



Legislative Committee
January 17, 2017 Meeting Summary
Draft Abbreviated Version

I. Welcome and Review of Agenda

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

II. Year in Review: 2016 State Legislative Session and Looking Ahead to 2017

The lobbyist for the California Workforce Association (CWA) was invited to join the committee meeting via phone. Highlights of the discussion included:

- The lobbyist's focus for CWA and its membership is on enhancing funding availability for local workforce boards in California; enhancing local operations; and ensuring that local workforce boards are included when key proposals impacting them are developed.
- At the federal level, attention is on the implementation of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and at the State level the focus is on Career Technical Education and workforce development through the community colleges.
- The current climate and challenge with the State Administration is a desire to support what's currently working and a resistance to consider new ideas.
- Last sessions' AB 2642, which focused on programs for individuals with barriers to employment, is needed more than ever. The bill failed last year and is expected to be reintroduced by Assemblymember E. Garcia this session. Concerns were expressed about the bill's focus on target populations, which is contrary to the direction that the local workforce development system is going in providing a more integrated service-delivery model for all job seekers.
- The Governor's budget proposal this year includes workforce development more than in previous years; however, concerns were expressed that the State budget's focus is less on local workforce boards and more on K-12 schools and workforce development within the community colleges and State colleges and universities. Because the local workforce boards are embedded in the California Employment Development Department, the role of the local workforce boards is not always recognized.
- We are currently awaiting confirmation on the State Senate and Assembly committee leadership. Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva is expected to be the new chair of the Assembly Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy Committee and Senator Steven Bradford is expected to be the new chair for the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee.
- CWA's primary focus in the coming year will be to 1) pursue the breaking barriers legislation for target populations and 2) bolster what can be done for the local workforce development community.
- The State is seeking local workforce board review of the Adult Education plan submissions, as part of the Adult Education Block Grant program, and NOVA is advising the local adult education community to include the priority sectors, outlined in NOVA's local plan, in their plans.

- Concerns were expressed about the future of federal immigration reform. Members of the legal community are working to provide legal defense for individuals that may be impacted by new immigration proposals at the federal level, which is very expensive. To address this, some local governments, such as the County of Santa Clara, are creating a matching fund program to support this. Also, local entities such as Sacred Heart Community Service are exploring creating a coalition of agencies to advocate on immigration reform.
- A new issue has recently developed pertaining to the State’s Draft Directive WSDD-160 that mandates that all local workforce boards participate in direct data-entry into the CalJOBS database system. NOVA, similar to many local workforce boards across the state, uses its own data management system called the Customer Information Services Reporting System (CISRS) that provides necessary real-time and detailed information about customers served, with comprehensive reports produced in a timely manner that enables us to effectively and efficiently operate our programs and services. This service is free of charge and provides information that can be easily uploaded into the CalJOBS system for WIOA reporting requirements. This new requirement of directly entering data into the CalJOBS system would be extremely time consuming given the volume of customers NOVA serves and produce inferior data management and resource information. NOVA is working with the local workforce boards affected to approach the State to investigate further the impact this directive will have on these boards before finalizing the directive and, if unsuccessful, pursue a possible legislative remedy.
- The Year-End Report of 2016 federal and State legislation was handed out at the meeting and reviewed with committee members.

III. Preparing for New Federal Legislative and Policy Landscape

- **DOL Region 6 Convening**

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Region 6 office is taking a leadership role in planning for the future of workforce development. On February 27 & 28, DOL Region 6 is convening a Strategic Dialogue and inviting Labor administrators, employers, and local workforce boards to discuss the future of workforce development, with the goal of building a community of Region 6 leaders interested in accelerating the strategic purpose of the local workforce boards. The two-day event is expected to include presentations on the region’s economy and workforce issues, tools for fostering a strategic board, up-skilling small businesses, trends in the new “Gig” economy, best practices and emerging interventions in workforce development, WIOA implementation, and employer engagement. Board Co-chairs Chris Galy and Jen Morrill will be participating in this event.

With the new White House Administration and new Congress, it is anticipated that workforce development funding will be at risk given the new Administration’s priority to increase funding for defense at the expense of non-defense discretionary programs, such as under the Department of Labor. The proposed budget from House Speaker Ryan supports this direction and will likely shape the appropriations debate going forward. Also, given the threats to transportation funding for California, San Mateo County is pursuing a new transportation bill to support transportation infrastructure. [Since this meeting, the State Legislature passed a new transportation bill paid for through a gas tax and vehicle registration fees.]

IV. Workforce Mobility Policy in the New “Gig” Economy

- **Common Ground for Independent Workers Principles**
- **JP Morgan Chase & Co. Report on Paychecks, Paydays, and the Online Platform Economy**

At last year's Board Retreat, the theme was workforce mobility, with featured speakers Wingham Rowan of Beyond Jobs and Lenny Mendonca. As a follow up to this retreat, NOVA has continued to stay engaged in the Gig economy movement, which is supported by the NOVA Board's Purpose Statement. This past year, NOVA served on the Beyond Jobs Design Team, and as a result of the connection made at the retreat, Lenny Mendonca introduced Wingham Rowan to WalMart that may lead to WalMart using Beyond Jobs to post jobs. And Beyond Jobs is working with Los Angeles, Portland, Oregon and the State of Colorado to establish pilots. NOVA also participated in a GAO study about contract workers this past year. During the study, the GAO asked how NOVA moves workers into the Gig economy. Our response is that we try to get people out of the Gig economy into long-term sustainable employment. Job seekers often use these short-term gigs to pay their bills while they look for more permanent work and NOVA is developing new curriculum to support job seekers looking for contract work, with the hope that they can transition to more permanent employment. Several publications were handed out including: *Common ground for independent workers* position paper spearheaded by a convening of influential leaders that Lenny Mendonca discussed at the 2016 retreat and *Paychecks, Paydays, and the Online Platform Economy* from JP Morgan Chase.

In looking ahead to the coming year and the role that the Legislative Committee and Board can play in this effort, we will be staying abreast of the State's future workforce policy as it relates to the Gig economy. In addition, the issue of raising the minimum wage for workers and that it differs from community to community (although there have been some efforts made to collaborate on a regional minimum wage) will be explored, along with the importance of benefits, worker's compensation, etc. Finally, we will be tracking the Beyond Jobs platform and lessons learned from this effort to see if a platform to support contract work can be established here that benefits both workers and employers.

V. Wrap-up/Next Steps

Next steps for the Legislative Committee include:

- Pursue increased federal funding for local workforce development and oppose any attempts to further erode funding.
- Tackle legislation, proposals and/or directives/requirements at the federal and state level that negatively impact NOVA's operations and services.
- Explore proposals pertaining to workforce mobility that may include local proposals to support raising the minimum wage and benefits for workers and new platforms that support the Gig economy and contract work that benefit both workers and employers.
- Future visits will be scheduled for new legislators to NOVA including Assemblymember Mullin, Assemblymember Berman, Congressman Khanna and Senator Harris, among others.