

SEMCA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Wednesday, March 16, 2022
SEMCA, 25363 Eureka Road, Taylor, MI 48180
REVISED MINUTES

Members Present

Charlie Mahoney-Chair
Chris LaJoy
Connie Carroll (By Phone)
Malin Wagner
Lee Graham
Donna Moser (By Phone)
Naheed Huq
Jason Evers
Robertson
David Lawrence
Jay Steffensky

Alternates Present

Kamal Alsawafy
Marie May
Krista McKinney King

Members Absent

Andy Bianco
Beth VanSteenkiste/Shavonne Brown
Pat Chatman/Ledgra Johnson
Gerald Hesson/Collin Keehn
Chuck Browning/Jeff Morris
Tupac Hunter
Sean Sims
Molly Luempert-Coy/Jamal

Staff Present

Gregory Pitoniak
Tamara Lamper-Norrix
Daniel Martinez
Deborah Taylor
Traci Sassak
Kate Brady-Medley
Bill Hellar
Colleen Mallory
Amy Malara
Connie Ribiat
Mepa Rahman

Guests

Hernando Flowers, Barton Malow Company

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 2:07 pm.

Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance. There was a moment of silence for the people of Ukraine.

Roll Call

Roll call was completed. Carroll and newest board member Moser had a flat tire that is being changed and will try to make it. Mahoney welcomed our new member Jay Steffensky of PNC Bank. A quorum was present.

Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Approval of Agenda of March 16, 2022

MOVED by Graham to approve the Agenda of March 16, 2022, as presented, supported by Wagner. All voting aye, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of November 17, 2021

MOVED by LaJoy to approve the Minutes of November 17, 2021, as presented, supported by Evers. All voting aye, motion carried.

Approval of New WDB Board Member

Mahoney advised that we had the opportunity to move the nomination of Donna Moser of Gerdau Steel from the Monroe Chamber of Commerce and the Monroe County Board of Commissioners to the SEGA Board for approval prior to this meeting. SEGA did approve the appointment of Moser with the caveat that the Workforce Development Board concurs with the appointment.

MOVED by Wagner to approve the SEGA Board's appointment of Donna Moser of Gerdau Steel to replace Patrick Lambrix of TWB, for the remainder of Lambrix's term of 3/16/22 through 6/30/24, supported by Steffensky. All voting aye, motion carried.

Pitoniak noted that SEMCA is glad to have Gerdau Steel back on the Workforce Development Board again representing Monroe County.

Approval of CEAC Council Nominations

CEAC Chair Wagner noted the receipt of a highly recommended candidate, Scott Wagner (no relation), Executive Director of Instruction for Gibraltar School District, to replace the Academic Educator Sector position on the Career & Educational Advisory Council vacated by Stacey Vespremi of Woodhaven School District. CEAC is requesting WDB approval of this nomination.

MOVED by Wagner to approve the nomination of Scott Wagner to replace Stacey Vespremi as the Academic Educator for the Career & Educational Advisory Council, supported by Evers. All voting aye, motion carried.

Mahoney inquired if there were still open positions on the CEAC. Norrix advised that Scott Wagner fills the last open position. Wagner noted the CEAC is reviewing the need for replacement of two business representatives, one from Monroe County and one from Wayne County. Norrix advised they cannot be members of the Workforce Development Board as Wagner meets that requirement. Mahoney advised the Board if they know of anyone who is interested in the education piece of workforce development and can commit to three meetings a year on the Council to please provide Norrix and/or Wagner with their contact information.

Approval of CEAC's Perkins Grant Applications

Wagner referred the Board to the two informative flyers entitled Carl D Perkins and the Four Components of a CTE Program for more information on the CTE Perkins Grant. The board reviewed the Executive Summaries and Core Performance Indicator Data for both regions of their 2022-23 Secondary Perkins Grant Applications. Wagner made a note that the academic proficiency in reading, math and science has been waived due to no state testing being administered during Covid. Evers noted that both Wayne and Monroe counties did not meet the 5S1 Program Quality Credential Attained requirement because placing students into work-based learning experiences were limited

due to Covid restrictions. The 5S1 Requirement has been included in the Regional Plan to help the instructors and directors understand the requirement and work to implement these industry recognized credentials in the required programs. CEAC is requesting approval for both applications from this Board.

