

**SEMCA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
**Wednesday, September 20, 2023**  
**SEMCA, 25363 Eureka Road, Taylor, MI 48180**  
**MINUTES**

**Members Present**

Charlie Mahoney-Chair  
Jason Evers  
Chris LaJoy  
Donna Moser  
Lee Graham  
Malin Wagner  
David Lawrence  
Gerald Hesson  
Naheed Huq  
Connie Carroll  
Hassan Sheikh  
Bayyinah Robinson

**Alternates Present**

Ledgra Johnson  
Jamal Robertson  
Krista McKinney-King,  
(Phone)

**Members Absent**

Laura Dickerson/Jeff Morris  
Ashleigh Glass-Cooper  
Jay Steffansky  
Andy Bianco/Ann 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

Rebecca Flemming  
Lorie Howard-Spencer  
Bill Hellar  
Rashid Amine  
Stacy Lorne

**Guests**

Tirria Kendred, Henry Ford College  
Deba Harper, Champ Nation

**Call to Order**

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

**Roll Call**

Board introduced themselves for the newest member Hassan Sheikh from Wayne County Economic Development. Sheikh shared his background and heads the team for WayneLINC. A quorum was present.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was made.

**Agenda of September 20, 2023**

**MOTION Wagner, SUPPORT Carroll, approve Agenda of September 20, 2023, as presented. All voting aye, motion carried.**

**Minutes of May 17, 2023**

**MOTION Graham, SUPPORT Evers, approve Minutes of May 17, 2023, as presented. All voting aye, motion carried.**

### **WDB Officers**

The FY 2023-2024 call for Workforce Development Board Officers was made and the form for nominating candidates distributed via email. The deadline for nominations was August 31, 2023. No further nominations were received, and the ballot included incumbents Charlie Mahoney as WDB Chair, Malin Wagner as WDB Vice Chair and Connie Carroll as Secretary.

**MOTION Lee, SUPPORT LaJoy, to close the nominations for all offices and elect the incumbents to their respective offices for FY23-24. All members in attendance voting aye, motion carried.**

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

During the recertification process of the WDB to the state, Members Andy Bianco (working out of state) and Khalil Rahal (no longer with Wayne County Economic Development) needed to be replaced on the WDB. Ann Thompson, Workforce Development Manager for Ford Motor Company was nominated by Dearborn Chamber of Commerce and a request made to approve their nomination by the Conference of Western Wayne, replacing Bianco. Wayne County Economic Development nominated Hassan Sheikh, Wayne County Economic Development Director to replace Rahal. WDB cancelled their July meeting, but the SEGA Board did meet and approved both Sheikh and Thompson upon receipt of the CWW's approval to the WDB. Approval of her nomination by the Executive Board of the CWW has been received with full-board approval expected at their next meeting. Lastly, SEGA approved the entire WDB for Recertification for the two-year cycle of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.

**MOTION Wagner, SUPPORT LaJoy, to accept the SEGA Board appointments to serve on the WDB of Hassan Sheikh, Wayne County Economic Development to finish Rahal's term through June 30, 2024, as Economic Development Sector Representative; and Ann Thompson, Ford Motor Company to finish out the term of Bianco through June 30, 2025, serving as Business Sector Representative.**

**FURTHERMORE, the Board also accepted the appointment of the entire Workforce Development Board for Recertification by the State for its two-year cycle of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025. Recertification has been granted as shown in the letter from the State of Michigan of September 8, 2023, to SEGA Board Chair Abdul Haidous.**

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

Wagner guided the board through the CEAC's recommendations for approval from their meeting on August 10, 2023. He advised that Manufacturing Day will need to start planning in fall to increase participation with schools, colleges and businesses for the following fall.

#### **A. CEAC FY22-23 Fourth Quarter Metric Report**

**MOTION Carroll, SUPPORT Evers to approve the recommendation of the Career & Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) of the Fourth Quarter Metric Report as presented. All voting aye, motion carried.**

#### **B. CEAC FY23-24 New Metric Report Template**

Pitoniak noted that these numbers are the projected goals for the new year.

**MOTION Hesson, SUPPORT Carroll to approve the recommendation of the Career & Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) of the FY23-24 Metric Report Template as presented. All voting aye, motion carried.**

### **Strategic Plan Second Quarter Report**

Pitoniak reviewed the four goals and their status after the second quarter, noting we are on target. For Goal #1 Partnerships, Brady-Medley noted that SEMCA is bringing all of their partners together in one

room in an effort to strengthen our referral process. She discussed how the new Launchpad customer portal can assist in the process. A fun event inclusive of all of our partners titled Mission Possible will be taking place soon and ties into this goal. We have invited 35 partners, but we may work with partners in more than one way so some organizations may be sending several participants to the event.

