

SEMCA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Wednesday January 20, 2010, 3-5pm

SEMCA, 25363 Eureka Rd., Taylor, MI

REVISED MINUTES

Members Present

Alan Anderson
Melinda Buell
James Calgie
Connie Carroll
James Flanegin
Brian Gilbertson
Maureen Henson
Naheed Huq
Gerald Hesson
Chris LaJoy
Charlie Mahoney
William McKenzie
Lou Neuman
Robert Schnieders

Alternates Present

Mary Bugeia
Jim Larese
Mike Smith

Members Absent

Rochelle Allen
Rory Gamble
Tamara Harmon
Frank Lopez
Molly Leumpert-Coy
Tom Perkey
Paul Szilagy
June Knabus Taylor

Staff Present

Gregory Pitoniak
Tamara Lamper-Norrix
Ruth Sebaly
Susan Corey
Daniel Martinez
Paul Duford

Guests

Sue Pilon – DCC

Call to Order

Chairwoman Mahoney called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Public Comment

No public comment was given upon request.

Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Hesson to approve the Agenda of January 20, 2010 as presented, supported by Calgie. All voting aye, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Bugeia to approve the Minutes of November 18, 2009, as presented, supported by Carroll. All voting aye, motion carried.

Approval of Reemployment Services (RES) Contractor

Pitoniak discussed the Reemployment Services Program (RES), which will provide an intense suite of workshops and career coaching services to unemployed workers that already have substantial education

and/or experience. This is a referral center only and will be located in the I-275 corridor, which is centrally located for several MWA's and has a high concentration of the white-collar workers. DELEG awarded SEMCA \$1,153,376 to fund the program. SEMCA received one proposal from DCC, and found their proposal to be substantially consistent with SEMCA's goals for this program.

MOVED by Buell to approve DCC as the RES Contractor through September 30, 2010, with the option to renew for up to two more years if funding is available and their performance is satisfactory, supported by Henson. All voting aye except for Schnieders who abstained. Motion carried.

Funding Updates

Pitoniak stated that since July 1, 2009, SEMCA has had 68 changes in funding from 38 different funding streams in our workforce development area only. The net of those changes has provided an increase of \$16.9 Million for a total of \$41.1 Million in funding for Workforce Development programs. SEMCA continues to have a wait-list for NWLB training. Since November 10, 2009, SEMCA has received an additional \$8.3 Million and has another \$5 Million in requests pending. A majority of these funds have been utilized for continuation training of 1,250 customers with a minimal amount of new starts from the wait-list.

Congressman Dingell was influential in SEMCA receiving a USDOL NEG grant. This grant has eligibility requirements, one being a lay-off date after November 1, 2008, which was revised to qualify more customers for the funding. To date, this grant has allowed 450 customers, with 225 being new starts from the wait-list, start their training program. SEMCA continues to look for customers that are eligible for new training by September 30, 2010, although it still will not be enough to meet the need.

July 1, 2010, SEMCA will receive its WIA formula funding for the new fiscal year. It is our obligation to look ahead 12 months and fund those customers that are currently in the system first before funding new starts. We are still obligated by State mandate to continue to move people through a process to qualify them for NWLB training, but we advise the customers that SEMCA does not have the funding immediately available unless they are NEG eligible, and at the earliest will have it by July 1, 2010, but that it is still not a guarantee that we will have funds for new starts from the wait-list.

Board questioned SEMCA's obligation to fund customers that have started training through to completion. Funding is only guaranteed as long as the funding continues to flow. If funding stops and the customer has completed 75% of their training, other means will be needed to complete the training.

Board also questioned whether the federal funds that are held back by the State can be used to balance other budgeted items, and the answer is no. For the WIA funds, there are strict guidelines as to where those program dollars can be spent.

Workforce Program Updates

WIA/ES/TAA/Incumbent Worker – Corey discussed the following:

- SEMCA's partnership with the Macomb County MWA on the Aging Worker Initiative, which is designed to assist workers 55 years and older focus on career transition and new employment opportunities.
- SEMWAC and the 21st Century Steering Committee's Career Rejuvenation Trainings, which has served as a platform for quality improvement in the workforce system, has two sessions to take place at Schoolcraft College (January 21st and 22nd) and Macomb County's M-TEC Center (January 28th & 29th).

