



Regionalism Task Force
May 8, 2017 Meeting Summary
Draft Abbreviated Version

I. Welcome and Review of Agenda

The Task Force chair kicked off the meeting with a welcome, introductions and review of the agenda. New task force members received a special welcome. At this meeting, the Task Force will be reviewing the WIOA MOU Phase II process, the new regional infrastructure for the Bay Peninsula region under WIOA, and updates with several of NOVA’s regional initiatives.

II. WIOA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Phase II Process

The intent of WIOA and the federal MOU requirements that followed is to establish a one-stop system for each local workforce area, with a shared vision, shared customers and shared resources. This one-stop system represents a single place for partners and customers to convene so that customers have all of their needs met, in one place, at the same time. If you can’t have everyone under the same roof, then there needs to be a seamless referral process in place (warm handoff). Unfortunately, under WIOA, the U.S. Department of Labor did not include funding for administration and infrastructure to operate the local one-stop system, so it has been left up to the local workforce development system to request contributions from each of the mandated partners — EDD, DOR, Adult Education, TANF, etc. — to fund the one-stop system. Other states have stepped up and provided a line item in the state budget to fund the AJCC operations. California has not done this, so as part of our MOU Phase II process, we will be asking our partners to carve out funding (which they don’t have) from their budgets to fund our local AJCC comprehensive center. The expectation for MOU Phase II is to establish a cost sharing agreement. Partners who participate in the one-stop delivery system must contribute their fair share to this system in a “pay to play” model. Our goal in this process is to comply with the requirements without alienating our partners. A concern was expressed about the difficulty small agencies may encounter contributing given the fact that the budget will be based on costs, not ability to pay. The method for determining what each partner will pay will be based on an agreed upon cost allocation method. Copies of NOVA’s timeline for the MOU Phase II process, the State MOU Phase II Directive and template that includes sample cost allocation budgets were handed out. What constitutes “fair share” has not yet been clarified by the State.

NOVA is confirming meetings with all of the MOU partners. At these meetings, we will be asking the co-located partners — Sunnyvale-Cupertino Adult Education and Peninsula Family Service — to submit infrastructure budgets, in addition to career services budgets to capture their costs for their work with the AJCC comprehensive center. The rest of the MOU partners will be asked to submit career services budgets, only. We have approximately 23 MOU partners in total.

As part of this process, we will also be looking at shared customers that are being served by each partner. In the future, the goal is shared data, which will be challenging given the fact that each organization has its own database and own confidentiality rules and requirements. Right now, customer data from each partner is submitted to their respective State agency separately and rolled up into a common performance report.

III. Regional Infrastructure

- Bay Peninsula Regional Lead
- Regional Organizer Role
- Regional Training Coordinator

Under WIOA, a new regional infrastructure has been created:

Bay Peninsula Regional Lead: As part of WIOA requirements, the local workforce boards are now participating in a planning region to develop and implement the regional plan, as well as other regional activities. NOVA, San Francisco, San Jose-based work2future and San Benito County workforce boards have been designated by the State as the Bay Peninsula region. Work2future had agreed to be the regional lead for this effort, but given the change in leadership with the retirement of its director, it had become more challenging to continue in this role. NOVA agreed to assume this lead role with the understanding that this responsibility will be rotated among the four workforce boards. A copy of the regional planning leads for the state was handed out.

Regional Organizer Role: Under WIOA, the State has required the creation of a regional organizer for each region to perform a variety of activities, on behalf of the region, including: acting as liaison between the State Board and the region; supporting the implementation of the regional plan; coordinating the work of the local Slingshot initiative; and working with the regional training coordinator to address the training needs of the region, among other responsibilities. A handout of the State Board's regional organizer job description was distributed. As part of NOVA's new regional lead role, NOVA launched a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) procurement process for the regional organizer. The State Board has provided NOVA with \$85,000 to fund this position. As a result of the RFQ, NOVA will be recommending to the Board approval of Racy Ming, former director of the Marin County workforce board, to fill the regional organizer position.

