



Legislative Committee
July 30, 2014 Meeting Summary
Draft Abbreviated Version

I. Welcome and Review of Agenda

The task force chair kicked off the meeting with a welcome and review of the agenda.

II. Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

NOVA staff provided an overview of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). WIOA, signed by President Obama on July 22, amends, improves upon and supersedes the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA). When proposals were first being developed for the reauthorization of WIA, there were two different approaches considered: 1) to start at the beginning and create a brand new workforce system because the current system was considered broken and 2) build upon the existing system and tweak portions of WIA that needed to be fixed. WIOA builds upon the existing system and catches up with the changes that some local workforce investment boards (including NOVA) have already instituted in response to the changing landscape since WIA was first passed back in 1998. One of the most significant new provisions under WIOA is that, in addition to the Governor (in collaboration with local WIBs and elected officials) designating local workforce investment areas (also under WIA), he will also be designating local planning regions where WIBs within the region will be required to develop shared workforce strategies, collect regional data, identify shared performance measures, and collaborate with regional economic development entities, among other requirements. With this movement toward regionalism, it is anticipated that there may be some consolidation of the system, although it's unlikely that there will be a large-scale overhaul of the system. A detailed summary of the bill provisions was handed out. The bill will take effect July 1, 2015, although new strategic plans and performance measures won't take effect for another year after that date. In response to a question, NOVA staff will be reviewing the legislation in greater depth to see if it will impact the Board's current strategic plan that was developed last year.

The Committee then brainstormed on ways the Board could respond to and better position NOVA for this new legislation:

- The State will have an opportunity to rework the system and we will want to have a voice in this regard. We should pull together a collaborative of community partners, community colleges, elected officials (local and state), city officials, organized labor, among others to provide a collective voice for NOVA and the local workforce investment system.
- We should explore ways for NOVA to be a leader and catalyst by: becoming the go-to organization for all things WIOA and providing ongoing updates and analysis for our community partners as new information becomes available; weighing in on new regulatory requirements; and convening stakeholders and developing better relationships with our community partners to obtain their input and solicit their participation as we move forward with implementing this new legislation.
- We should create a building platform out of opportunity: Who are our customers?; Who are our partners who will need to play a role in the implementation of WIOA?

- When the time is right, ask the Board for help with renewing the new Joint Powers Agreement under WIOA. Perhaps develop a letter from the NOVA Board Co-chairs and/or the City Manager and/or Mayor to the seven consortium cities to let them know that we will need to update our Joint Powers Agreement.

III. Other Legislative Updates: Federal and State Proposals

NOVA staff provided an overview of other federal legislation pending in Congress and with the State legislature. A chart of priority bills to watch was handed out to members. One bill of interest to a Board member was added to the list of bills being tracked: AB 1522 (Gonzalez) that will guarantee all workers at least three days of paid sick leave annually. Although AB 1522 may provide some needed benefits for workers, it will create a hardship for employers and is of concern for the business community.

IV. Updates Regionalism

Recently, San Mateo County decided to outsource the administration of its Workforce Investment Act operations and has asked NOVA to contract with the County to assume the administration and oversight of its WIA operations. NOVA is in discussions with the San Mateo County WIB director, as well as with the State regarding this potential new idea. With the focus on regionalism under WIOA, a potential new partnership with San Mateo County is consistent with the direction that WIOA will be moving the local workforce investment system going forward.

V. Wrap-up/Next Steps

The next steps and focus going forward will be fleshing out the potential new partnership with San Mateo County and, when more details become available about WIOA, moving forward with reaching out to the appropriate stakeholders.