MOVED by Graham to approve both Region 29 and Region 30's Secondary CTE 2022-23 Perkins Grant Applications as recommended by the Career & Educational Advisory Council, supported by Evers. All voting aye, motion carried.

Wagner commended Naheed Huq of SEMCOG for her article on Women in Construction. It will be shared with all CTE directors and instructors.

Receive and File CEAC Metrics – Quarter 2 Report

Wagner noted that the three National Registered Apprenticeship Week Sessions were very well attended. He also noted there is a meeting scheduled to begin planning for 2022's Manufacturing Day. Brady-Medley advised that the number for Jobs for Michigan Graduates (JMG) will show that we have met our goal in the next quarter report. Pitoniak noted that we are behind with apprenticeships, but the metrics began in July 2021 during Covid restrictions, so we are hoping these numbers will improve.

MOTION by Wagner to Receive and File the CEAC Metrics Quarter 2 Report as presented, supported by LaJoy. All voting aye, motion carried.

Carroll and Moser joined the meeting via phone due to their flat tire. Mahoney paused the meeting for introductions of the board for our new members, Jay Steffensky and Donna Moser. Mahoney noted that we have a quorum without their presence, but they could remain on the phone for as long as they want to listen to the rest of the meeting. Carroll advised board of the upcoming United Way golf outing and the Hometown Heroes event.

Receive and File Strategic Plan Quarter 4 and Final Report

Pitoniak noted that it is the final report from our previous Strategic Plan, and we have achieved all goals. The three-year strategic plan that we recently adopted began January 1, 2022 and the first quarter does not end until March 31, 2022. A first-quarter report will be provided at our next meeting. Pitoniak did state that we are making progress on the new strategic goals.

MOTION by LaJoy to Receive and File the Strategic Plan Quarter 4 and Final Report as presented, supported by Alsawafy. All voting aye, motion carried.

WIOA Contractor RFP Timeline

Brady-Medley reported that WIOA and Wagner-Peyser three-year contracts are up for rebid. The new program year begins July 1, 2022. We have provided the RFP information to the bidder's list, and it is also located on the website. The bidder's conference is scheduled for Friday, March 25, 2022. Proposals are due back on April 8, 2022. They will be reviewed and scored by the panel and recommendations will be provided to the board for approval at the May board meeting. Pitoniak provided background on our programs and when they come up for rebid. Pitoniak also sent an email to the board regarding the competitive process and encouraged them to direct anyone who may be

interested to SEMCA's website for more information. Pitoniak noted that we need a quorum for the May meeting to complete the process.

Clean Slate Program

Martinez introduced and provided a brief background on the Clean Slate staff, Connie Ribiat, Expungement Attorney and Amy Malara, Associate Project Manager. Malara provided a PowerPoint with the requirement information, process for record expungement, and first-year data. To date, no SEMCA expungement case before a judge has been denied. Pitoniak noted that the state's program funding ends June 30, 2022 but we have submitted proposals to external parties to see if we can find support to extend the program. Question was asked regarding the pipeline to this program. Is it a referral process or does it have its own marketing campaign? Pitoniak noted that it is both. The AJC staff will refer customers if the need exists and SEMCA recently held a Clean Slate Event at Wayne County Community College with Taylor Police. The Wayne County Executive's Office has also helped promote the program. Ribiat noted the backlog issue with the State Police will hopefully improve by April when the new software is in place. They have also hired additional staff. The PowerPoint is on file.

Federal/State Updates

SEMCA is in the process of its annual audit. We have a new audit firm Maner Costerisan that works with other Michigan Works! agencies in the state. They will present their report to the SEGA Board at the June meeting.

Great News Items - Pitoniak provided four handouts. He discussed The Ballmer Group first and provided background on the proposal we sent awhile back for youth programs and community outreach funding. SEMCA has been informed we have received a \$1.5 million grant. WCCAN is one of the projects being funded. Board discussed the youth apprenticeship opportunities that will be possible with this funding.

