

**SEMCA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
**Wednesday, September 21, 2022**  
**SEMCA, 25363 Eureka Road, Taylor, MI 48180**  
**MINUTES**

**Members Present**

Charlie Mahoney-Chair  
Chris LaJoy  
Connie Carroll  
Malin Wagner  
Jason Evers  
Donna Moser  
Naheed Huq  
Jay Steffensky

**Alternates Present**

Marla Fons  
Krista McKinney King  
Jamal Robertson

**Members Absent**

Laura Dickerson/Jeff Morris  
Tupac Hunter  
Lee Graham  
David Lawrence  
Pat Chatman/Ledgra Johnson  
Christina Pizzo/Astacia Hahn  
Gerald Hesson/Collin Keehn  
Bayinnah Robinson/Eugenia Thompson  
Kahlil Rahal/Kamal Alsawafy

**Staff Present**

Gregory Pitoniak  
Tamara Lamper-Norrix  
Bill Hellar  
Kate Brady-Medley  
Daniel Martinez  
Colleen Mallory  
Suzanne Stolz  
Suzanne Reid  
Deborah Taylor  
Tim Johnson

**Guests**

Jessica Lake, Gerdau Steel

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 2:11 p.m. Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

Roll call was taken and quorum was not present.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was made.

**Introduction of New CFO**

Suzanne Stolz was introduced, and she provided a summary of her background.

**SEMCOG Job Seeker Survey Results Presentation – Presenter Naheed Huq**

Reviewed PowerPoint on the Career Pathways Campaign Project. Goals are to increase labor force participation, fill positions in in-demand sectors and understand barriers and personal choices for career and work decisions. The results of the online survey, the takeaways, and next steps were discussed. Childcare and transportation remain barriers for returning to work. Perception and how we market careers is key. COVID has changed perceptions of work. SEMCOG will identify content for three videos plus complementary assets and develop a strategy to share these messages. PowerPoint

is on file. **Discussion:** Negative perceptions for the trades still exist. Important events like Manufacturing Day and MiCareer Quest are important. Technology is important to young people and how do we make them understand it is part of every career in our messaging. Messaging for new industry careers that are not well known. Life-long learning and making it available and affordable. Johnston noted as part of SEMCA's strategic plan is to develop a perceptions survey of SEMCA Michigan Works directed to employers and job seekers and use the data for messaging. The State survey is directed towards people that know nothing about Michigan Works, which, when combined will provide us with useful insights.

**A quorum was present, and the board returned to the action items.**

#### **Agenda of September 21, 2022**

**MOTION Wagner, SUPPORT Evers to approve Agenda of September 21, 2022, as presented. All voting aye, motion carried.**

#### **Minutes of July 20, 2022**

**MOTION Carroll, SUPPORT LaJoy to approve Minutes of July 20, 2022, as presented. All voting aye, motion carried.**

#### **Trade Adjustment Act RFP Recommendations**

**MOTION Wagner, SUPPORT Carroll, to approve the recommendations of current contractors Downriver Community Conference and Monroe County Employment and Training Department for the Trade Adjustment Assistant Act (TAA) service contract on a one-year basis with the option to renew for a total of three years, or if and when federal funding has been terminated. All voting aye, motion carried.**

#### **Workforce Development Board Officer Elections**

No nominations were received, or write-ins presented. Board moved forward with a slate approval.

**MOTION LaJoy, SUPPORT Huq, to approve the slate of Workforce Development Board Officers Charlie Mahoney as Chair, Malin Wagner as Vice Chair and Connie Carroll as Secretary for PY 2022-2023. All voting aye, motion carried.**

Mahoney took a moment to thank SEMCA staff, through the leadership of Greg Pitoniak as the Christine Quinn Excellence in Leadership award winner at this year's Annual Michigan Works Conference.

#### **New Secondary CTE Programs Applications for Regions 29, Wayne County and 30 Monroe County**

Evers noted the two programs pending from Detroit Public Safety Academy are not ready to be approved this year but should be ready for next year.

