

**SEMCA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
**Wednesday, May 17, 2023**  
**SEMCA, 25363 Eureka Road, Taylor, MI 48180**  
**MINUTES**

**Members Present**

Charlie Mahoney-Chair  
Jason Evers  
Chris LaJoy  
Ashleigh Glass  
Lee Graham  
Malin Wagner  
David Lawrence  
Gerald Hesson  
Donna Moser  
Naheed Huq  
Jay Steffensky

**Alternates Present**

Ledgra Johnson  
Krista McKinney King  
Jamal Robertson  
Jessica Lake

**Members Absent**

Laura Dickerson/Jeff Morris  
Tupac Hunter  
Connie Carroll/Laura Pipis  
Andy Bianco/Marla Fons  
Kahlil Rahal/Kamal Alsawafy  
Bayyinah Robinson/Eugenia Thompson  
Christina Pizzo/Astacia Hahn

**Staff Present**

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

**Guests**

Tirria Kendred, Henry Ford College  
Brent Mikulski, STEP

**Call to Order**

Vice-Chair Wagner conducted the meeting until the arrival of Chair Mahoney. The meeting was called to order at 2:07 p.m. Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

Roll call was taken, and quorum was present. Guests Kindred and Mikulski provided introductions.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was made.

**Agenda of May 17, 2023**

**MOTION Evers, SUPPORT Steffensky, approve Agenda of May 17, 2023 adding two topics, adult education and reappointments for new three-year terms for current board members. All voting aye, motion carried.**

**Minutes of January 18, 2023**

**MOTION Evers, SUPPORT Lawrence, approve Minutes of January 18, 2023, as presented. All voting aye, motion carried.**

### **PATH RFP Recommended Contractors**

Brady-Medley provided a review of the RFP process and SEMCA's PATH Contractor recommendations, beginning October 1, 2023. The seventh bidder did not seem to understand the requirements.

**MOTION Graham, SUPPORT Evers, approved the recommended PATH service contracts to the following Contractors:**

- Dearborn AJC – Arab Community Center for Economic & Social Services (ACCESS)
- Highland Park AJC – SER Metro (SERCO)
- Livonia AJC – Educational Data Systems Inc. (EDSI)
- Monroe AJC – Monroe County Employment and Training Department (MCETD)
- Southgate AJC – Downriver Community Conference (DCC)
- Wayne AJC – Employment & Training Designs, Inc. (ETDI)

**for an initial contract period of 10/1/2023 through 9/30/2024 with the option to extend the contract on 10/1/2024 annually for a period of up to three years total. All voting aye, motion carried.**

### **FAET RFP Recommended Contractors**

Brady-Medley provided a review of the RFP process and SEMCA's FAET Contractor recommendations, beginning October 1, 2023.

**MOTION Graham, SUPPORT LaJoy, approved the recommended FAET service contracts to the following Contractors:**

- Wayne County - Employment & Training Designs, Inc. (ETDI)
- Monroe County - Monroe County Employment and Training Department (MCETD)

**for an initial contract period of 10/1/2023 through 9/30/2024 with the option to extend the contract on 10/1/2024 annually for a period of up to three years total. All voting aye, motion carried.**

### **One Stop Operator Recommended Contractor**

Mallory provided a review of the RFP process. The only bidder is SEMCA's current contractor, and we are comfortable recommending for renewal, beginning July 1, 2023.

**MOTION Graham, SUPPORT Evers, approved the recommended One Stop Operator service contract to The Information Center (TIC) for an initial contract period of 7/1/2023 through 6/30/2024 with the option to extend the contract on 7/1/2024 annually for a period of up to three years total. All voting aye, motion carried.**

### **New Workforce Development Board Member**

Due to the cancellation of the March Workforce Development Board Meeting, the nomination of Ashleigh Glass went before the SEGA Board at their March 10, 2023, meeting and was approved with the caveat of a formal letter from the Monroe County Business Association, the approval by the Monroe County Board of Commissioners, both of which have been received, and the acceptance of this WDB. Glass provided a summary of her background and role at TWB.

**MOTION Moser, SUPPORT Graham to accept the SEGA appointment of Ashleigh Glass of TWB Company, LLC to the Workforce Development Board, serving as a Business Sector Representative for a term of May 17, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026.**

### **CEAC Recommendations from April 6, 2023 Meeting**

Wagner guided the board through the CEAC's recommendations for approval from their meeting on April 6, 2023.

#### **A. New CEAC Member**

Wagner noted that it is great to have Kendred on the CEAC in her new role with Henry Ford College.

