

SEMCA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Wednesday, January 18, 2023
SEMCA, 25363 Eureka Road, Taylor, MI 48180
MINUTES

Members Present

Charlie Mahoney-Chair
Chris LaJoy
Connie Carroll
Lee Graham
Malin Wagner
David Lawrence
Gerald Hesson
Donna Moser
Naheed Huq
Jay Steffensky

Alternates Present

Collin Keehn
Krista McKinney King
Eugenia Thompson

Members Absent

Laura Dickerson/Jeff Morris
Tupac Hunter
Molly Luempert Coy/Jamal Robertson
Andy Bianco/Marla Fons
Kahlil Rahal/Kamal Alsawafy
Patricia Chatman/Ledgra Johnson
Christina Pizzo/Astacia Hahn

Staff Present

Gregory Pitoniak
Tamara Lamper-Norrix
Bill Hellar
Kate Brady-Medley
Daniel Martinez
Colleen Mallory
Deborah Taylor
Tim Johnson
J.V. de la Fuente

Guests

Amanda Holdsworth, Holdsworth Communications

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 2:08 p.m. Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and quorum was present.

Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Agenda of January 18, 2022

MOTION Wagner, SUPPORT Carroll, approve Agenda of January 18, 2023, as presented. All voting aye, motion carried.

Minutes of September 21, 2022

MOTION LaJoy, SUPPORT Carroll, approve Minutes of September 21, 2022, as presented. All voting aye, motion carried.

2023 WDB Meeting Schedule

MOTION Graham, SUPPORT Wagner, approve 2023 WDB Meeting Schedule as presented. All voting aye, motion carried.

CEAC Metric Report First Quarter PY22-23

Wagner thanked all involved in the success of the 2022 Manufacturing Day. Taylor provided stats for Monroe and Wayne Counties of 2,208 students and 36 companies, exceeding the committee's goals.

MOTION Graham, SUPPORT Huq, approved the recommendation of the CEAC for the PY2022-23 First Quarter Metric Report as presented. All voting aye, motion carried.

Strategic Plan Fourth-Quarter Report/Approval of Deferral of Goal #3 to 2024

Pitoniak reviewed the Strategic Plan Fourth Quarter Report ending December 31, 2022. SEMCA is on track towards completion of its goals. Reviewed and discussed Goal 3 Revenue Diversification and SEMCA's secured new funding totaling approximately \$90 million over multiple years. These new initiatives are in the launch and implementation stage for 2023. SEMCA requested an amendment to the Strategic Plan deferring Goal #3 Funding Diversification to 2024 to assure the proper launch of the 2022 new funded initiatives in 2023.

MOTION Carroll, SUPPORT Wagner, approve amendment and defer Strategic Plan Goal #3 Funding Diversification Plan to 2024. Questions: Pitoniak introduced J.V. de la Fuente GEM Director. J.V. to provide a brief overview of the GEM project and of his background. He will lead the internal team and subrecipients on the GEM project. SEMCA has hired staff for most of these projects. Board congratulated SEMCA on its success. Pitoniak noted that we want to be sure to prioritize the implementation of new initiatives, so our partners continue to come back in the future. **Called for vote. All voted aye, motion carried.**

SEMCA Michigan Works! Customer Brand and Perception Survey Preliminary Findings

Johnston briefly discussed the brand perception survey conducted as part of Strategic Plan Goal #4, Branding. He introduced Amanda Holdsworth to walk the board through the preliminary survey results of the active customer and social media followers' awareness of services provided by SEMCA Michigan Works. **Recommendations:** Do quarterly customer surveys and a yearly analysis to measure the baseline; videos and social media for each program; customer tip sheet; SEMCA newsletter or blog. **Questions:** There is data from respondents by community/Zip Codes. Board will receive a final report with all data upon completion. This survey was geared towards active customers. There is a different employer survey. The PowerPoint is on file.

CEO Report

Pitoniak discussed the following:

- American Job Centers continue to experience fewer jobseekers coming into the centers for job searches and training opportunities. Employers are having issues with hiring and retention. Board was provided the current unemployment and labor market statistics.
- No final issuance or redraft of the Wagner Peyser Rule has been received and is not expected until June 2023. The MWA continues to encourage our Michigan congressional delegation to meet with the Secretary of Labor to discuss our unique one-stop model and possible Michigan waiver.

- SEMCA had a productive and supportive meeting with Wayne County Executive Warren Evans and his team for the Wayne County Workforce Development Initiative (WCWDI). Pitoniak and Brady-Medley provided a background and description of the program. They listed the workforce development services to be provided to all eligible Wayne county residents under this project. There will be 20-25 contractors, and the recent RFP provided 31 applications currently being reviewed and scored for three of the four service areas, STEP, Career Navigators and Underrepresented Populations. SEMCA will administer the Return-to-Work service area. The RAIN and Clean Slate programs will receive funding from this initiative. Dan Martinez was promoted to Director of the WCWDI project.
- Pitoniak noted that as we move into these new initiatives, there is a lot of preparation work for team members with meetings, proposals, contracts, hiring, etc., along with their everyday responsibilities. Pitoniak thanked Brady-Medley for her leadership in keeping the ship afloat.
- SEMCA will be coordinating the recruitment assistance for the One Battery Plant in Van Buren Township, which is expected to hire 2,000 plus by 2027.
- WIN continues to receive new grants with registered apprenticeships becoming a major emphasis of their efforts and support. In the fall they received a \$6 million USDOL apprenticeship grant and a \$5 million grant for the Electric Vehicle Jobs Academy. They are anticipating receiving a \$7 million grant for EV occupations training.
- Pitoniak provided state revenue projections from the Michigan News and Capital Report and discussed the health of our economy and budget.
- On the federal front, the Senate Labor Committee will continue to be chaired by Senator Bernie Sanders. The House Labor Committee will continue to be chaired by Representative Fox. It is believed she will prioritize the Reauthorization of WIOA.
- Trade Act (TAA) was extended to December 31, 2023.
- State announced there are 40 federal infrastructure legislation workforce development funding opportunities available and many of them require alignment with the workforce development system.
- AJC's have seen an increase in RESEA registrants from UIA. At the federal level there was a massive increase in funding for RESEA, and it should help continue the upward trend.