**MOTION Sheikh, SUPPORT Graham to receive and file the Strategic Plan Second-Quarter Report as presented. All voting aye, motion carried.**

### **Wayne CountyLINC Presentation**

Pitoniak provided a brief summary of the background of the WayneLINC program. Daniel Martinez is the Manager of New Initiatives, which WayneLINC falls under. Martinez noted that the \$35 million will fund programs for those that need it most, justice-involved, refugees, immigrants, veterans, economically disadvantaged and others facing employment barriers. SEMCA is the designated administrator and will oversee a network of service providers covering all of Wayne County. He provided the details of the RFP process and the four scopes including Career Navigation, Underrepresented Populations Program, Subsidized Training and Employment Program (STEP), and SEMCA will deliver Return to Work Program supportive services and expungement and driver's license restoration directly. Martinez had his staff introduce themselves to the Board. SEMCA is hoping to begin working with customers after the first of the year once the contractor staff is in place. Sheikh noted that Wayne County is really happy to be partnering with the SEMCA team on this project and the feeling is mutual.

Deba Harper asked how many contractors will be selected. Martinez noted that we are still in negotiations, but 23 organizations submitted proposals with 45 different proposals submitted if they bid on more than one scope. A number cannot be provided at this time. The final say will be with the County Executive and County Commission. Carroll asked as SEMCA looks at other grants and funding sources will these services be provided in Monroe County. Martinez noted that it is a goal to find funding for all our customers as SEMCA represents out-Wayne and Monroe counties. Questions regarding how customers will be referred to the program were asked, and Martinez noted that there is an expanded group of contractors and not just the American Job Centers. Communication teams from SEMCA, Detroit and Wayne County are working on a plan for when we are ready to roll-out the program and will have print, social media and network TV available to us.

### **CEO Report**

Pitoniak discussed the following:

- 2022 Annual Report was mailed and emailed to the Board.
- At our AJC level we are trying to boost awareness for career pathways not just a job. SEMCA currently has three job postings.
- We are still waiting for a final issuance of the proposed Wagner Peyser Rule and whether Michigan will receive a waiver. Final draft of the rule is currently at the White House. Pitoniak commended Senator Peters, Congressman Walberg and Congresswoman Dingell for their support of the Michigan Works system.
- SEMCA thanked those that may have participated in the online WIOA funding congressional outreach in opposition to the House Appropriations Committee cuts and zeroing out of Youth component. The Senate and President are not expected to cut WIOA funding in their budgets.
- WIOA has expired and been extended the last few years. Pitoniak commended Senator Peters for his survey of the Michigan workforce system through the association about what improvements we would like to see in the WIOA system and drafting language for the reauthorization.

- SEGA Board has approved a new budget for the upcoming year of \$46 million, which is expected to include a full implementation of WayneLINC, and one year of GEM.
- SEMCA achieved all their performance measurements for WIOA for the program year ending June 30, 2023.
- SEMCA has initiated the process for reaccreditation with COA. Brady-Medley is lead for the staff team, which will finalize in March of 2024.
- Johnson showed the media campaign by the State of Michigan promoting Michigan Works! and asked the Board to review the website at [www.Michigan.gov/MichiganWorks](http://www.Michigan.gov/MichiganWorks).
- MEDC is also developing a campaign that will be used to recruit talent from out-of-state. We are not clear of when it will be implemented. Stay tuned.
- SEMCA's GPTF had 75 applications for \$4.2 million with a 65% approval of applications. They are funding \$55 million for GPTF this year and the first round is open. Pitoniak sent an email to the Board asking you to utilize or encourage employers to look up the program on our website to see if they are interested.
- WIN was invited to be part of the seminar side of the Auto Show, and they spoke about Michigan's efforts in the EV and Mobility space with speakers and presenters over a 2-hour event for press and industry. J. V. de la Fuente, SEMCA GEM Manager presented regarding the GEM/EVJA funding.
- Pitoniak distributed and gave a brief summary of a PowerPoint regarding Creating A Regional Workforce Intermediary from the Detroit Regional CEO Group.
- MiCareer Quest is back and will take place on November 14, 2023. If you are interested in a VIP tour, contact [llewellynj@oakgov.com](mailto:llewellynj@oakgov.com). A flyer was distributed.
- Pitoniak distributed the SEMCA Proclamation for the Conference of Western Wayne in honor of their 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Commissioner Al Haidous is the CWW representative for the SEGA Board.

