

SEMCA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Wednesday, May 20, 2020
SEMCA Michigan Works! 25363 Eureka Rd., Taylor, MI
REVISED MINUTES

Members Present

Charlie Mahoney-Chair
Connie Carroll
Patricia Chatman
Lee Graham
Naheed Huq
Tupac Hunter
Chris LaJoy
Molly Luempert-Coy
Frank Lopez
Doug Messana
Wanra Pearson
Bayyinah Robinson
Malin Wagner

Alternates Present

Beth Maveal for Debra Temrowski

Members Absent

Chuck Browning/David Pagac
Gerald Hesson/Mike Smith
Patrick Lambrix
Khalil Rahal
Jason Evers (Moved from Present List)
Sean Sims

Staff Present

Gregory Pitoniak
Tamara Lamper-Norrix
Daniel Martinez
Deborah Taylor
Bill Hellar
Rana Al-Igoe
Kate Brady-Medley
Tim Johnston
Traci Sassak

Guests

Andy Bianco

Call to Order

Chair Mahoney called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. The virtual meeting took place via WebEx due to Covid-19. Charlie welcomed everyone. Video and telephone options were used by board. She advised that everyone has the ability to unmute themselves to ask questions and vote.

Flag was visible for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present. Charlie welcomed both Beth Maveal and Andy Bianco to the meeting today. Maveal was reminded that as alternate to Debra Temrowski, she does have voting rights.

Public Comment

No public comment was made upon request.

Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Wagner to approve the Agenda of May 20, 2020 as presented, supported by Graham. All voting aye, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Luempert-Coy to approve the Minutes of January 15, 2020 as presented, supported by Huq. All voting aye, motion carried.

Approval of PATH CONTRACTORS AND RFP RECOMMENDATIONS

Greg welcomed everyone to the first virtual meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Pitoniak and Martinez provided an overview of the programs, program needs, the process used with changes due to Covid for both the PATH and FAE&T Contractor RFPs. This is a three-year cycle for each program. It was a very competitive process but there is one change recommended to the Highland Park American Job Center. SERCO is a current contractor for DESC and SEMCA has worked with them on the Community Ventures Legacy Program. They have a very solid background with the program and knowledge of the Highland Park region. Board decided to vote separately for each program.

MOTION by Carroll to approve the Partnership Accountability Training and Hope (PATH) contractors as recommended effective October 1, 2020 and for a one year contract with the option for two additional years, supported by Wagner.

Questions: Chatman asked if HRDI provided a bid. They are the WIOA contractor for Highland Park, but they did not bid on these two programs. Huq is not familiar with Res-Care but wondered where they fell short. Martinez noted it came down to the familiarity of the region. ResCare is based mostly out of Oakland County. SEMCA received more bidders this time, which is good.

All voting aye, motion carried.

Martinez noted that SEMCA has one FAE&T program in Wayne County and one in Monroe County. They received five bidders for this RFP. SEMCA is recommending the current two providers of Employment and Training Development Incorporated and Monroe County Employment and Training Department for this contract. No questions were asked.

MOTION by Luempert-Coy to approve the Food Assistance Employment and Training (FAE&T) contractors as recommended effective October 1, 2020 and for a one year contract with the option for two additional years, supported by Carroll. Voting took place, Huq abstained, motion carried. Naheed Huq sits on the Southwest Solutions Economic Operating Committee, a bidder on the FAE&T RFP and abstained from the vote.

Review and File WIOA Adult Education Final Reports

It is a requirement under WIOA Title II that all Adult Education Applications be reviewed by their Michigan Works Agencies to make sure that the content of their application is in compliance with the WIOA Local Plan. It is not our job to determine if they are good or not as a provider. All applications are scored in three categories and the highly or moderately aligned are moved forward in the process. Comments are allowed to be added to the applications. All of the applications received for the SEMCA Region were scored highly or moderately aligned. Martinez noted that these scores reflect the strong relationship with SEMCA and its adult education partners. No questions were asked on the applications. A motion is required in the minutes.