**MOTION Evers, SUPPORT LaJoy, to approve the recommendations made by the CEAC for Region 29 Wayne County and Region 30 Monroe County Perkins New Secondary CTE Program Applications as presented.**

**Discussion:** Wagner noted the CEAC will be discussing the need for more districts to partner with businesses/industry and community colleges like Taylor's Power Plant Tech with MIAT. Need to push apprenticeships during students' junior/senior years but also referred Board to the case study by Bergman Center regarding apprenticeships for disadvantaged and disabled students. Huq inquired if

there is research behind the need and opportunities for careers for these new programs. All must be approved through the labor market projections of the Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment. Projections are on an eight-year cycle. Pitoniak noted that if the Board ever wants to dispute a program, we can talk about it. The approval process is Wayne RESA/Monroe ISD to the CEAC for recommendation to the WDB for approval. **All voting aye, motion carried.**

#### **CEAC Metric Report Fourth Quarter PY21-22 and New Metric Goals for PY 22-23**

Wagner provided current stats for Manufacturing Day, 39 schools, 6 colleges, 18-20 companies and 1,500 students for in-person visitation have signed up.

**MOTION Evers, SUPPORT Wagner, to approve the recommendations of the CEAC for the PY2021-22 Fourth Quarter Metric Report as presented and the PY2022-23 Metric Goals as presented. All voting aye, motion carried.**

#### **GEM Grant Award Overview Presentation – Presenter Kate Brady-Medley**

Reviewed PowerPoint for an overview of the Detroit Regional Partnership (DRP) Global Epicenter of Mobility (GEM) initiative and SEMCA's role for the regional Talent Transformation Project. Three main pillars comprise SEMCA's project, business-facing workforce consulting, assessment and referral services; talent-facing support and development; and talent/workforce network development and alignment. SEMCA will be collaborating with many partners on this \$23.3 million federal grant, which includes \$6.8 million of locally committed match funds over the next four years. Next steps include MOUs with partners and hiring staff, develop an outcome tracking system, and procurement for consultation and vendor services and preparation to launch the project. PowerPoint is on file.

**Discussion:** The alignment between GEM and the EV Mobility Academy.

#### **CEO Report**

Pitoniak discussed the following:

- Thanked Board Officers for their continued support of SEMCA.
- Thanked Judy Lukitsh, the interim CFO and the fiscal team for doing a great job. They stepped up in extraordinary ways during this time. SEMCA still has 9 vacant positions, and the GEM and the Wayne County Initiatives will add approximately 15 new positions.
- The six AJCs are doing well. Increase in activity but we would like to see more. There is a rise in training requests. Still awaiting to see the increase in UI referrals from the UIA.
- No updates on the Wagner Peyser Rule. Congresswoman Dingell continues to advocate for a visit by the Michigan congressional delegation and the Secretary of Labor to discuss our unique one-stop model and a possible waiver. Dingell was recognized by the MWA as Federal Legislator of the Year for her leadership on this issue.
- The \$50 million Wayne County Workforce Development Initiative is now in the final stages of tweaking the agreement/budget and will go to the Wayne County Commission for approval.
- GEM is an exciting new challenge, and we look forward to working with our partners.
- SEMCA will be the lead in southeast Michigan for the Ford layoffs. We will provide a MWA orientation for the Right Management staff, the career advisers Ford hired to work with the layoffs, a MWA mass orientation for the 1,200 layoffs, and employer showcase events for those employers looking for specific credentials and qualifications.
- WIN continues to be a robust partnership and is carving out its niche in apprenticeships. Several WIN staff were recognized by the USDOL as Apprenticeship Ambassadors recently in Washington DC. They created the first nationally recognized Woodworking Manufacturing Specialist Apprenticeship with Schoolcraft College and Burke Architectural Millwork Company

in Livonia. WIN received a \$6 million Apprenticeship Building America Grant. They are partnering with Michigan Central; a non-profit linked to the Detroit Train Station project and has received preliminary approval to partner on a \$160 million grant with the National Science Foundation for a Regional Innovation Engine Grant.

