



Legislative Committee October 22, 2018 Meeting Summary

Committee members participating: Poncho Guevara (lead), Dennis Cima and Judy Miner
NOVA staff: Kris Stadelman and Eileen Stanly

I. Welcome and Review of Agenda

The Committee chair welcomed participants and reviewed the agenda.

II. Review 2018 State Legislative Session: Planning for the Coming Year and New Governor

Highlights of the Committee discussion included:

- Eric Flores, legislative director for the California Workforce Association (CWA), was invited to join the committee meeting via phone. In 2018, CWA's priority work entailed:
 - Implementation of AB 1111-Removing Barriers to Employment Act that passed during the previous legislative session and will provide \$15 million over two years for a grant program to assist individuals with barriers to employment. Populations to be served through this bill entail those outlined under WIOA, as well as individuals with developmental disabilities, women in apprenticeships, English Language Learners, and the formerly incarcerated that will also be served through the statewide Prison2Employment initiative with \$37 million in funding. The State Board will be responsible for administering the AB 1111 grant program.
 - AB 2915-Mutual Disaster Aid Assistance, another successful bill sponsored by CWA, was chaptered this session that will facilitate a statewide Memorandum of Understanding between local boards in response to disasters. This bill was inspired by the wine country fires last year and an expressed interest by local boards to provide assistance to the local boards that were impacted by this disaster.
- In the coming year, CWA will be exploring legislation that will provide more flexibility for local boards with the mandated training funds requirement. In addition, it will be pursuing legislation that will provide local boards with access to the State's base wage data that is critical for boards in benchmarking performance. A recommendation was made to provide all partners with access to this data.
- A draft of the 2018/19 CWA Legislative Platform was reviewed. There were three principles identified in the Platform that included: 1) Invest in programs that support upward mobility. The Prison2Employment initiative to serve formerly incarcerated is an example of this that will receive \$37 million in funding; 2) Use technology to enhance service delivery. This links to California gubernatorial candidate Gavin Newsom's objectives regarding apprenticeships; and 3) Support regionalism in the Workforce System. AB 2915 is an example of this regional collaboration. Recommendations for the Platform included: While technology is important to enhancing service-delivery, the statewide Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) restricts providers of online course curriculum from being added to this list due to Bureau for Private and Post-Secondary Education (BPPE) requirements. Adding online options to the ETPL would greatly enhance the service-delivery system. While the principles of regionalism should be supported, the way in which the State is approaching regionalism is of concern with the

new Prison2Employment initiative, where funding will be distributed to a regional entity that doesn't currently exist in the regions. The implementation grant will follow closely behind the planning grant and will be released ahead of schedule in November. NOVA has taken a leadership role in the region for the past two years, on behalf of the four local boards in the Bay-Peninsula region, which is a rotating position. This may pose challenges in the future with the State's new expectations of a regional entity.

- The Bay-Peninsula region met with the East Bay region about shared labor market and workforce development issues and will continue to meet biannually going forward. During the discussion, interest was expressed about creating a regional platform that will provide a vehicle for sharing issues with key decision-makers that the region faces. An example of the issues could include:
 - Congress passed the Labor-HHS appropriations bill that level funded the local workforce development system for a full year. In looking ahead to the future, it is expected that federal funding will continue to decline, so it will be important to pursue other avenues for funding the local workforce development system. One proposal is to ask the State to create a line item in the budget that will provide a dedicated funding stream for local boards. New York and Massachusetts have already been successful in creating this line item in their budgets.
 - Another issue that the region will be tackling is connecting dislocated worker funding to commute patterns, so local boards will receive funding to assist dislocated workers based on where they are looking for work rather than where they live. Rapid Response funding to support employers and their laid-off employees is based on where the layoffs are taking place identified through WARN notifications.
 - Over the past year, NOVA received a waiver to continue to use its own database system for data entry into the CalJOBS system through June 30, 2019, which was the result of hosting visits from State officials and extensive conversations. The State needs to consider requesting and granting waivers for WIOA requirements that are counterproductive. This could be part of this regional platform.
- At the beginning of 2019, staff will develop a platform whitepaper that incorporates partners' input in the region, which will be disseminated to the new Governor's team, the region's legislative delegation and San Mateo and Santa Clara counties' decision-makers.
- Currently there is no indication regarding how gubernatorial candidate Newsom will approach establishing his new administration during the transition and whether the current State leadership will change. The current leadership has expressed an interest in continuing in their respective positions.

III. Future Legislative Visits

In the coming year, staff will pursue visits with Congresswoman Jackie Speier, California State Assemblymember Evan Low and U.S. Senator Kamala Harris. A recommendation was made to also approach newly elected officials in local government.

IV. Wrap-up/Next Steps

At the next meeting, the Committee will be developing strategies for how best to approach the new Congress and new Governor after the midterm elections and will provide guidance regarding the development of the regional platform.