MOTION by Wagner that the WIOA Adult Education Title II SEMCA Region Applications were reviewed and are to be filed with the State, supported by Chatman. All voting aye, motion carried.

Recommendation to the SEGA Board for Approval of Member Reappointments and New Member Nominations to Workforce Development Board

Pitoniak noted that SEMCA has seven members whose three year terms will expire on June 30, 2020. Six of those members have requested reappointment: Lee Graham and his alternate Donald O'Connell, Gerald Hesson and his alternate Mike Smith, Tupac Hunter, Naheed Huq, Patrick Lambrix and Charlie Mahoney. Debra Temrowski of Wyandotte Hospital will be stepping down at the end of her term on June 30, 2020, but her alternate Beth Maveal has been nominated to take her place for a new three-year term. Doug Messana of Ford Motor Company has moved to Washington DC and Andy Bianco, also with Ford, has been nominated for the remainder of Messana's term beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022. SEMCA is asking for approval of these reappointments and nominations by the WDB to go before the SEGA Board for approval at their board meeting in June.

MOTION by Wagner and supported by Chatman recommending to the SEGA Board the approval of reappointments to the Workforce Development Board (WDB) of Lee Graham and his Alternate Donald O'Connell, Gerald Hesson and his Alternate Mike Smith, Tupac Hunter, Naheed Huq, Patrick Lambrix and Charlotte Mahoney for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023.

AND FURTHERMORE recommending to the SEGA Board the approval of the nomination of current alternate Beth Maveal of Henry Ford Health System-Wyandotte Hospital to replace current member Debra Temrowski to the WDB beginning July 1, 2020 for a three-year term ending June 30, 2023; and the nomination of Andrew Bianco of Ford Motor Company to replace current member Douglas Messana to the WDB to finish out the term ending June 30, 2022. Voting took place, Maveal abstains, motion carried.

Pitoniak and Mahoney thanked Messana for his time with the WDB and for calling in from Washington DC until his replacement could be found.

Approval of WIOA Local Plan

Pitoniak noted that it is a requirement of WIOA to submit a Local Plan every four years. It is an intensive project and he thanked Al-Igoe and Brady-Medley and their team for their hard work. Al-Igoe provided a brief overview and noted that the bold italic font are areas that need to be addressed in the plan and the regular font is our responses to those requirements. The plan sets the framework for which SEMCA plans to deliver WIOA services throughout the system, working collaboratively with its core partners like Adult Education, Bureau Services of Blind Persons and MRS and other SEMCA programs such as PATH. The timeline is to obtain your feedback and approval of the Plan from the WDB and then it will be posted for public comment for 30 days. The current deadline in June 30, however, we are expecting an extension to the end of August due to Covid. Huq asked if Al-Igoe could highlight some key changes in the Plan. One element SEMCA improved on over the last four years is the strengthened partnerships with its core partners. Also the innovation of our Business Services delivery system, the performance metrics and working with our contractors is addressed. No further questions were asked.

MOTION by Huq to approve the WIOA Local Plan as presented, supported by Leumpert-Coy. Mahoney asked that if substantial changes are made to the plan before its submission to the state that it comes back before the WDB either by email or at the next meeting for review. All voting aye, motion carried.

Approval of Secondary CTE Perkins Applications for 2020-21

Wagner noted the Executive Summaries and Budgets for both Region 29 Monroe County and Region 30 Wayne County were provided for an overview of the much larger detailed CTE Perkins Applications for 2020-21. These reports were reviewed and approved for recommendation to WDB by the Career and Educational Advisory Council (CEAC). Jason Evers of Wayne RESA could not be at today's meeting to present but both he and Denise Teague of

the Monroe ISD have completed these reports for filing with the state upon your approval. Wagner asked if there were any questions.

MOTION by Wagner to approve Regions 29 and 30 CTE Perkins Applications for 2020-21 as presented, supported by LaJoy. All voting aye, motion carried.

Approval of CEAC Metric Report

Hellar provided a summary of the Third Quarter CEAC goals. Most of the goals have exceeded their target in this third quarter. This is pre-Covid. Wagner noted he did not have any questions but reported that a meeting is happening soon to discuss a virtual Manufacturing Day. CTE programs must have a virtual component. Graham inquired as to the apprenticeship number and whether it differentiate between registered and non-registered apprenticeships. Hellar noted that they are both included in that number.