**MOTION Graham, SUPPORT Evers to approve the recommendation of the Career & Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) and appoint Tirria Kendred, Director of K-12 Relations for Henry Ford College (HFC) to the CEAC replacing Ledgra Johnson of HFC. All voting aye, motion carried.**

#### **B. 2023-2024 Secondary Perkins Plans for Regions 29 & 30**

Wagner provided a summary of the Secondary Perkins Plans and requirements. Evers discussed the requirements of the industry recognized technical credentials attainment by the state and how Perkins funding is assisting school districts with the purchase of credentials and training for CTE directors and instructors.

**MOTION Lawrence, SUPPORT LaJoy to approve the recommendation of the Career & Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) of the 2023-2024 Secondary Perkins Plans for Regions 29 and 30 as presented. All voting aye, motion carried.**

#### **C. Region 29 Proposed 2023-2024 New CTE Programs**

Wagner apologized for Agenda Item 10C noting that it should have shown that it was updated with a check mark under CEAC Review for the list of programs, which was completed at their April 6, 2023 meeting.

**MOTION Hesson, SUPPORT Graham to approve the recommendation of the Career & Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) of the 2023-2024 New CTE Programs for Region 29 as presented. All voting aye, motion carried.**

#### **D. CEAC Second and Third Quarter Metric Reports**

Wagner discussed updates for the fall Manufacturing Day and its move to a Thursday this year to avoid homecomings and difficulty in getting substitute teachers on Fridays. Pitoniak noted the apprenticeship increase in numbers in the third quarter report. He also noted SEMCA has not had the same level of in-school enrollments for JMG due to the pandemic and students being behind in course requirements. Huq asked if Manufacturing Day is moving to Thursday throughout the state and country. It is not but is still part of National Manufacturing Week. Wayne County Manufacturing Day is celebrated throughout the week, so there will still be virtual events and resources available on Friday. DESC has again committed \$35,000 to Manufacturing Day events this year.

**MOTION Lawrence, SUPPORT Hesson to approve the recommendation of the Career & Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) of the Second and Third Quarter Metric Reports as presented. All voting aye, motion carried.**

Wagner asked Graham to speak on the Operating Engineers Apprenticeship Applications, which are now available quarterly. Graham noted applications will be accepted on June 5, 2023, and will share the announcement with Tamara to email to the Board. Apply early because they will go fast. Direct interested parties to the website to view videos and opportunities. Hesson reiterated the importance of apprenticeships with the building trades. McKinney-King thanked the Operating Engineers and business and industry partners that participated in a recent event hosted by Wayne RESA.

**Chair Mahoney apologized for her late arrival and thanked Wagner for starting the meeting.**

### **Strategic Plan First-Quarter Report**

Pitoniak reviewed the four goals and their status after the first quarter. Goal #1 is delayed due to the data-system vendor but will be completed by the fourth quarter. Goal 3 was deferred at our last board meeting due to the number of new programs obtained in 2022 and the need this year to implement those programs. Pitoniak also noted that Goal 4 is tied to LEO's development of a campaign similar to Pure Michigan for Michigan Works. MEDC is developing a talent recruitment strategy, delivering a message that Michigan is a great place to work and will market to out-state talent and businesses. They also want to retain in state talent as well. Both are expected to launch their branding support for Michigan's workforce system sometime this fall.

**MOTION Hesson, SUPPORT Lawrence to receive and file the Strategic Plan First-Quarter Report as presented.** Hesson asked if we foresee concerns with promoting SEMCA and Michigan Works using Twitter with all the controversy surrounding the company. Pitoniak noted we heavily use Facebook but is unsure of the other social media options. He will discuss the subject with SEMCA's Communication Director. **All voting aye, motion carried.**

### **Adult Education Update**

Evers provided information pertaining to the Governor's proposed budget regarding Adult Education. Proposed is a one-time investment in the state Section 107 Adult Ed program. They are considering adding an additional \$15 million statewide competitive grant. Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties are looking to bring adult education into some underserved areas, and to possibly add integrated services co-located on the community college campuses. The Board expressed support for this idea.

### **Recommendation to SEGA for Reappointment for Current Board Members**

Pitoniak thanked the current board members whose terms expire on June 30, 2023, and would like to remain on the board for another three-year term, for their commitment to SEMCA. SEMCA is asking the WDB to recommend to SEGA a new three-year term for the following board members: Lee Graham and Alternate Matt Everly, Jerry Hesson and Alternate Collin Keehn, Charlie Mahoney, Donna Moser and Alternate Jessica Lake and Naheed Huq. No objections were made.

