



**Regionalism Task Force**  
**July 6, 2016 Meeting Summary**  
*Draft Abbreviated Version*

**I. Welcome and Review of Agenda**

Acting Task Force chair kicked off the meeting with a welcome and review of the agenda. At this meeting the focus will be on providing background information that will shape the Task Force’s work in implementing its charter going forward.

The Regionalism Task Force has evolved from the former Strategic Partnerships/Regionalism Task Force. The workforce development system, under the new federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), has shifted its focus from strategic partnerships to regional collaboration according to defined regions specified by the California Workforce Development Board and the Governor. NOVA is in a defined region with San Francisco Workforce Board, San Jose-based work2future and San Benito County Workforce Board. Given San Benito County’s industry sectors that differ dramatically from the rest of the region, it’s unclear why this workforce board was placed in this region and is cause for concern as we move forward with developing a regional plan with shared goals and interests.

**II. Development of Local and Regional Four-Year Plans**

At the January Board retreat, the Board discussed regionalism from the perspective of both San Mateo County joining the NOVA consortium and the larger region with NOVA collaborating with its three neighboring workforce boards. (A handout with excerpts of the retreat discussion was distributed.) In the coming year, under WIOA, NOVA will be required to work with its neighboring workforce boards to develop a regional plan that will include the local plans developed by each of the four workforce boards in the defined region. The State deadline for both the regional plan and local plans is March 15, 2017.

A handout of WIOA Section 106 pertaining to regional coordination and regional plans was discussed. Some of the provisions we anticipate including in the regional plan while others, specifically, sharing of administrative costs and pooling of funds, will be more difficult to achieve agreement on. We will need to look at identifying “WIN WIN” areas on which the four workforce boards can agree which will be a challenge. For example, with the regional Slingshot Initiative, the initial focus was on having the local workforce boards in the region work together to identify the shared workforce needs of its shared employers, but given the challenge of achieving this, we have adjusted our expectations and continue to work together with hopes that we can reach agreement on a shared issue. But, given the tenets of WIOA, it is no longer acceptable for local workforce boards to work in isolation of each other and must consider the larger region. The recent national Tech Hire

grant solicitation is a cautionary tale, as three workforce boards in the region (e.g. San Francisco, work2future and Oakland) each submitted their own grant proposal (rather than working together on one) and none of them received a grant award.

As we look to develop our regional plan, we will start small and consider focusing on areas where regional collaboration will result in better services to customers. We may target partners with which we already have positive working relationships (coalition of the willing) and then move to partners that may bring more challenges. To get started, we'll inventory existing regional projects (e.g. Slingshot, Human Center Design project, ABAG's Community Economic Development Strategies, Bay Area Council labor market project) and then chart a course for what to work on as a region in the future. This region is a very unique community where the local workforce boards serve disadvantaged workers, as well as dislocated workers from the professional fields experiencing the churn common in the technology sector. This year, NOVA was ranked #2 in WARN notices of impending layoffs just behind the significantly larger Los Angeles City and ahead of Los Angeles County. This uniqueness needs to be captured in the regional plan.

Work2future received a regional planning grant from the State and will take the lead in writing the regional plan with agreement from the other workforce boards. The NOVA director meets with the other directors in the region on a monthly basis and will discuss an implementation calendar with them at the July 29 meeting. The directors also have weekly conference call meetings.

### **III. WIOA Procurement Requirements of One-Stop System**

The WIOA final regulations were released on June 30 and have specified that local workforce boards must procure one-stop operators, local boards can choose to be a one-stop operator, and customer services do not need to be procured. We are in the process of reviewing the details of the regulations and will discuss with the City of Sunnyvale its local procurement policies and rules governing outsourcing of services. These local rules may justify NOVA remaining a one-stop operator for financial reasons under sole source requirements.

NOVA intends to procure the service-delivery system in San Mateo County but apply the NOVA integrated service-delivery model (rather than the case management model) in that area.

### **IV. Updates NOVA Branding Strategies**

Since San Mateo County joined the NOVA consortium, NOVA has gradually eliminated the line between San Mateo County's workforce service system and NOVA's service system. Recently, NOVA eliminated the PeninsulaWorks brand that had been used by the adult service providers in San Mateo County and replaced it with the NOVA brand. Henceforth, information about all of the services available in the expanded NOVA consortium will be accessible through a single source, the NOVA website. This change will have no impact on the services provided at their current locations. A copy of the press release was handed out at the meeting. In addition, NOVA is updating its collateral materials to incorporate the services in San Mateo County and NOVA's position in the region. An example of one of these flyers was also handed out at the meeting.

## **V. Next Steps/Next Meeting**

- At the next meeting, the task force will be reviewing an implementation calendar for developing the local and regional strategic plans that are due to the State by March 15, 2017 and discuss the role of task force members in this effort.
- A recommendation was made to develop commuting map(s) of the region that captures where NOVA customers are coming from that can be posted in meeting rooms that the Board uses to remind them of the connectedness of the region. Big employers could also be added to the map.
- The next Task Force meeting is expected to be scheduled in September.