Second handout discusses Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib working with Wayne Westland Schools, SEMCA and other partners on a congressional community project for youth. We recently were awarded \$850,000. The youth will work with our employment and training staff at the Wayne American Job Center and complete work experiences as SEMCA employees. Brady-Medley noted what resources this funding will provide towards work-based learning and barrier removal (example: obtaining a driver's license, which is becoming a big issue statewide with the loss of free drivers' education in the schools). March 23, 2022 there will be a media event to promote the program and provide recognition to the partners.

Third handout discusses the MiREV (Michigan Revolution for Electrification of Vehicles) state grant award for \$5 million to SEMCA-WIN, the only award made by the State. The funding will be used to develop and scale new training and education which supports the automotive mobility and electrification industry. We will assign education and training programs with the most critical workforce needs and facilitate recruiting, placement, and retention solutions to fill talent gaps. In partnership with WIN, MAGMA and 40 other partners there will be a MiREV kick-off meeting. Pitoniak thanked WIN and SEMCA's fiscal team for their work on the proposal. Wagner noted that CTE has been discussing the possibilities at the secondary school level and the need to begin understanding and preparing for this new career opportunity.

Last handout Global Epicenter for Mobility (GEM). The Detroit Regional Partnership (a significant economic development group that includes 11 counties, multiple communities, and substantial corporate commitment) is the lead agency that applied for a federal Covid ARPA grant which asked regions to apply for a potential \$100 million for transformational economic development projects. The initial round had 350 applicants, narrowed down to 60, which the DRP was selected as one of them. DRP came to SEMCA and asked us to be the lead workforce development co-applicant for the Talent Transformation Pillar of the grant. This pillar is worth \$28.5 million in the overall \$93 million grant proposal, which was submitted yesterday. SEMCA has become a go-to organization in our expanded partner region, and tremendous credit goes to our staff and board leadership. Pitoniak noted that this aligns with your Strategic Plan expanding partnerships, alternative sources of funding and programming. We will learn in September if we are awarded the grant and the Secretary will visit the winning bidder. Pitoniak thanked the staff for their work on these projects.

SEMCA was recommended by the regional office of USDOL to participate in a second listening session with the national office of the USDOL along with three other Michigan Works! Agencies. The regional discussion focused on how SEMCA contended with the pandemic and our successes and challenges. We appreciate the recognition and another opportunity to participate in the discussion.

Michigan Works Association Legislative Day took place last week and Pitoniak and Haidous met with several of our 28 legislators for the SEMCA region. Hellar's team provided customized fact sheets on how many employers and individuals were served in each of their districts. Of the offices we were not able to meet with, SEMCA still provided informational packets with customized district data. We received very favorable feedback from those we met with regarding awareness and support to their constituents. Pitoniak brought to their attention that SEMCA had 45 businesses not awarded Going Pro Talent Funds, not due to application deficiencies but due to not enough available funding and encouraged them to increase funding for this program. A State Legislative Priorities handout is attached.

The Michigan Works Association has interjected in discussions on the Open Meetings Act. We have become used to and can provide virtual meetings because of the pandemic. Pitoniak stated as a former legislator he understands the need of in-person open meetings for those who are elected or have taxing authority, but there is a distinction that volunteer boards not elected with no taxing authority should be permitted to meet virtually. The federal regulation for workforce development boards says that we must provide a virtual option. He noted it will not likely be voted on until the lame duck session so we will meet in person unless an amendment is passed. The Michigan Works Association is looking at legal options to challenge this since it is a federal requirement.

Regarding the state budget process and the surplus and ARPA funds remaining, we have heard they are inclined to tax cuts this year. ARPA funds are one-time funding, so new programming is a low priority.

AJC operations are appointment only, virtual or in-person due to staffing shortages. April 3, we will open it up to walk-ins. There will be no mandated masks for staff or customers. Staff prefer appointments because of the quality one-to-one service they were able to provide, and we will continue that option. We continue hosting workshops and job fairs.

Graham stated that what they heard too at Legislative Day was how appreciative the legislators and their staff were for the work Michigan Works! did during the pandemic to assist UIA.