**MOTION Graham, SUPPORT Evers to recommend the reappointments to the Workforce Development Board for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026 for Lee Graham, Jerry Hesson, Charlie Mahoney, Donna Moser and Naheed Huq. All voting aye, motion carried.**

### **CEO Report**

Pitoniak discussed the following:

- SEMCA is holding Critical Incident and De-escalation Training for its AJC staff and any SEMCA staff that were not present for the first sessions. Over 160 participants are scheduled. Thanked Wayne County Community College for the use of their facility at no charge.
- American Job Centers are doing well with the increased interest in training opportunities.
- SEMCA currently has six job postings.
- SEMCA is now receiving 100% of UIA referrals to the RESEA program.
- The second round of Going Pro Talent Fund applications are due by May 24, 2023.
- Still waiting to hear the results of the Wagner Peyser Rule. Senator Peters met two weeks ago with Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su on behalf of the Michigan Works system. The decision is expected in June of 2023 but with an Interim Labor Secretary, we are not sure if it will move forward.
- Wayne County program will now be called Wayne County LINC (Learning, Investment, Navigation and Career). Debt Ceiling vote in Congress is targeting unspent ARPA funds, which is

funding Wayne County LINC and causing pause at the state as well. Pitoniak meets soon with the County Executive and hopefully will be given an update on moving forward with the program. Waiting for the language to determine if it is unspent, unallocated or unobligated funds.

- In EV, we are close to finalizing the MUST contract for \$4 million over three years for EV infrastructure training. LEO is close to issuing a Policy Issuance to allocate approximately \$7 million in training funds to Michigan Works Agencies for individuals pursuing EV occupations. WIN has developed the EV Jobs Academy Roster of courses with Pathways to Employment in the EV Industry.
- State budget has three versions, Senate, House, and Governor. Greg noted he is watching those most relevant to SEMCA. MWA proposed a Michigan Skills Fund for short term training which is in the House budget only. Pitoniak pointed out the letter to Senator Mary Cavanagh signed by himself, Charlie Mahoney, and Commissioner Haidous asking for her support as the Appropriations Subcommittee Chair in funding several relevant programs. MWA lobbyist expects budget deliberations to finish June 8, with voting taking place on June 14.
- SEMCA is watching several matters on the federal front. The House Labor Committee discussed a formal bill for WIOA Reauthorization, which shares bi-partisan support. There has been discussion of a stronger work requirement for those receiving cash assistance. Little details known at this time. MWA lobbyist is not confident that Acting Labor Secretary Julie Su will be appointed.
- Legislative Day went very well, and Pitoniak thanked Commissioner Haidous, Hesson and his alternate Keehn for participating in the event. We met with 6 out of 31 legislators in our region. All 31 received a customized packet with their regions data on individuals and businesses served.
- NAWB Conference was attended by Pitoniak, Mahoney, Commissioner Haidous, and RAIN Navigator Sameh Elhady. Pitoniak received a last-minute invitation from the USDOL to present at the conference and he and Elhady co-presented on equitable service strategies like our RAIN, BRN, and Clean Slate programs. The team met with Congressmen Walberg and Thanedar as well as staff of Senators Peters and Stabenow. Congressman Thanedar will be scheduling a visit to the Highland Park AJC.
- MWA had their Annual Impact Awards. SEMCA's success story was provided to the Board for review. Both Ms. Beasley and her employer, Jackie Davis Insurance Agency, had high praise for Michigan Works and the staff at the Wayne AJC.
- SEMCA will fund eight board members to attend the Michigan Works Association Annual Conference on September 10-12, for the early bird rate, so decisions must be made by July 19, 2023. The conference is in Detroit so no hotel stays will be provided. SEMCA will cover registration, mileage, parking, and meals that are not provided by the conference. It is first come, first serve and Tamara will keep the list. Members will have priority over alternates. There are single-day options available.
- Michigan Unemployment Rate for March 2023 is 4.1%. US is 3.5%. Jobs are up 1.9%. Detroit Metro Statistical Area jobs went up for Detroit by .2% and Monroe stayed level with no change.

## **Program Updates**

### **Program Statistical Summary**

Pitoniak directed the Board to the report and noted the Dislocated Worker stats are low, but our unemployment rate is also low. Trade Adjustment Act is also low because the TAA expired June 30, 2022, and only individuals qualified prior to July 1 can receive services. More recent laid-off workers would only be eligible if and when Congress reauthorizes the Trade Act. Hesson inquired about the FAE&T numbers being higher in Monroe versus Wayne. That is because Monroe's program is also tied

with their Offender Success Program, which Wayne does not have the same type of contract. Pitoniak noted that we have been contacted and are partnering on two similar programs, one with DESC providing services to customers prior to release from jail and one with the Attorney General's Office working with offenders and providing work opportunities if successfully completed will keep the charges off their record. Hesson asked about the difference between Carpenter and Construction, both listed under Construction Industry for placements. Pitoniak will have Hellar verify the difference.

