeng, Valeo, FCA and The Piston Group. They are providing resources and information to their sister Michigan Works Agencies and they continue to receive requests for these services from employers. Greg has received a letter from MAGNA sharing their appreciation. Mahoney asked that this information be disseminated to NAWB so they can share it nationwide with their members. She will provide their contact information.

Presentation on Business Resource Network Connections/Video

Martinez provided a brief summary of the Business Resource Network program and the role of the success coach for our new board members. Jennifer Tucker provided a brief summary of their outreach to businesses with the use of a microsite on the web (www.CONNECTIONSbrn.org), which she reviewed with the board, and shared a video that is used as an employer recruitment tool. Members noted the video's powerful message. Carroll asked Martinez to contact her regarding a possible connection in Monroe. Huq noted that she attended the BRN Session at the Michigan Works Conference and was impressed with the collaboration of the Michigan Works Agencies throughout the state.

Federal/State Updates

Pitoniak noted that the Michigan Works Association 3-day conference just ended today at 2pm. SEMCA's BRN and RAIN programs were featured. Board member Lee Graham was on discussion panel as well as a representative of

our Livonia AJC. Our award winners were honored today, Charlie Mahoney – Volunteer of the Year, Iman Shami – Shining Star and International Building Products – Employer of the Year. The conference was virtual and overall it went very well and was well attended.

The SEMCA 2019 Annual Report was emailed to the board on August 6, 2020. Printed copies are available if you have anyone that you would like to receive it. Please provide Tamara with the contact information.

State budget revenue is now estimated to be \$105 million more than it was at this time last year. Michigan's economic rebound is doing well compared to other states. State leadership has agreed on budget targets and are expected to have budget approval in the next ten days. Impact on our programs: JMG should receive approval for full funding; PATH may have cuts statewide in the context that caseloads are lower; and GPTF, which was not funded this year, is expected to receive funding for the program but at a reduced level. MiReconnect, which has never been funded, may be funded for the first time. Futures for Frontliners is funded under the Covid Cares ACT and was able to begin right away. This program is targeted for those frontline workers that do not have a post-secondary credential or degree and will pay for a community college education. It also has a provision for those that did not complete high school to get their diploma and receive post-secondary education options.

On the federal budget it is expected that there will be a continuing resolution which maintains our current federal funding for our system. However, there has been a want and need for additional funding in the next Covid relief package if there is one. Pitoniak has had Zoom calls with Congresswomen Tlaib, Dingell and Lawrence as well as Senator Peters that have gone well. SEMCA is fortunate to have legislative support in Washington DC.

SEMCA has been serving customers virtually by phone or online or if necessary by appointment in the service centers with all of the safety protocols. We will continue this modality of business until October 31, which is in alignment with the state's plan. Mahoney thanks the organization for their continued work.

COVID-19 Impact Statistics

Hellar provided a brief summary of the impact statistics covered on several charts. There is a drop-off for April through June, but programs start picking up in June and July. Call volume of course increased with unemployment. SEMCA continued to contact its customers and provide services to our employers. Report is on file.

UIA

Hellar provided a brief summary of the statistics pertaining to the UIA project calls and contacts. March through May you can see the increase of calls and in June peaked at its highest. We are starting to trend back down as the UIA project is coming to a close. SEMCA has received over 100,000 calls and contacts throughout the program. Hellar provided a brief summary of the three phases the Michigan Works agencies assisted in to reduce the volume of calls for UIA. Over 400,000 issues have been resolved statewide and some of those customers were waiting weeks for someone to call them back from UIA. We are now just working on our current local call list that has approximately 4,000 on the list. We are currently receiving around 73 new calls a day.

