



NOVA Workforce Board Retreat
January 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: M. Alvarado, T. Baity, C. Cimino, L. Dalla Betta, V. Dang, R. Foust, C. Galy, H. Goodkind, P. Guevara, B. Guidry-Brown, E. Hamilton, L. Labit, S. Levy, M. Lucero, A. Manwani, J. Miner, J. Morrill, S. Porter, J. Ruigomez, and A. Switky

ABSENT: S. Borgersen, J. Chu, C. Springsteel, and J. Sugiyama

ALSO PRESENT: K. Stadelman, L. Anders, D. Gamble, L. Jackson, C. Stahl, and E. Stanly of NOVA staff; and guest Lori Parris of San Mateo Adult School

Meeting was held remotely via videoconference call.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chairperson J. Morrill called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Board applicant Lori Parris of the San Mateo Adult School was welcomed to the meeting.

2. FRAMING THE SESSION AND EXPECTATIONS

An overview of the agenda was reviewed that will include several action items to address Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) regulatory requirements and presentations that will look back at 2020 and the steps NOVA took to overcome obstacles to service-delivery during the pandemic, what we can expect in 2021, the state of the economy, and the impact of COVID-19 on low-income workers, families and the community. It's hard to believe that in 2019, the community was facing low unemployment and NOVA was fighting the good fight in serving those customers who were experiencing difficulties securing employment. In 2020, NOVA has pivoted in response to changes brought on by COVID-19, similar to what it did during the "Great Recession." It's an honor to be a part of these efforts and look forward to seeing the signs of optimism ahead being realized.

3. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no public announcements.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by C. Cimino, seconded by M. Alvarado and carried by voice vote to approve the agenda as submitted.

5. APPROVAL OF AJCC CAREER SERVICES PROVIDER APPLICATION

WIOA and the State require that a local workforce board or administrative entity (NOVA), who wishes to be designated a career services provider, must seek approval from the workforce board, the local Chief Elected Official (Sunnyvale City Council) and the Governor. While encouraged, WIOA does not require competitive procurement for career services. For over thirty-five years, NOVA has provided career services at the NOVA Job Center in Sunnyvale. In 2017, NOVA applied for and was approved by the State to be a career services provider for the NOVA Job Center in Sunnyvale. In 2021, the State is requesting that organizations reapply to be a career services provider. NOVA will continue to competitively procure career services in San Mateo County. It was moved by C. Cimino, seconded by E. Hamilton and carried by voice vote to approve the AJCC Career Services Provider application for NOVA to be designated a career services provider for the NOVA Job Center in Sunnyvale.

6. APPROVAL OF APPLICATION FOR NOVA TO BE WIOA AJCC OPERATOR FOR NOVA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA

The State and WIOA requires that a local workforce board or administrative entity (NOVA), who wishes to be designated an AJCC Operator, must seek approval from the local workforce board, the local Chief Elected Official (Sunnyvale City Council) and the Governor. While the intent of WIOA and the State is to competitively procure the AJCC Operator, the Uniform Guidance allows for very limited in which alternative procurement methods may be permitted that include sole source procurement. In 2018, NOVA applied for and was approved by the State to be the AJCC Operator for the NOVA workforce development area through sole source procurement. In 2021, the State is requesting that organizations reapply to be an AJCC Operator. As an Operator, NOVA proposes to coordinate the service-delivery activities of the AJCC required partners and service providers by convening and facilitating quarterly partner meetings to ensure effective delivery of services to shared customers. In addition, NOVA will build relationships and serve as a hub for information sharing across partners to promote cohesiveness and continuity. It was moved by R. Foust, seconded by L. Dalla Betta and carried by voice vote to approve the AJCC Operator application for NOVA to serve as the AJCC Operator for the NOVA workforce development area.

7. LOOKING BACK AT 2020 AND BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS; LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021

Director K. Stadelman presented on the past year's accomplishments during COVID-19 and expectations for 2021. To view her slide presentation, please click here: https://novaworks.org/documents/Ongoing/NOVAwb_YearInReview-2020.pptx.

8. ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE IN CALIFORNIA

Board member S. Levy presented on the economic impacts of COVID-19. To view his slides that capture his talk, please click here: <https://novaworks.org/documents/Ongoing/NOVA-Retreat-2021.pptx>.

9. KEYNOTE SPEAKER: PONCHO GUEVARA

Board Vice Chair P. Guevara presented on the new Santa Clara County Homeless Prevention System that captured the devastating impacts of COVID-19 on low-income residents and the work that is being done to serve these individuals. Through a partnership with Destination Home and Sacred Heart Community Service, among others, financial and rental relief and targeted resources are being provided to low-income households that will support them in their current living situation and prevent a precarious situation from escalating into homelessness. Approximately 14,000 households have been saved from the brink of homelessness through this program.

Following the presentations, highlights of the Board discussion that followed included (but were not limited to):

- The challenges facing the San Mateo County work experience program were more about the timing of the project than the concept. The shelter-in-place orders during the pandemic surge resulted in few employers offering employment opportunities and few workers comfortable working in those jobs that were available which were considered higher risk for exposure. But as a result of the outreach during the project, many residents were enrolled in NOVA services so they will receive assistance with their job search and some received funding for

support services to mitigate financial constraints (e.g. late car payments). As a result of the feasibility study that is nearing completion, a subsidized work experience will be a viable program model in the future that should be launched when the pandemic slows and the economy opens back up.

- The construction industry has not slowed down during the pandemic and the building and construction trades pivoted at the outset to get workers back to work utilizing safety protocols to protect them from exposure.
- The education community will want to reach out to providers on the front lines to solicit recommendations for how best to utilize CARES Act funding when it becomes available to assist the student population. This may include paid internships.
- Different models can be explored to reach out to local residents on both a small scale (Next Door) and large scale (Basic Income or Guaranteed Income). The Basic Income model is being piloted in several local communities to provide financial relief. While important, a recommendation was made that the focus should be on good paying jobs and childcare support that will be more sustainable.

10. WRAP-UP

There is never enough time to discuss the pressing issues facing the workforce, employers and the community during this unprecedented period. P. Guevara discussed the challenges facing residents at the bottom end of the economy during the pandemic; S. Levy provided hope for what the economy will look like mid-year, and K. Stadelman focused on what NOVA accomplished to assist its customers survive during this past year. NOVA now needs to pivot from basic survival to getting workers back into jobs and the economy- from rescue to recovery. The Board will be asked to provide advice on what NOVA needs to do differently to prepare. The new Labor Secretary nominee Marty Walsh will open the door for advocacy for the state and local workforce development system. A recommendation was made to support a Bill of Rights for workers that includes a job quality standard and focuses on a work and family platform and a skilled and trained workforce.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.