Program Updates

Program Statistical Summary

Heller noted that the statistical summary of the last 12 months was provided in the packet and no questions were asked.

PATH, FAE&T, BRN and RAIN Updates

Martinez referred the board to his report. He discussed the new state program Transitional Supportive Services (TSS) for PATH customers. This fund covers services that do not qualify under TANF funding. Some of our PATH customers have been homeless and TANF will cover large purchases like cars and insurance where TSS will cover haircuts, gift cards for gas or customer starting training services. Martinez is also part of a group looking into an increase in the amount to purchase a car and auto repair, at least temporarily with high inflation costs. If you need brakes or tires, which are often the first things to go or need to be replaced when purchasing a used car, the current \$900 is inadequate and limit on cars currently is \$4,000. They are also looking to extend the employment waiver at least 6 months but are hoping for one-year. DHHS and LEO are looking at these proposals. BRES funds provide flexible supportive services for all customers. These funds have provided the extension of funding for Clean Slate and the BRN programs. It also provides a new pocket of money for employment services. This funding has been extremely helpful to our AJCs in their support of our customers.

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

Taylor referred the board to her report. She introduced Mepa Rahman our sixth Vista volunteer. The Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters launched a new facility in Detroit and will be offering open house events. Taylor was able to take a tour and it is an amazing facility. She thanked Mahoney for introducing her to Jamal Al three years ago and for helping to make this partnership happen and continue to grow. Legislative Day for Jobs for Michigan Graduates took place and our JMG students traveled by bus to Lansing to meet with our legislators. She also noted that there are a number of FASFA events coming soon. Graham announced the 14th Annual Construction Career Days, which provides grades 7-12 students with hands-on opportunities in several trade occupations. He provided a handout with information to sign up students and Norrix sent an electronic copy to the board. There are currently 1100 students signed up. Wagner noted that this is also beneficial for students that are not currently looking at trades but might find something of interest. He has also invited the board to attend the event. Graham also noted there is a gas stipend for the buses. They need to submit their request online.

Huq asked if MiCareer Quest and Manufacturing Day will be in person this year. Taylor noted that they are in the planning stages for Manufacturing Day and are working on a hybrid event. As for MiCareer Quest, SEMCA is a partner and Oakland County Michigan Works! is the lead. She has not heard anything to date, but the goal was to have an in-person event this year.

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

Mallory referred the board to her report. She stated they are seeing an increase in requests for training funds. She also noted that we are seeing a slight increase in apprenticeships. Jennifer Tucker

is the new Business Liaison and work-based learning is one of her areas of concentration. We also have additional grant funding specific for apprenticeships. SEMCA was awarded \$2.2 million of GPTF for 46 employers. SEMCA is closing out the 2021 GPTF programs. We continue to have virtual job fairs monthly. Career coaching training has begun for our WIOA case managers. She also reviewed the WIN grants One Workforce/Industry Infinity, MiLEAP and MiREACH available to our customers.

WIN Updates

Pitoniak noted that of the grants Mallory discussed, two are federal and two are state grants. MiREV is also a state grant through WIN. Pitoniak noted that he has been asked to be the Co-Chair for the WIN Board starting later this year.

New/Old Business

Hellar followed up with the UI participant numbers. We were involved from March 27, 2020 through March 31, 2021 and assisted with 138,000 local callers. SEMCA staff also participated in two projects that we do not have local numbers for, but the Issue Tracker had approximately 500,000 calls in the queue, and the Identity Theft project 430,000 calls in the queue that SEMCA staff assisted on.

Pitoniak noted the last page of the packet is open positions at SEMCA. We are not immune to the staffing shortages, so share the information with your family and friends.

Mahoney noted to please fill out and sign the SEMCA Conflict of Interest Statement and return to Norrix at your earliest convenience. This is done annually.

Next meeting is May 18, 2022 and we will be reviewing WIOA and Business Service contracts for the next three-year cycle so we will need an in-person quorum for this meeting.

Adjourn

MOTION by Graham to adjourn the meeting, supported by Wagner. All voting aye, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adopted at 5/18/22 Meeting

**Tamara Lamper-Norrix
Executive Assistant**