

SEMCA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Wednesday September 16, 2009, 3-5pm

MINUTES

Board Present

Connie Carroll
Alan Anderson
James Calgie
James Flanegin
Brian Gilbertson
Gerald Hesson
Frank Lopez
Molly Luempert-Coy
Charlie Mahoney
William McKenzie
Lou Neuman
Tom Perkey
Robert Schnieders
Paul Szilagyi
June Knabusch-Taylor

Alternates Present

Mary Bugeia

Staff Present

Gregory Pitoniak
Tamara Lamper-Norrrix
Ruth Sebaly
Traci Sassak
Paul Duford
Susan Corey
Daniel Martinez
Bill Hellar

Guests

None

Call to Order

Chairwoman Mahoney called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was not present. Moved to Agenda Item No. 8, the Summer Youth Program presentation.

Public Comment

No public comment was given upon request.

Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

Duford distributed a hand-out and reviewed the statistics for the 2009 Summer Youth Employment Program. SEMCA presented their SYEP website at the 2009 Annual Michigan Works! Association Conference, and received very positive feedback from attendees of their workshop. We have been asked to present the website on a national level at the NAWDP Conference in December. The Board watched a short video honoring the youth and employers participating in this year's program.

Quorum was now present and the meeting moved to the approval items of the agenda.

Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Szilagyi to approve the Agenda of September 16, 2009, as presented, supported by Neuman. All voting aye, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Hesson to approve the Minutes of July 15, 2009 as presented, supported by Leumpert-Coy. All voting aye, motion carried.

Approval of Recommended Work Keys Contractor

The Board had requested a more detailed understanding of the RFP process during the July board meeting. Sebaly utilized the WorkKeys Contractor RFP and Software RFP Agenda items to demonstrate and provide more insight into the RFP process from beginning to end.

MOTION by Hesson to approve Henry Ford Community College (M-TEC) and Monroe County Community College as the National Career Readiness Certificate WorkKeys Assessment Providers for the SEMCA region, effective October 1, 2009 for up to three years, supported by Calgie. All voting aye, motion carried.

Approval of Recommended Remedial Software

MOTION by Perkey to approve the purchase of KeyTrain/CareerSkills remedial software program for all SEMCA Service Centers, supported by Calgie. All voting aye, motion carried.

Legislative Funding Updates

Pitoniak reviewed the WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker Training Summary for Program Years 2008 and 2009. The program year runs from July 1st through June 30th. In 2008, SEMCA expended approximately \$6 Million throughout the year in these two programs. Since July of 2009, SEMCA has already expended over \$4 Million for 2009-2010 Program Year. Other funding applied for but not yet received are \$3 Million from the State Adjustment Grant (SAG) and approximately \$5 Million from the National Emergency Grant (NEG).

Pitoniak discussed and reviewed the NWLB statistical reports. With the current commitments for fall training, SEMCA has fully expended its entire allocation through June 30, 2010 with those customers already enrolled in their training program and some enrolling for the first time. All customers who have not been approved as eligible by August 19, 2009 have been put on a waiting list. This caused a flurry of reports to DELEG, local state senators and representatives, as well as the media. SEMCA continues to put customers through orientation, but unless additional funding is granted, SEMCA cannot move them forward in the process. Those enrolled in long-term training programs will come first when additional dollars are received before we can open up the waiting list.

Board inquired as to the administration budget of the allocation. There was no increase in administration budgets for any of the contractors, and SEMCA contributed \$600,000 of its administration money to the training budget last year. As for the Recovery Act dollars, 90% of the allocation was dedicated to training.

Mahoney discussed the meeting with Congressman Dingell on August 31, 2009, at SEMCA, attended by contractors, board members and staff. The Congressman has been diligently addressing the Department of Labor asking when the \$58 Million NEG Grant will be released to Michigan.

Pitoniak reviewed the JET Participants chart. JET funding is utilized by Welfare clients for employment and training needs. Although the chart shows a decline in participants as of August, it is expected to increase next month and continue to increase as more people lose their unemployment benefits. This program has already received a significant cut in funding and is expected to receive further cuts. SEMCA and Michigan Works! Agencies across the state have sent letters to their local senators and representatives requesting that there be no further cuts to the JET budget.

Board discussed the increased enrollments at community colleges and whether or not an arrangement can be made to enroll students on a contract basis to lower tuition costs. Pitoniak stated that it is something that would have to be determined at a state level.

McKenzie discussed the number of customers in need is larger if you include SEMCA's partners like Michigan Rehabilitation Services and Veterans Employment Services customers.

Pitoniak advised that customers can utilize any Michigan Works! Service Center in obtaining training and SEMCA has several Detroit residents on their waitlist. In the prior year, Detroit Workforce Development provided \$160,000 for training costs of Detroit residents. Current year to date they have provided \$75,000 for their residents. Not all Michigan Works! Agencies are out of funds.

Workforce Program Updates

- WIA/ES/TAA/Incumbent Worker – Lisa Wayne and Lisa Kurtzels of DCC were recognized at the Michigan Works! Conference to honor front line staff.
- JET – Martinez updated the board on the Monroe County Community College Adult Learning Grant. Grant was originally funded under NWLB and originally approved in February, but because of all of the funding issues it is now funded through WIA Statewide Activities under Recovery Act funds. Start-up has been delayed but should be running in the next 30 days. No extension of time has been granted, so the program will run on a shorter schedule.

SEMCA and its partners will apply for a Department of Labor Grant for Allied Health. SEMCA will work with major hospitals in Wayne and Monroe counties, our current contractor ACCESS and two community colleges. We will expand on the JET Plus model and train both incumbent and dislocated workers, moving them into a career that is based solely on the needs of employers in both technical skills and soft skills. It is due the beginning of October.

It was officially announced that 13 states have failed to meet Worker Participation Rates with Michigan being one of them. The penalty to Michigan is \$24 Million, which the state is appealing due to its high unemployment rate.

- Youth – No additional information.

New/Old Business

MWA For the People Conference was well attended. CLEG made a presentation and the new Chairman, John Mogk, has asked DELEG to visit a One Stop Service Center and DELEG requested that SEMCA host the tour for Mr. Mogk at our Highland Park Service Center.

SEMCA's very own Bill Hellar won the monopoly money poker tournament at the conference and a contribution was made to a charity on his behalf. Hellar chose the Fallen Hero Foundation, a foundation that provides a painted portrait of a fallen hero to their family. The foundation was honored at this year's conference along with a local fallen hero and his family.

Board reviewed The Information Center Quarterly Report.

Adjourn

MOVED by Hesson to adjourn the meeting, supported by Lopez. Meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara Lamper-Norrrix
Executive Assistant - SEMCA