Program Updates

Program Statistical Summary

Heller directed the Board to his report. There is a large training increase of truck drivers. Hesson inquired if there is an increase in training of women in truck driving in the SEMCA region. Heller will research the subject and report back to the Board. Truck driving is a living wage, and the length of the training is relatively short.

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

- SEMCA will apply for \$375,000 in training funds for the SEMCA Young Professionals program.
- SEMCA is updating the PWE documents, handbooks, and wage information and planning and aligning jobs that will lead to opportunities. Taylor thanked McKinney-King of Wayne RESA for her assistance, knowledge, and expertise with this process.

- JMG Specialist Amanda Althouse from Orchard Center High School in Monroe will be starting a new career as the Director for Career Readiness at Monroe County Community College. Her JMG position has been posted.
- SEMCA is starting a focus group, served by a vendor, which can help locate young adults ages 14-24. The group will strategize how to market to our young adults and their needs through social media or other forms of contact to attract them to our services.
- MiCareer Quest will return on November 14, 2023. A kick-off meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2023, for sponsors, exhibitors, and education partners. Event aims to serve 8,000 to 10,000 students. Mahoney asked that MiCareer Quest information be emailed to the entire Board. Tamara will also email the flyer from Graham regarding Construction Career Day. **(Sent 1-18-2023)**

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

- The State noted all 16 Michigan Works Agencies will deplete adult and dislocated worker training dollars prior to the June 30, 2023, program deadline. The state earmarked additional training funds awarding each MWA \$187,000 to spend by 7-1-23.
- WIOA monitoring review took place today. We will wait for their report, but the exit interview was positive, and they noted some of SEMCA's work as best practices.
- The One-Stop Operator RFP will be released soon. The timeline for approval of the contractor will take place at the May Board Meeting with the contract to begin on July 1, 2023.
- Apprentice Week was a remarkable success. SEMCA hosted four in-person/virtual events, a job fair that focused on veterans around Veteran's Day and an open house at Zaman International.
- SEMCA submitted 71 applications for the Going Pro Talent Fund (GPTF) Cycle 1. Awards are expected to be announced by January 31. Cycle 2 applications are expected to start in April. The SEMCA goal for 2023 is 96 applications.

PATH, FAE&T, BRN and RAIN Updates from Daniel Martinez

- SEMCA's RAIN staff has been asked to participate in several trainings, 1) regarding refugee and immigrant policies for The Greater Philadelphia Leadership Exchange; 2) administrative and hands-on training on how to interact with the population, cultural awareness, and identifying and working with employers for the 11 MWAs now receiving PATH funding for refugee assistance programs; and 3) participate in the discussion with a team from the United Nations looking to create a training for those that serve refugees and immigrants. Elhady has elevated his and SEMCA's visibility in this program area.
- SEMCA, as well as Oakland County, provide the strongest Clean Slate programs in the state, which was confirmed by the remarks in the survey results. We have 136 applicants that have successfully had their expungements granted and 305 convictions removed from public record.
- The Department of Agriculture-Nutrition Food Services is coming to SEMCA for a discussion with our staff and contractor staff regarding the Food Assistance Employment and Training Program. The state recognized SEMCA to host this discussion.

GEM

De la Fuente further reported that Jaclyn Salazar has been hired as the Project Manager for Employer Services. Second interviews are being completed for the Talent Sector Strategy Project Manager. The GEM Sub-Awardee Agreements have been distributed and most of the signed agreements have been returned. Regarding the overall GEM Central project coordination, our region's coalition was chosen by Brookings Institution to do a case study, so the world is watching to see how we are doing, and the board will be provided with updates moving forward.

WIN Updates

Previously provided.

New/Old Business

Annual Conflict of Interest forms are due and were emailed to the Board. Mahoney asked members that have not provided a signed copy to fill out the form before they leave and give to Tamara.

MOTION Hesson, SUPPORT Carroll, to receive and file the signed Conflict of Interest forms. All voting aye, motion carried.

Next WDB meeting is Wednesday, March 15, 2023, but may be canceled for the MWA Legislative Day. Pitoniak and Commissioner Haidous will be attending. Mahoney advised if any board members are interested in participating to reach out to Tamara ASAP as reservations are required. SEMCA has 31 legislators in its region so some will be visited but customized packets will be provided to all.

Adjourn

MOTION Hesson, SUPPORT Carroll, to adjourn the meeting. All voting aye, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adopted at Meeting on 5-17-2023

Tamara Lamper-Norrix
Executive Assistant