

SEMCA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Wednesday March 17, 2010, 2-4pm

SEMCA, 25363 Eureka Rd., Taylor, MI

MINUTES

Members Present

Melinda Buell
James Calgie
Connie Carroll
James Flanegin
Brian Gilbertson
Maureen Henson
Gerald Hesson
Naheed Huq
Molly Leumpert-Coy
Charlie Mahoney
William McKenzie
Lou Neuman
Robert Schnieders
Paul Szilagyi

Alternates Present

Mary Bugeia
Mike Smith

Members Absent

Rochelle Allen
Alan Anderson
Rory Gamble
Tamara Harmon
Chris LaJoy
Frank Lopez
Tom Perkey
Charlie Pryde/James Larese
June Knabusch-Taylor

Staff Present

Gregory Pitoniak
Tamara Lamper-Norrix
Ruth Sebaly
Susan Corey
Daniel Martinez
Paul Duford
Nancy Piwowar
Bill Hellar

Guests

LuAnn Dunsford – Michigan Works! Association
Erin Cunningham – Michigan Works! Association
Peter Coomar – Monroe Community College
Larry Byrnes – Monroe Community College

Call to Order

Chairwoman Mahoney called the meeting to order at 2:06 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 Szilagyi to approve the Agenda of March 17, 2010 as presented, supported by Buell. All voting aye, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Hesson to approve the Minutes of January 20, 2010 with the change of removing Paul Szilagyi from the Members Present column, supported by Carroll. All voting aye, motion carried.

Monroe County Community College's Welding Center of Excellence Program

Peter Coomar and Larry Byrnes of Monroe County Community College presented on the Welding Center of Excellence Program. Funding for this program was received through the USDOL to train entry-level and advanced-level welding courses in an accelerated 10-week format. The goal is to provide training for 240 students over the period of the grant. Byrnes discussed the grant application process, training program, new equipment used for training and the grant statistics for the first two groups that have finished the entry-level course. Currently they have 21 students enrolled for the advanced-level welding course scheduled to begin March 29, 2010. Brochures were provided and anyone interested in having a presentation done at their business can contact Mr. Byrnes at 734-384-4119 or by email at calbring@monroeccc.edu. Pitoniak noted that Monroe is one of the Centers of Excellence that is part of the Community College Consortium. There are nine community colleges in the Consortium that collaborated to minimize duplication of programs and to maximize the use of public funding to achieve excellence in programs that the economy and employers will need in the future.

Board Member Introductions

Mahoney introduced LuAnn Dunsford and Erin Cunningham from the Michigan Works! Association. Each board member introduced themselves and discussed how and why they became involved with SEMCA's Workforce Development Board and the successes, difficulties and goals for their businesses.

Staff introduced themselves and Pitoniak introduced the new CFO, Nancy Piwowar.

Funding Updates

SEMCA has aggressively been pursuing additional funding since August 19, 2009 when it was determined that the 2009 WIA training funding was fully obligated through June 30, 2010. Southeast Michigan will receive \$19 million of a \$38 million National Emergency Grant (NEG) the State received from USDOL. Of the \$19 million, SEMCA may receive approximately \$4.5 million in NEG funding. As we continue to identify additional NEG eligible customers that amount may grow. SEMCA received three State Adjustment Grants (SAG) totaling \$6.5 million. The latest \$3 million should allow for 650 new training starts from our current wait list up to March 10, 2010. However, the July 1, 2010 WIA funding, if SEMCA is allocated the same amount as last year, will only fund the continuation training for current customers with no new starts until July 1, 2011. SEMCA's future demand for new starts will rely on future USDOL and State SAG funding awards, if available.

EAG Update

Schnieders discussed the work on the first phase of the pipeline project collecting data to be utilized by CTE educators in the K-12 system. The goal of the project was to bring the districts together and provide a composite picture of the CTE programs being offered, the population of students in each program and duplication of programs. The goal this year is to now look at the links between the post-secondary education system, articulation agreements between K-12 and post-secondary and the current and future labor market. School districts are currently applying for new programs with the State. With the success of the pipeline project to date, the school districts are being proactive and utilizing the data collected, looking for the weak areas that need programs and not duplicating programs that are already overpopulated or may not provide future jobs.

