

SEMCA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Wednesday, May 19, 2021
SEMCA Michigan Works! WebEx Meeting
MINUTES

Members Present

Charlie Mahoney-Chair
Chris LaJoy
Connie Carroll
Malin Wagner
Bayyinah Robinson
Tupac Hunter
Naheed Huq
Molly Luempert-Coy
Andy Bianco
Jason Evers
Sean Sims

Alternates Present

Mike Smith
Jeff Morris

Members Absent

Lee Graham/Don O'Connell
Pat Chatman/Ledgra Johnson
Frank Lopez
Wanra Pearson
Beth VanSteenkiste
Patrick Lambrix
Khalil Rahal

Staff Present

Gregory Pitoniak
Tamara Lamper-Norrix
Daniel Martinez
Deborah Taylor
Bill Hellar
Rana Al-Igoe
Traci Sassak

Guests

Tirria Kendred, Wayne RESA
Commissioner Al Haidous
Denise Teague, Monroe ISD
Kamal Alsawafy, Wayne County Economic Development

Call to Order

Vice-Chair Malin Wagner called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. The virtual meeting took place via WebEx. Video and telephone options were used by board members. Instructions were provided on SEMCA's website for public participation. He advised that everyone has the ability to unmute themselves to ask questions and to vote. Chat feature was also available for questions and voting.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present. There was a moment of silence for Pat Chatman for the loss of her father.

Public Comment

Public comment was requested three times and no comments were made.

Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Luempert-Coy to approve the Agenda of May 19, 2021, as presented, supported by Smith. All voting aye, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Luempert-Coy to approve the Minutes of March 17, 2021, as presented, supported by Hunter. All voting aye, motion carried.

Receive & File 2021 Strategic Plan – First Quarter Report

Hellar provided an overview of the 2021 First Quarter Strategic Plan results. SEMCA is on target for most of its goals within the first quarter. Collaboration projects with Economic Development is an area that has been affected by Covid and is down in this first quarter. Identifying new MOU partners and completing agreements will improve when Infrastructure Financial Agreements (IFAs) become due to the state in the second quarter.

MOTION by Carroll to receive and file the First Quarter 2021 Strategic Plan Report as presented, supported by LaJoy. All voting aye, motion carried.

New Three-Year Strategic Plan Updates

Pitoniak noted that the new three-year strategic planning process is underway. The kick-off sessions for the boards and staff are complete. The staff, workforce stakeholders and business stakeholders planning sessions have been scheduled for June. The one-on-one sessions will be scheduled soon. The Workforce Development Board Meeting will be shortened on July 21 to host the Boards first planning session and the second planning session is scheduled on July 22 from 9 to Noon to complete the process. Note that in-person meetings are possible for the July sessions.

Federal/State Updates

Pitoniak provided a brief update on what is happening at both the state and federal levels. He referred the board to the email recently sent regarding the Secondary Perkins Applications due to the Michigan Department of Education by June 4 and require stakeholder review by the CEAC and WDB. There is a very short turn-around time. This process normally takes place in March and April but there was a delay with the Nexus Application Portal. SEMCA will make sure that their applications are compatible with the region's educational goals. Both Monroe ISD and Wayne RESA will complete their Applications by May 28. We will forward to both the CEAC and WDB for review requesting feedback or acknowledging your agreement with the applications by June 2. This date will give Monroe ISD and Wayne RESA time to answer questions or incorporate suggestions in their applications. Huq inquired if there are any new requirements with the applications. Teague noted that it is the same as in previous years. Wagner discussed the Comprehensive Standards to Competencies in response to Bianco's question regarding skills credentialing.

Michigan Works Agencies are no longer providing UIA services effective May 1 and are returning to reemployment services. Board viewed the Who Should I Contact flyer, which is located on the website and posted on SEMCA social media. The flyer has also been provided to the AJCs for distribution to customers. The state has announced they will restore mandatory work search beginning May 30, affecting 700,000 UI customers. The SEMCA AJCs will be opening their doors on June 7 for in-person contact at 33% capacity. They will engage with customers following all CDC and MIOSHA guidelines. SEMCA is not mandating the vaccine for their staff or contractor staff, but highly recommending it. There will be no temperature checks at the doors. Filling out the pandemic questionnaire will still be required. SEMCA has funded security guards for the AJCs. The AJCs are required to follow the revised Covid-19 Plan for social distancing and rules.

WIOA Programs are SEMCA's largest funded programs. The new year begins July 1, and no negative impact is expected. PATH programs are expected to maintain their current funding amount. SEMCA, WIN and Monroe County Community College applied for a \$2 Million MiLEAP grant. SEMCA, DESC, LIFT Institute, Henry Ford College and Wayne County Economic Development applied for a \$700,000 MEDC grant. Awards are expected to be announced in June. SEMCA was invited to submit projects for funding with The Ballmer Group. Four of the five projects submitted are being considered for a total of \$1.5 Million over three years. Pitoniak has been invited by Wayne County and other possible partners to discuss ways to spend the American Rescue Plan funding.

National Association of Workforce Boards will be holding their annual conference virtually this year. SEMCA is offering to sponsor the Workforce Board Members for this event. Contact Tamara to register your participation.

COVID 19 – Impact Statistic and UIA Project Update

Hellar provided a summary of the Impact Statistic data. There is an uptick in Employment Services numbers. Senator Horn's Work Registration Bill was discussed and how important this requirement to register with a Michigan Works Agency is for our numbers and informing customers of the services available to them. PATH numbers are up, and training numbers are rising. There are several job orders open that we are trying to fill.

Hellar noted that this would be the last time he will report on the UIA Project stats. SEMCA helped 141,000 individuals, and Michigan Works statewide helped 1.5 million individuals during this project.