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

- As part of the strategic plan on customer service, The Information Center completed the first-quarter secret shopper study and results are being reviewed.
- Development of a customer satisfaction survey has been completed. It is a QR code that customers can use to complete. Hard copies are being translated into Arabic and Spanish.
- Business Services are busy with apprenticeships and currently have increased to 71 since the last CEAC report.
- We are working with WIN on the Apprenticeship Building America Grant. SEMCA can offer employers \$3,500 to offset costs.
- Going Pro Talent Fund goal for Cycle 2 is 26 applications and with one week to go we are at 25.
- Staff have participated in several events and are working with WIN and LEO on several grant projects. Report is on file.

#### PATH, FAE&T, FAE&T PLUS & RAIN Updates from Charmarrah Bantom

- Brady-Medley provided the report for Bantom. To answer Huq's questions regarding the seventh bidder on the PATH RFP but not chosen was The Blackbottom Group.
- Bantom is part of a statewide collaborative committee to help the state as they consider new policies and how to improve service delivery and make sure it stays in alignment with customer needs.
- We have been selected to host LEO for an onsite visit to see in person how SEMCA handles our PATH referral and service process. DHHS will also be present during this visit.
- Bantom and Brady-Medley are involved in the Skilled Immigrant Integration Program Workgroup looking at opportunities for immigrants to find work that better aligns with their past skills, experience and/or degree.

#### NEW INITIATIVES, WAYNE LINC, BRN and CLEAN SLATE Updates from Dan Martinez

- As part of Wayne LINC SEMCA will be adding a Drivers' License Restoration Program as part of Clean Slate and next week we will be onboarding an attorney to assist with this program. Looking at ways to partner with other organizations like United Way that provide this service.
- Automatic expungement is now part of law. There are extreme differences between the two programs i.e. expedited time frames and the number of misdemeanors or felonies.

#### GEM Updates from J.V. de la Fuente

- Provided first semi-annual report to the federal government.
- The last open position for the program was accepted today.
- Attended and displayed at the Michigan Minority Procurement Conference in May. It was the first event to showcase the initiative as a whole and the Talent Pillar SEMCA represents. Over 40 employer contacts were made and will be transferred for follow-up by the appropriate Pillar.
- Several RFP's outstanding and we will be issuing one for the design of an employer network.

- Invited to an alignment meeting for the EV and Mobility Talent Initiatives around the state and SEMCA is involved in three of the eight invited. Follow-up work to align efforts so requests made of employers does not come from several initiatives but is one request.
- One question asked was why SEMCA was involved in three of them. Pitoniak's answer: We are often asked to collaborate because of our strong reputation.

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

- A SEMCA JMG youth was recognized at the Career Development Conference as the 2023 Youth of the Year from our Southgate AJC.
- Launching our Annual Manufacturing Day with our partner STORCH Manufacturing and the Michigan Manufacturers Association to assist with employer participation and creating an advertisement awareness video with Detroit Tigers Andy Dirks at Comerica Park.
- Hired our 8<sup>th</sup> AmeriCorps Vista volunteer, a student from Kent State helping with social media and rebranding our WCCAN program to ensure we are reaching our youth with post-secondary opportunities.
- WIOA Youth, in partnership with Wayne Westland Schools and ETDI is developing the Pathways to Workforce Project to provide training, paid placement, and work experiences for youth. Thanks to Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib for funding this project.
- The Ballmer Focus Group project is working with Amanda Holdsworth to help us understand where our youth are, what are the key messages needed and key mediums needed to communicate with them about opportunities available in our region. Focus Groups for Youth and learning their language was discussed during the recent National Association of Workforce Development Training.
- The Michigan Career Opportunity for Community Health (MiCOACH) project, partnered with Wayne RESA, is a new health care field training opportunity for 8 participants from each school (Ecorse, River Rouge, and Hamtramck) over a 3-year period for a total of 72 youth.
- For Talent Tours the students were exposed to manufacturing, healthcare, and aviation careers.

#### WIN Updates

Previously discussed.

#### New/Old Business

If you have not signed your Conflict-of-Interest Statement, they are located on the counter. Next meeting date, July 19, 2023.

#### Adjourn

**MOTION Evers, SUPPORT Hesson, to adjourn the meeting. All voting aye, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

#### **Adopted Minutes at Meeting on 9/20/23**

Tamara Lamper-Norrix  
Executive Assistant