Workforce Program Updates

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

- Business Service Field Reps (BSR) from Detroit Workforce Development joined the SEMCA BSR meeting to share our successes and look at Wayne County more regionally in helping local businesses.

- At a previous BSR Meeting, Aaron Young from MEDC discussed a non-targeted jobs list, a list of companies that MEDC is no longer meeting monthly or quarterly with due to the decline of a particular manufacturing. Our BSR's are using that list to contact companies to see if we can fill gaps, if they are still viable companies, and help aid them in getting additional help and hopefully stay viable.
- Downriver Community Conference (DCC) is now in the process of opening the Re-employment Services Center (RES) located in the I-275 corridor. They anticipate operations to begin by the end of March.
- Staff is currently preparing for the WIA and Employment Services RFP. It is anticipated that the process will be completed and ready for approval at the May 19, 2010 board meeting.
- Pitoniak updated the Board on A123 Battery Systems. The latest is that A123 will hire 540 people in the next several months for their manufacturing operations in Romulus, Livonia and Brownstown. A123 has contracted with SEMCA to recruit and screen all applicants for employment and assist with assessment. If they choose to hire a customer that is WIA eligible, SEMCA will provide the customers, at any level, with on-the-job training/wage reimbursement for four weeks.

JET – Martinez discussed the following:

- A Business Service Representative (BSR) website has been developed and is designed to allow each BSR the ability to quickly track, record, and share opportunities for community service, on-the-job training, subsidized employment and permanent employment for the JET population. Training is taking place and being tested by the BSR's with a roll-out date of April 1, 2010. SEMCA management will be able to monitor contacts made and the progress on those contacts, as well as determine which positions are filled or not filled.
- Approximately \$1.6 million in new funding will be allocated for TANF and GF/GP programs.
- SEMCA has been informed that JET Plus funding may become available again at some point this year. No funding has been determined at this time.
- SEMCA staff is conducting contractor visits over the next couple of months to evaluate their orientations and workshops based upon what each contractor spelled out in their RFP. These visits are designed to evaluate compliance and offer comments and assistance if needed.
- SEMCA staff is attending the partner meetings between local DHS staff and JET contractors. The goal is to quickly address and resolve problems between the two systems and establish better communication at the local office level.
- SEMCA is participating in the Region 8 Poverty Workgroup that is currently developing a long-term strategy to deal with poverty.

Youth – Duford discussed the following:

- SEMCA was selected to receive the National Council on Accreditation's Innovation and Best Practice in Technology Award for its Summer Youth Employment Program website. The award will be received at the COA Annual Conference in New York in late April.
- On March 9, 2010, the \$1.3 billion summer and year-round youth employment funding was defeated. SEMCA requests that this board contact their Senators and Congressmen and let them know the importance of including the full \$500 million for summer youth jobs in the reconciled jobs bill.
- SEMCA's youth enrolled in the 10-week long Weatherization Specialist Training will graduate from class on March 19, 2010. SEMCA has identified construction companies that are interested in offering participants the opportunity to complete a 16-week paid work experience. SEMCA has agreements with several of the employers that they will hire the youth pending a successful work experience.
- The WIA Youth Program RFP recommendations will be brought before the Board for approval at the next meeting currently scheduled for May 19, 2010.

- Board received and reviewed a thank you letter from a parent regarding his son's participation in the Summer Youth Program.

New/Old Business

- Mahoney updated the Board on the NAWB Conference in Washington DC on March 6-8, 2010.
- Board reviewed the Data Validation Letter from DELEG in which SEMCA received a perfect 100% score for the PY 2009 data validation audit. Hellar thanked Cheryl Cook and Barbara Clay for their efforts.
- Board was invited to attend Legislative Day on April 21, 2010 in Lansing and asked to contact Tamara by March 26th, if they are interested in attending.
- May 19, 2010 is the next scheduled board meeting where approval of the WIA Programs RFP will be conducted. It is anticipated that the RFP process can be completed by that date; however, Mahoney requested that the Board block out June 9, 2010 from 2:00 to 4:00pm should an extension of time be needed.

Adjourn

MOVED by Hesson to adjourn the meeting, supported by Szilagyi. Meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara Lamper-Norrix
Executive Assistant - SEMCA