Wagner asked the age limit for the WIOA Youth programs, which are youth ages 14 to 24. Hug inquired about types of training available. Evers is interested in large truck/heavy truck repair programs and is wondering if that is included in transportation. Hellar and Al-Igoe will provide that information after the meeting.

Program Updates

Program Statistical Summary

Heller noted that the statistical summary was provided in the packet and asked if there were any questions. No questions were asked. The report is on file.

WIOA, ES, TAA, OJT, IWT, Talent Fund, Apprenticeship/Work-based Learning, Adult Ed Updates

Al-Igoe referred the board to her report in the board packet. She highlighted the increase in enrollments for Adult and Dislocated Worker programs, which likely is due to the substantial changes to Adult WIOA eligibility expanded to allow for more individuals to participate in the program and the recent communications and outreach messaging campaign. A WIOA Program Monitoring was conducted at the end of April. No findings are expected. There is now a tool on the website for individuals seeking training and program information after hours. They will complete the online interest form that will then go to the contractor for follow-up within 24 hours. Going Pro Talent Fund (GPTF) applications are still available for groups of employers. Al-Igoe noted the virtual job fairs are being held monthly. SEMCA also host a booth at the virtual fairs to share information on available services and to assist job seekers with the virtual platform. SEMCA will be self-certifying its One Stop Operator this year with the help of The Information Center.

WIOA Youth, Young Professionals, Foster Care, JMG, WCCAN, Manufacturing Day, MiCareer Quest Updates

Taylor referred the board to her report in the board packet. She highlighted the BUILDing Skills Bootcamp and the 180 applications received from the Detroit, Macomb, Oakland and the SEMCA regions. There are two focus groups, one for Out of School Youth starting June 1 and one for In School Youth starting July 12 both for six weeks. The Monroe County Building Skills Summer Trades Camp will be held from July 12-August 19 in partnership with AFL-CIO, United Way, The Youth Opportunity Program of Monroe ISD and 13 trade unions from the Monroe area. They have received 56 applications with a target enrollment of 30 eligible youth. Taylor thanked Mike Smith for his participation in developing this project from a one-week camp to a six-week training for construction skill trades. Smith also discussed Project Ramp. Robinson of Michigan Rehabilitation Services inquired if they were advised of this project for additional support and Smith confirmed that they are connected.

Taylor also provided updates on Wayne County College Access Network first ever virtual College, Career and Financial Aid Fair. Registrations received were 430 but only 180 students participated in the event representing 20 unique high schools. There were 28 vendors and students were allowed to download information into their backpacks to review later. There was information provided for financial aid and FAFSA.

SEMCOG is hosting an internship for the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Career Program, and Huq is working on this project in her new role at SEMCOG. Taylor also provided an update on Jobs for Michigan Graduates (JMG) and their participation in recent activities and events. She also discussed the expansion of eligibility for WIOA Youth and the concern they have finding youth to fill the paid work experience available

jobs. They currently pay \$10-12/hour, and a social media marketing campaign and outreach plan has been developed. Wagner asked about a CNA program opportunity.

Huq noted that as we age, there is going to be shortages in many areas like manufacturing and skilled trades and we need to do an even better job reaching out to our youth in those areas that they seem to lack interest in. Smith agreed and noted we need to start at an earlier age as well. Haidous inquired if this information is reaching the schools. Secondary credentials have been emphasized and 60 X 2030 is not just college degrees. Evers noted the shortage of instructors, and some instructors are in need of updating their credentials as well. Evers also noted that career awareness is encouraged but not mandated in the elementary schools.

PATH, FAE&T, BRN and RAIN Updates

Martinez referred the board to his report in the board packet. He discussed the PATH enrollments. Currently customers are enrolled but do not have to participate until June 30. With the AJCs opening to in-person services, they are hoping to see more engagement, training, and work participation. He also discussed the TuaPATH mobile app. Training on the system is going well and the bugs are being worked out. A small roll-out has been completed at each AJC. It should be a tremendous time-saving tool that will allow for better communication and documentation for our customers. Sameh and Adel of SEMCA are translating the TuaPATH into Arabic for our RAIN population, making sure it is accurate and culturally sensitive. FAE&T Plus was switched from mandatory to voluntary participation. The low participation is a concern for the state. They are working on a unified marketing plan to address the problem. Wallside Windows has signed on to the Business Resource Network program. The pandemic has affected this program. Jim and Jenn are working diligently to sustain funding for another year. A Coordinator has been hired for the Clean Slate Expungement Program. We have begun Phase 1 with a slow roll-out at our AJCs. The next phase begins in a few weeks with a social media release, and the last phase will be a press release. There are currently 45 people in the queue. If the applicant is accepted, they will receive a checklist and ticket with assistance of other SEMCA services. If denied, they will still receive information of other SEMCA services available to them.

WIN Updates

Pitoniak discussed the \$10 Million H1B1 Advanced Manufacturing Grant. They are in the process of finalizing the grant over the next four years. There is also a Defense Manufacturing Community Grant targeting 800 people pending and will be submitted in about a month.

New/Old Business

Mahoney thanked Wagner for covering this meeting for her so she could finish her conflicting meeting.

Adjourn

MOTION by Carroll to adjourn the meeting, supported by Bianco. All voting aye, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m. Next scheduled meeting is intended to be a condensed version starting at 2:00pm on Wednesday, July 21, 2021, to accommodate the Strategic Plan Session from 3pm to 5pm. The second Strategic Planning Session will be on Thursday, July 22, 2021, from 9am to Noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Adopted 7/21/21

Tamara Lamper-Norrix
Executive Assistant