MOTION by Wagner receive and file the CEAC Third Quarter Metric Report, supported by LaJoy. All voting aye, motion carried.

Federal/State Updates

Pitoniak walked the board into our world under the Covid Pandemic. In the federal environment they have passed several relief packages of which none thus far have resulted in increased funding for the workforce system. Many of the Governor's COVID-related Executive Orders (EO) have altered the way we do business with some of our customers. Some additional federal funding is possible for dislocated workers on a competitive grant basis, and Michigan will be applying for one statewide grant. The state budget is seeing a dramatically negative impact with loss of revenue and increased expenditures. This has immediately impacted the - Jobs for Michigan Graduates program, though Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) Department has located some federal funds that will help keep the program running through the end of this program year ending September 30. Funds after October 1 should last us about five additional months. JMG has a lot of support so hopefully they will find some funding. The Foster Youth program has been cut by \$45,000 from \$90,000. Going Pro Talent Fund has been eliminated this year and most likely next year as well. We have received \$30,000 from United Way for Wayne County College Access Network for a couple of years that may be in jeopardy with Covid relief on the forefront. The PATH program just took a \$242,000 cut in the last couple of weeks. PATH customers are likely to grow with this pandemic and we fear we will need to serve more with less. SEMCA's budget has currently been reduced by \$1.8 million mostly in program revenue. Some good news: WIOA funding for PY 20-21 has increased by about \$1.1 million total with the three WIOA programs. An email from The Ballmer Group was received two weeks ago gifting SEMCA with \$125,000 in flexible covid relief funds to help jobseekers through this crisis. A letter will be going out to thank them for this gift. SEMCA is looking at ways to provide customers with access to the internet, computer training and laptops with these funds. The SEMCA services are strictly virtual at this time. Mahoney thanked SEMCA staff for all they are and will do during this crisis.

Covid-19

Hellar and staff presented several statistical program charts and graphs on the last four months, which are on file as well as details on how we are helping our customers in our programs. Doors were closed to the public on March 25th for in-person services to appointment-based and virtual only. All graphs show dramatic drops in March and April except for the Michigan Works One Call System that increased dramatically. The Information Center is our contractor for this service. Most of the calls were related to unemployment questions. Case notes is another chart with increases. SEMCA kept in touch with its customers and tried to help the best we could. PATH and FAE&T did see a drop when it was no longer mandatory to meet to continue receiving cash assistance. Business Services staff have been busy keeping in touch with employers. Some were still hiring like Kroger and a company that was making face masks and needed workers. Services continued on the phone and virtually, with orientations, job searches, resume writing, sharing resources with business, connecting with jobseekers and youth services like

FASFA, GED, tutoring, job search and readiness. Paid Work Experience and Carpentry Boot Camp have been suspended at this time. SEMCA is working on the next phases, which include updating policies and procedures for pandemics, obtaining supplies and making modifications to our centers to make them safe for staff and customers. Virtual and remote opportunities have benefited customers with access and we are looking at ways to make our services available in that format and then providing to those that do not have access with The Ballmer Group gift.

Chatman asked if there is a way to get these charts from last year so the board can see the comparison of pre-Covid. Hellar stated that we can put that together.

PATH customers are currently in an inactive category and are not required to participate in activities until further notice. New referrals will have to eventually work with Michigan Works but we don't know when that will start. They have 225 new registrations to date. Coaches are still working with customers. Refugee customers are still being served by our RAIN staff on how to maneuver through the system mostly by helping with the language barriers. The Business Resource Network coaches are still available to help with barriers for employees by phone and email.