Council on Accreditation

Brady-Medley wanted to thank Bill for the amazing work he has done on the UIA project. She gave a brief update on the COA reaccreditation process. The team has completed the Self-Study, and are working currently on the On-Site evidence to prove we are following our policies and procedures we submitted in the self-study. We are also working on the schedule for the virtual on-site visit scheduled for October 12-13, 2020. Tamara will provide the date and time shortly to those that are participating. A pre-visit meeting will be scheduled virtually to give those participating a chance to ask questions about the interview process. There were no questions on this report and Mahoney thanked the COA team for their hard work.

Program Updates

Program Statistical Summary

Pitoniak noted this is our Standard Report and offered to go over the information or answer specific questions. No questions were asked.

WIOA, ES, TAA, OJT, IWT, Talent Fund, Apprenticeship-Work-Based Learning

Al-Igoe referred the board to her program report. No public comment was received on the WIOA Local and Regional Plans and they have been filed with the state. Dislocated Worker Recovery Grant will provide additional funds to support those in need because of Covid. Virtual job fairs have been held in June and August. Another is scheduled September 30 and there are slots available for employers for this event. FCA project is going well. They were a part of our recent virtual job fairs. Pitoniak noted the radio ads and billboards the board may have heard or seen lately are funded by a recent grant SEMCA received for this project. TAA certification was received for US Steel and we continue to work with their employees. There is a new final rule that goes into effect next week and staff and contractors are participating in a TAA training with the USDOL. We have a rapid response meeting tomorrow with an employer at the Airport that will be laying off 400 employees. Pitoniak noted breaking news - the state has issued a draft policy authorizing reimbursement for the UIA project. SEMCA is receiving \$800,000 if we can document expenses for that amount, and SEMCA had the highest caseload in the state. No questions were asked of Al-Igoe.

WIOA Youth, Foster Youth, JMG, WCCAN, Manufacturing Day, MiCareer Quest

Taylor referred the board to her program updates in the packet. She noted that Manufacturing Day has been moved completely to a virtual platform. It will begin on September 28 through October 2. The team has created a week of virtual tours with manufactures and post-secondary institutions. She thanked Wagner and Evers for their support on this project. She also thanked Tupac Hunter and Verizon Wireless for their grant, and they will be a featured employer for this event. If you know of any employers that may be interested there is a hard cut-off this Friday the 18th. A pilot for the Summer Young Professionals was launched this summer and has been extended for a second cohort. This was a five week virtual orientation and training session before doing a condensed work experience with an area employer. Trainings included financial literacy, resume preparation, interviewing skills, entrepreneurship and planning. See her program update for further details. Lastly, JMG has an event scheduled for September 30 entitled Coffee with a Purpose "Striving for Racial Equality: Youth Perspectives, Concerns, and Calls to Action, Part II". No questions were asked.

PATH, FAE&T, Adult Ed, BRN and RAIN

Martinez referred the board to his program report in the packet. He clarified some of the numbers that were reported as low in Hellar's previous report. He discussed the causes of the lower numbers for customer engagements with their coaches versus new customers in PATH. Across the state people losing their jobs opted to sign up for PATH when they could not obtain their unemployment. However, in the interim before engagement with the coaches, they were able to correct their UIA issues or find employment. Our coaches continued to work with customers that were essential workers in the PATH program but did not work with new customers. The transition from ETDI to SERCO in Highland Park is underway. Martinez thanked Hellar for his assistance with the technical aspect of the transition. That change takes place October 1, 2020. The mobile application for PATH customers is close to being completed. We are hoping for a start date in October. FAE&T in the past was a mandatory program. It is now voluntary as it was a couple of years ago. We will adjust as needed. No questions were asked.

WIN

WIN is working on a Strengthening Community Colleges collaborative grant application with the USDOL for \$5 Million.

New/Old Business

No new business was reported. Mahoney thanked Board for the nomination and for extending the time of this meeting after the conference. Be safe.

MOTION by Graham to adjourn the meeting, supported by Smith. Meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 2 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed – Adopted at 11-18-20 WDB Meeting

Tamara Lamper-Norrix
Executive Assistant – SEMCA