## **Program Updates**

### **Program Statistical Summary**

Hellar noted one change made to the second graph to be more in alignment with WDA/LEO's annual report. We have added customers trained and customers earning industry recognized credentials. This is a 12 month look back at our programs. Huq asked the difference between individuals and customers. Individuals includes walk-in traffic and customers are participants involved in programs that meet eligibility requirements and have funding attached. They can be enrolled in more than one program to maximize their experience.

### **PATH, FAE&T, BRN and RAIN Updates**

- Martinez referred the board to his report. Business Resource Network Program is now fully staffed. Pre-pandemic 11 participating companies, during pandemic 3 companies, and post-pandemic 10 companies. Provided a brief description of the BRN Program.
- SEMCA staff presented at the Michigan Works Association Annual Conference on the Clean Slate Program. The session was well attended with surveys being extremely satisfied and one very satisfied with the presentation and presenters. Two high-ranking LEO staff members were in attendance. The state program ends in March, but SEMCA will continue it. There have been 200 successful expungements and only one rejection due to customer's non-response.

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

- Taylor referred the board to her report. All Ballmer Group funded staff are now onboard for WCAN and PWE. Taylor introduced Jessica Gates, the Youth Community Senior Liaison, who was in attendance. She also provided a list of businesses that provided PWE's for PY2021-22 to present.
- Manufacturing Day will be a hybrid event both in person and virtual and takes place the first Friday in October. MiCareer Quest is planning to return in 2023 and will begin planning soon.
- WIN wrote WCAN into their grant application for the Electrification Vehicle Job's Academy Grant. WCAN will create a Google Map on our website to view the Asset Map for resources.
- Reid provided a summary of the JMG program and SEMCA's three program models and ten sites along with the stats. She highlighted the recent national and local awards received by JMG Program staff. SEMCA received national recognition for achieving JAG's 5 of 5 Award in the Out-of-School and Alternative Model programs, the most prestigious award given to programs that meet or surpass all of JAG's five rigorous performance metrics. Ecorse High School, Orchard Center High School and ACCESS MI Works AJC also received the award for outstanding post-secondary and employment achievements. SEMCA JMG staff members also attended the statewide JMG Summer Summit and were awarded the Living Our Values Award recognizing collaboration, leadership, excellence and problem-solving. They also attend Legislative Day. They presented the Championship Award to Senator Stephanie Change for her support. They also compete in Leadership Day, which is a team building event, and Career Development Conference, a statewide competition exploring career preparation skills. She thanked the board for their continued support.

- CTE Showcase are looking to organize a local Legislative Day.

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

- Mallory referred the board to her report. Training numbers continue to rise especially for CDLA certifications and healthcare careers.
- Our Business Services Representatives continue to help businesses with recruitment and to look for apprenticeship and incumbent worker training opportunities.
- SEMCA is putting together four sessions for Apprenticeship Week November 14-18, 2022, two virtual and two in-person. MCCC is hosting an in-person event on 11-14, Virtual Veteran Job Fair. Zaman International will hold an in-person Open House. They are a trainer and employer that hires apprentices. Lastly a virtual event Apprenticeships and Michigan Works 101.
- GPTF has been approved their highest budget ever of \$55 million and applications will open in November. If you know of employers that have applied before or are hesitant because of the lengthy process in the past, the program was delayed to simplify the process, so encourage them to attend an information session, which start this Friday, four virtual and one in-person. They can find the dates and times on our website and register for a session.
- Virtual job fairs will now be held bi-monthly with in-person job fairs held the opposite months. Our July event had 22 employers with 148 attendees and our August event had 16 employers with 116 attendees.

#### WIN Updates

Previously provided.

#### New/Old Business

Next WDB meeting is November 16, 2022 at 2pm.

#### Adjourn

**MOTION Wagner, SUPPORT Carroll, to adjourn the meeting. All voting aye, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Adopted Minutes at 1-18-23 Meeting**

**Tamara Lamper-Norrix  
Executive Assistant**