UIA

SEMCA staff and contractor staff as well as Michigan Works staff around the state, have been trained to help with the UIA Assistance Project. Hellar first reviewed the Total UIA Calls and Contacts for SEMCA Michigan Works! chart and stats, which is on file. Calls and contacts from our website or social media have gone from around 2,000 the second week of April when we began the project to averaging about 4,000 a week to date. Hellar noted that this does not include the stats from the UIA Assistance Project. Hellar explained the project. SEMCA enrolled 55 staff members for the project. Staff was trained to assist on a very limited basis and the program was launched on April 22, 2020. We were now able to help with some login issues and filing claims instead of just telling them to contact UIA staff by phone or through chat. In the first 2-1/2 weeks SEMCA received 125 calls a day and we were able to help about 1,300 people. On May 11, a second phase of this project was launched and all 16 MWA's are now helping with the state's list, which has over 100,000 unaddressed issues. As a system so far we have helped about 5,000. It has been difficult but rewarding. Pitoniak noted that Hellar has played an important role in launching this effort statewide and other MWA's have noticed and thanked him. Hellar also thanked Tamara on the initial coordination of the project, his IT staff and their patience in dealing with technical difficulties and training staff on the five new systems, and the managers and Kate for recruiting volunteers. SEMCA had the largest contingency of volunteers and Pitoniak commended the volunteers for their hard work as well. What's next is our real job of reemployment and training when the economy gears up. Graham and Mahoney thanked everyone for their hard work. WIOA performance standards may be adversely impacted by this situation.

Council on Accreditation

Brady-Medley gave a brief update on the reaccreditation. The team has been updating policies and procedures and having to address new pieces of work that was not required the last time around. Our Emergency Preparedness Plan now has an Appendix P for Pandemic. Surveys for community partners, customers, staff, and contractors have been completed. We are currently are scheduled to have upload the required documents by mid-July and host the onsite visit August 31 – September 2, unless we are informed of a new date from COA. Mahoney thanked staff for their continued work to complete this project among everything else that is going on.

SEMCA Strategic Plan Updates

Hellar gave a brief overview of the Q1 Strategic Plan. He advised that all targets are on pace except for the complete rescan of potential partners, which Pitoniak noted is actually targeted for the second quarter. Chatman asked if we are going to put a note in this plan that speaks to this time period during Covid-19. It needs a big asterisk. It also tells the story on what the team was able to achieve despite the tremendous and unprecedented conditions.

Program Updates

Program Statistical Summary

Hellar offered to go over the information or answer specific questions. No questions were asked.

WIOA, ES, TAA, OJT, IWT, Talent Fund, Apprenticeship-Work-Based Learning

Al-Igoe referred the board to her program report. No questions were asked.

WIOA Youth, Foster Youth, JMG, WCCAN, Manufacturing Day, MiCareer Quest

Taylor referred the board to her program updates in the board packet. No questions were asked.

PATH, FAE&T, Adult Ed, Community Ventures-BRN and Project Rising Tides

Martinez referred the board to his program report in the packet. No questions were asked.

WIN

WIN received a Closing the Skills Apprenticeship Grant. They finished up some of their Labor Market Research Reports.

New/Old Business

Mahoney noted that MiCareer Quest has been postponed to 2021. The Michigan Works Annual Conference will be a virtual forum. The National Association of Workforce Boards was postponed to June and was moved to a virtual forum.

Chatman asked for a report on Rapids and how we are responding to all of the business layoffs. Once it was determined that she meant Rapid Response, Al-Igoe advised that they are being handled through the state virtually. She does have some further information in her program report. On page 162 there is a summary of 25 companies in our area with layoffs affecting 6,275 people. Carroll noted to provide the contact information for the United Way liaison. Al-Igoe noted that the United Way liaison was at the last in-person meeting recently and did a nice job.

Thoughts for those in Midland as they deal with the water from the dam breach.

Wagner expressed his gratitude to the SEMCA organization for the opportunity to see the professionalism and excellence and power they have to get things done. Pitoniak thanked the board for support and will express his thoughts to the staff.

Graham noted the Apprentice Open Application Process flyer provided by Operating Engineers Local 324. They are accepting applications June 8-12.

MOTION by Graham to adjourn the meeting, supported by Wagner. Meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 2 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adopted July 15, 2020

Tamara Lamper-Norrix
Executive Assistant – SEMCA