- SEMCA has invited the Detroit Workforce Development Department to its monthly Business Services Representative Meetings to work regionally together and identify processes that reduce duplication of effort for the benefit of the Wayne/Monroe region.
- Pitoniak discussed the Michigan Academy for Green Mobility that defines specialized training programs in Advanced Green Technology in the vehicle industry. Two programs have been funded for Hybrid Electric Vehicle Battery Certification through Wayne State University and Michigan Tech in partnership with Engineering Society of Detroit. This past fall 150 incumbent workers (engineers) attended the training and actually helped design the curriculum for the program. An additional 100 incumbent workers were funded this winter. Most recently, 38 unemployed engineers were funded through NWLB from the six regional Michigan Works Agencies for this training.
- Fiskers, the electric car company in California announced that A123 Battery Systems will be their sole supplier for their car batteries. A123's entire manufacturing operation in the world will be in western Wayne County. The result is the immediate need for 540 jobs in Michigan. There Michigan Headquarters will be located at Seven Mile and I-275 with two manufacturing plants being planned for Romulus and Brownstown. SEMCA will exclusively screen and recruit all applicants for up to 3,000 jobs in the next three years in western Wayne County. Each One Stop will designate an A123 coordinator to expedite eligibility for the federal funding assistance for the on-the-job unique training for their employees. Currently all battery production is being done outside the United States. A123 currently has their manufacturing company in South Korea and is moving it to Wayne County Michigan.

JET – Martinez discussed the following:

- The Grand Opening of the Monroe County Learning Bank will be held on February 5th at 11:00 a.m. Tamara will forward a copy of the invitation via email. This facility will engage people from the community and provide information and referrals to our One Stop Center as well as providing adult education, GED training, and testing information.
- Contracts have been distributed to the JET Program providers.
- JET contractors have been invited to an informal Best Practices meeting in which frontline staff will have the opportunity to discuss with each other how to effectively deal with common issues.
- On January 11th, the DELEG Welfare Reform Coordinator for SEMCA did a site visit of the Highland Park office to review JET customer files, procedures and interview staff. At the Exit Interview, DELEG indicated they were very pleased with the operation and ETDI staff at Highland Park.
- SEMCA staff participated in an informal Adult Education Transformation Task Force meeting, which is looking to restructure how adult education is delivered in Michigan. They see the Michigan Works! Agencies as a key element in this process and a final report will be presented later this year.

Youth – Duford discussed the following:

- The CIAO Foster Youth Program officially ended on 12/31/09. DELEG provided \$50,000 to close-out the program. All participants received a transition plan and referrals to programs and services.
- The Summer Youth Program for SEMCA was a huge success. SEMCA's website has been recognized by DELEG and USDOL as a National Best Practice. The website was also presented at the Michigan Works Annual Conference, The Recovery Act Youth Summit and the National Youth Development Symposium. SEMCA has received inquiries from Workforce Boards across the nation requesting more information about the website.
- All SYEP participants and families have been invited to attend a free financial education and tax preparation seminar at DCC on March 6th.

- SEMCA is anticipating operating a Summer Youth Program for 2010. To date there is no official word of funding for this program. SEMCA has developed a draft timetable of events for the RFP process should we be notified shortly that there is definitely funding available.
- SEMCA has enrolled ten participants from the WIA Year-Round Youth Program into a 10-week long Weatherization Specialist training offered through Henry Ford Community College. Those who complete the training will receive a certificate in weatherization, lead abatement, CPR, and MIOSHA. These graduates will also participate in a 16-week paid work experience working for a construction trades contractor doing weatherization upgrades to homes through the Downriver Community Conference.

New/Old Business

Michigan Works! Association Alumni Celebration is January 26, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. Tamara will send out the specific details to those interested in attending.

Reauthorization of Board Membership will be coming up soon and Mahoney informed those members' whose terms have expired or will expire in 2010 to advise if they are still interested in serving on the board for another three-year term.

Mahoney now has another meeting that somewhat conflicts with the end of the WDB bi-monthly meetings. She inquired of the board if it would be burdensome to change the start time from 3:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. No objections were voiced. Therefore, beginning in March the WDB meetings will take place at 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Conference will be taking place in March in Washington DC, and Mahoney will provide an update at the March meeting.

Mahoney reminded the Board that if there is a topic that they would like to present to the Board, to let Tamara know so we can schedule the Presentation for an upcoming meeting.

Adjourn

MOVED by Hesson to adjourn the meeting, supported by Calgie. Meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara Lamper-Norrix
Executive Assistant - SEMCA