Regional Training Coordinator: Also, as part of this regional infrastructure under WIOA, the State Board allocated \$200,000 to each region to create a regional training coordinator position. Since work2future was the original regional lead for the Bay Peninsula region when this funding was released, they will retain this role of regional training coordinator for now and work with the other three workforce boards in the region to identify and address the region's training needs.

IV. Regional Initiatives

- Slingshot Initiative
- Ready to Work Initiative
- RICOG Transportation Apprenticeship Initiative
- Disability Employment Accelerator Project
- Regional Advanced Manufacturing/Contract Manufacturing Initiative

Slingshot Initiative: The Slingshot initiative, funded by the State Board, is a regional industry-led collaborative project of three local workforce boards — NOVA, San Jose-based work2future and San Francisco — to inform accessible pathways to the innovation economy that will advance workers from low wage to higher wage employment opportunities. In discussions with the business community, a key message that has been consistently expressed is that employers don't recognize county lines, as businesses operate regionally and globally, so working together as a region makes good business sense. There are two pilot projects that have been identified for the local Slingshot initiative: digital advertising for incumbent workers in collaboration with the College of San Mateo and DevOps in collaboration with Skyline College. A recommendation was made to approach the College of San Mateo on the DevOps project, as well. An industry council will be created for each of these projects to guide their efforts, with Collabnet spearheading this process. These projects are also seeking to engage other entities that include Vets-in-Tech and San Francisco workforce board's TechSF projects. In the future, we will be exploring a healthcare project with Sutter Health/Palo Alto Medical Foundation to address the need for more medical assistants. A recommendation was made to contact the Los Altos Chamber of Commerce for employment opportunities at small businesses in Los Altos, who are in great need of workers, for those job seekers seeking short-term employment until they have secured a position in their career.

Ready to Work Initiative: Several years ago, NOVA was awarded a four-year H-1B grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to serve the long-term unemployed worker (unemployed 27+ weeks) targeting the technology sector. The grant is a regional collaborative of four workforce boards including San Francisco, San Jose-based work2future, Alameda County and NOVA. We have now crossed the mid-point in the grant period and a handout was distributed on performance to date by workforce board according to enrollments, training and placements. NOVA and the San Francisco workforce boards are on track for achieving their goals; however, Alameda County and work2future have faced challenges with implementing this project so NOVA has recaptured some funds from these two organizations for reallocation. While these obstacles created a temporary setback for this initiative overall, we are now on track to complete this project, with the total enrollments to date 673 dislocated workers (goal: 1273 by October 2018).

RICOG Transportation Apprenticeship Initiative: NOVA is collaborating with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) to establish an apprenticeship initiative that will capitalize on VTA's successful bus operators as a profession program and create lattices and ladders for other transportation careers that may include overhead line workers for light rail and high speed rail. NOVA will be providing pre-apprenticeship career advice and needed information to prospective workers in preparation for these future careers.

Disability Employment Accelerator (DEA) Project: The DEA project focuses on the workforce development needs of individuals on the autism spectrum and is a partnership with Goodwill Industries' autism advantage program and BuzzHero, an online site that links those seeking employment with employers seeking talent. The project has already achieved success with participants receiving job offers. In addition, the model has great regional potential and we will be exploring replicating it in other parts of the Bay Area and state. A comment was made that Foothill College has a transition-to-work program for people on the autism spectrum and would make a good future partner.

Regional Advanced Manufacturing/Contract Manufacturing Initiative: This initiative is being spearheaded by work2future who has hired Collaborative Economics to convene industry skills panel. The project is in the very early stages of development but offers great potential. NOVA will be participating on these panels and will be providing more updates in the future.

V. Wrap-Up/Next Steps

Given the full agenda for this meeting, a discussion on regional business engagement will be agendized at the next Regionalism Task Force meeting.