



NOVAworks Workforce Board
December 3, 2025, Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: C. Berdiansky, G. Biggs, R. Brunson, R. Foust, L. Lambert, N. Leonor, A. Manwani, M. Nemits, and A. Switky

ABSENT: D. Bini, C. Chien, J. Cohen, D. Dorsey, J. Lind, S. Porter, and K. Vartan

ALSO PRESENT: M. Sessions, C. Bernhardt, J. Cheyer, E. Edstrom, T. Jimenez, G. Pham, and E. Stanly of NOVAworks staff, and guests Teri Brimacomb of EDD, Sylwia Palczewska of Biocom California Institute, and consultant Mitchell Bailey

1. CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chairperson R. Foust called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. Board member M. Nemits was thanked for hosting the meeting.

2. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guest Teri Brimacomb from EDD was introduced. There were no other public announcements.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by A. Switky, seconded by A. Manwani, and carried by voice vote to approve the consent agenda as submitted. For this meeting, the agenda items included the meeting agenda and September 24, 2025, meeting minutes.

4. ACTION ITEMS

4A. Election of NOVAworks Workforce Board Officers for Calendar Year 2026: As per Board Bylaws, the election of Board officers takes place at the last scheduled Board meeting of the calendar year. The slate of prospective candidates for the election of Board officers for 2026 was: Co-chairpersons R. Foust and A. Switky (both private sectors), and Vice Chairpersons J. Lind (representing other organizations) and M. Nemits (private sector.) There were no nominations from the floor. It was moved by A. Manwani, seconded by L. Lambert, and carried by voice vote to approve the slate of candidates for 2026 Board officers.

5. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

5A. Customer Success: A testimonial was shown highlighting a customer's job search journey to explore a wide range of career pathways with services from NOVAworks. This led to a career in the carpentry trades.

5B. Presentation from Sylwia Palczewska of Biocom California Institute: Ms. Palczewska presented on the Institute's work and initiatives. To view the presentation, click here, https://novaworks.org/documents/Ongoing/BiocomCaliforniaInstitute_NOVAworksBoardMeeting12.3.25.pdf. A recommendation was made to encourage partnerships with Biocom California Institute that support individuals newly graduating from school seeking careers in the life sciences industry.

6. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Director Sessions' report was handed out and discussed which can be viewed by clicking here, https://novaworks.org/documents/Ongoing/ExecutiveDirectorReport_NOVAworksBoardMeeting12.3.25.pdf.

7. PRESENTATION

7A. Whole Person Project: Last year, the City of Mountain View invested \$50,000 to support the “whole person” concept. NOVAworks provided career navigation and training and addressed barriers to employment through support services for low-income residents in the City of Mountain View. A total of 15 participants were enrolled and 100% achieved their goal. To view the presentation, click here, <https://novaworks.org/documents/Ongoing/MTV-WholePersonWorkforceInitiative.pdf>.

A recommendation was made to scale this successful model when adequate funding is available so that more individuals may benefit from this concept.

7B. Silicon Valley Economic Correction Grant: NOVAworks was awarded a \$950,000 competitive grant from the State to assist jobs seekers impacted by technology layoffs secure reemployment. The grant term was from September 2024 to March 2026. The project was career focused and provided job search navigation services and training to serve 200 job seekers. To date, NOVAworks is on track to achieve its goals. To view the presentation, click here, <https://novaworks.org/documents/Ongoing/SV-TechSectorCorrection.pdf>.

8. INFORMATION (All documents enclosed in meeting packet for reference)

8A. Grant Status of Funds

8B. Performance Report

8C. State Approval of WIOA Local and Regional Plans

8D. State Approval of Local Area Designation and Board Recertification

Reports for the above items were included in the Board meeting Packet.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.