## **Program Updates**

### **Program Statistical Summary**

Hellar noted the Program Statistical Summary. He asked if anyone had questions, or they could contact him at any time after the meeting.

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

- Brady-Medley filled in for Bantom. Ghada Turk has been promoted from Administrative Assistant to Program Coordinator.
- Bantom and her team have had the opportunity to be trained on the MiBridges program through DHHS. They will be able to help navigate our customers with this program.
- RAIN has a new contract with the Michigan Works Association on behalf of Global Detroit and the Office of Global Michigan. It will focus on the MIT (Michigan International Talent) Program. This will assist new immigrants or refugees that have a college degree or similar training in a foreign country but have a challenge working in that field here in the states. This will help them move into opportunities of high need.
- Pitoniak noted that Sameh Elhady and Adel Dalou presented at the Michigan Works Conference regarding RAIN. Greg was honored to present State Legislator of the Year Award to Senator Mary Cavanaugh and the Volunteer of the Year Award to our own Al Haidous, SEGA Board Chairman.

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

- Clean Slate participants were asked to either provide information on how the program has helped them or to make a comment. Please read their responses. Mahoney encouraged the board to read these reports. Pitoniak noted that we value your comments.

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

- The Talent Sector Team have been developing the materials to assist MW Agencies in promoting the training that is going to be available through GEM. Working with two vendors SP Grace and Innovative Learning Group and will have videos, presentation materials and job aids ready by mid-October for the rollout.
- GEM is working with Thomas P. Miller & Associates who are assisting us in developing a mobility employer support network. There have been several focus groups in their information gathering stage.
- Several outreach events have been attended.
- GEM has been asked to partner with the Detroit Regional Partnership on the America Achieves grant, the purpose of which is to align regional education and workforce systems with economic growth strategies and priorities.

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

- Roger Curtis has been named the new Executive Director for Jobs for Michigan Graduates. JMG just celebrated 15 years.
- October 16-20 is Careers in Energy Week. Taylor thanked our partner DTE.
- Manufacturing Day, scheduled for October 5, has a meet and greet for our employers, post-secondary and high schools participating. We have close to 2,000 expected to attend in person and more virtually thanks to our partnership with Junior Achievement.
- WCCAN has launched a new website and can be reviewed at SEMCA's website. We also have a Counselors Get Schooled workshop in partnership with Henry Ford College.

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

- SEMCA's MWA Certification Review Site Visit report was received and there were no findings.
- SEMCA's TAA Programmatic Review report was received and there were no findings.
- Due to the strike SEMCA is working with companies that have been affected with assistance and help in avoiding layoffs. However, there has been an uptick in layoffs in our region since June for a number of reasons. We have had 16 unique companies with layoffs.
- Apprenticeship programs are growing by leaps and bounds. An event was hosted with the DOL for the RAPID System with a tutorial provided on how to use the system. An event in June of a new quarterly employer educational series was held at Henry Ford College entitled The Talent Within and was well attended.
- Page 46 of the packet has a summary sheet with a brief description of all of our grants.
- SEMCA is working on events for National Apprenticeship Week, November 13-17. We are partnering with Schoolcraft College on Women in Apprenticeship. There is one being planned with the Monroe Superstore, a dealership underbody maintenance apprenticeship program that is new for them.
- The virtual job fair in August and was one of the top three attended in the State of Michigan this year.

### WIN Updates

Page 46 provides information on the WIN grants.

### New/Old Business

Graham provided information on the November 13 event in Howell for National Apprenticeship Week. They receive approximately 150 guests for the hands-on event including superintendents, counselors, apprentice success coordinators and MW representatives. The Michigan Apprenticeship Steering Committee is hosting a conference in Lansing on December 11-13. He will provide the information to Tamara to share. Graham distributed two flyers he has asked to be shared.

Huq noted that November 3, SEMCOG and MAC will be cohosting a Health Care Workforce Symposium at Macomb Community College. She will provide Tamara with more information.

Next meeting will be held on November 15, 2023.

### Adjourn

**MOTION Hesson, SUPPORT Graham, to adjourn the meeting. All voting aye, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

### **Adopted Meeting Minutes on 11/15/23**

Tamara Lamper-Norrix  
Executive Assistant