

**SEMCA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

**Wednesday June 10, 2010, 2-4pm**  
**SEMCA, 25363 Eureka Rd., Taylor, MI**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present**

Melinda Buell  
James Calgie  
Susan Orchard  
Frank Lopez  
Brian Gilbertson  
Maureen Henson  
Chris LaJoy  
Naheed Huq  
June Knabusch-Taylor  
Charlie Mahoney  
William McKenzie  
Alan Anderson  
Rochelle Allen

**Alternates Present**

Mary Bugeia  
Jim Larese

**Members Absent**

Connie Carroll  
James Flanegin  
Rory Gamble  
Tamara Harmon  
Gerald Hesson/Mike Smith  
Molly Leumpert Coy  
Tom Perkey  
Lou Neuman  
Robert Schnieders  
Paul Szilagyi  
James VanBuren

**Staff Present**

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

**Guests**

Antoinette Wirth - ETDI  
Kevin Weeks - HRDI  
Sue Pilon - DCC

**Call to Order**

Chairwoman Mahoney called the meeting to order at 3:08 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 Anderson to approve the Agenda of June 10, 2010 as presented, supported by Buell. All voting aye, motion carried.**

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOVED by Allen to approve the Minutes of March 17, 2010 as presented, supported by LaJoy. All voting aye, motion carried.**

**Approval of Workforce Development Contractors**

Pitoniak and staff discussed the RFP process, the bidders for each program and the bidders' average proposal score. Pitoniak advised that SEMCA is requesting approval of contractors only and not the contract amount. The dollar amounts listed represent the funding amount each bidder requested in their proposal and their current funding for FY 09-10, if applicable.

**One Call Program** – MOVED by Buell to approve The Information Center for One Call Services for a one-year contract, with the option to renew or extend contract for an additional two years at funding levels to be determined by SEMCA management, supported by Calgie. All voting aye, motion carried.

**Employment Services** – MOVED by Allen to approve the Downriver Community Conference and Monroe County Employment & Training Department for Employment Services for a one-year contract, with the option to renew or extend contract for an additional two years at funding levels to be determined by SEMCA management, supported by LaJoy. All voting aye, motion carried.

**WIA Adult Dislocated Worker Service Centers** – MOVED by LaJoy to approve the following contractors as One Stop Service Centers for WIA Adult/Dislocated Worker Services for a one-year contract, with the option to renew or extend contract for an additional two years at funding levels to be determined by SEMCA management:

- Monroe County Employment & Training Department
- Employment Training & Designs, Inc.
- Arab Community Center for Economic & Social Services
- Downriver Community Conference
- Ross Innovative Employment Solutions
- Michigan State AFL-CIO Human Resources Development, Inc.

Supported by Buell. Vote taken, Calgie abstains, motion carried.

**WIA Youth Program** – MOVED by Anderson to approve the following contractors for WIA Youth Year-Round Services for a one-year contract, with the option to renew or extend contract for an additional two years at funding levels to be determined by SEMCA management:

- Monroe County Intermediate School District
- Employment Training & Designs, Inc.
- Arab Community Center for Economic & Social Services
- Downriver Community Conference
- Ross Innovative Employment Solutions

Supported by Larese. All voting aye, motion carried.

**Work Flex Waiver**

USDOL has approved the State of Michigan for a Work Flex Waiver for PY 2009. Pitoniak stated that SEMCA's plan is to move \$1.3 million, about 31% of our original PY 2009 funding, from the WIA Dislocated Worker Program to the WIA Adult Program in response to the actual demand of matching the training funding to the eligibility of SEMCA customers. As part of this approval, the Board also must adopt an amendment to SEMCA's Five-Year Plan, as required by the Workforce Investment Act. This waiver will allow SEMCA to maximize the WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker funding and provide retraining for this region's unemployed and underemployed, with all training expenditures being closely tracked through our CompCard payment process.

**MOVED by Larese to approve the Work Flex Waiver to transfer up to \$1.3 million of WIA/DLW funds to WIA Adult funds and to amend the SEMCA Five-Year Plan as presented by SEMCA staff, supported by Anderson. All voting aye, motion carried.**

### **RES Center Presentation**

Sue Pilon of Downriver Community Conference presented on the Reemployment Service Center Professional Placement Network. She distributed a summary of the program as well as the goals and objectives in responding to the needs of the more educated, higher skilled customers in our region. She stated that customers are referred to the center, located at 6 Mile and I-275 in Livonia, through the various Michigan Works Centers throughout the region. The criteria for selection is customer must have a four-year degree; is currently collecting unemployment benefits; has earned a salary of at least \$35,000 per year and/or has at least five years of managerial experience. Pilon discussed the curriculum and forum speakers/presentations utilized in this program, as well as upcoming events. This setting provides the customers with group support and social networking tools for career transition. The Board reviewed several Workshop Evaluation forms from the RES customers. The program was funded under Recovery Act through September 30, 2010. Mahoney asked the board to think about options to obtain funding and keep this program and others like it in our region. An Open House is in the planning stages and the Board will receive an invitation in the near future.

### **Funding Updates**

As reported in March, SEMCA has aggressively been pursuing additional funding since August 19, 2009 when it was determined that the 2009 WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker (DW) funding was fully obligated through June 30, 2010. As for the upcoming WIA funding allocation for FY 2010-2011, Pitoniak reported that the allocation is expecting a further reduction of last year's allocation. Pitoniak further stated that 21 of 25 Michigan Works! Agencies across the state have reported on their programs and 19 of the 21 MWA's have indicated that 100% of their WIA Adult and DW funding, beginning July 1, 2010, is fully obligated to the long-term training needs of existing customers through June 30, 2011. SEMCA received \$7.5 million in SAG funding from the State for FY 2009-2010. The State is expected to have approximately \$19 million in SAG funding available for FY 2010-2011 that will now have to be shared among at least 20 MWA's.

Pitoniak is one of six MWA Directors that has been assigned to a work-group with Andy Levin and other key state officials. Their goal is to make recommendations for changes in No Worker Left Behind funding and to provide a message to the public dealing with what will be a statewide funding crisis on workforce development training.

Pitoniak discussed A123 and the success of the customized screening process for employment candidates. SEMCA received an email from A123's HR Department stating that the process should be the model for Michigan. They are impressed with the quality of candidates they have received to interview for possible employment. Valeo also used our Highland Park Service Center for customized employment screening and hiring.

### **Workforce Program Updates**

Board was provided program updates in the board packet. No discussion took place.

### **New/Old Business**

Kevin Schnieders, Robert Schnieders son, has been nominated by Crain's for Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

Mahoney discussed the New Economy Initiative meeting that she and Pitoniak attended on June 9th. This group would like to build and fund a collaborative workforce system with key leaders and community colleges in the region. The meeting basically became a forum to help the new Economy Initiative understand the workforce system and what we already do regionally together. Future meetings are currently being scheduled.

Mahoney discussed the possibility of providing leadership development training for our contractors that provide services to today's customer.

Board received and was asked to review the Strategic Goals that were created in 2002. Mahoney asked board members to consider sitting on a committee with board members of the EAG to update the goals and strategies.

**Adjourn**

**MOVED by Buell to adjourn the meeting, supported by Orchard. Meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara Lamper-Norrix  
Executive Assistant - SEMCA