

Coastal Operators Group (COG) Meeting

Minutes

December 21, 2022

3:00 – 4:00 PM

Desired Results: *By the end of the meeting, participants will:*

1. *Understand business services offerings among one-stop system partners;*
2. *Hear updates and potential challenges from program partners;*
3. *Have final goals for 2023.*

Agenda Item	Notes	Next Steps
Welcome and Review 9/28 Meeting Minutes	No edits suggested	
Business Services Survey Results and One-Stop Partner Feedback + Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Wagner’s (business liaison) newsletter would be a good resource to get the information out – working on building that piece. John works with Rene out of Brunswick/Lewiston. Audience for the newsletter is anyone who benefit from training opportunities, MCCS, etc. The newsletter is 2-3 pages now (try to keep to two pages), every-other week – jobs one week, then training/education information the next. Includes lots of link. Sends in tandem with people who have business connections. Goes to customers on unemployment and with accounts in Maine JobLink, and to municipalities, among others. • Making sure WFS has a presence at job fairs – speak to employers while there. 	
Updates from the group 1. Programmatic updates/initiatives that you want other partners to be aware of	Sheila (Workforce Solutions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winding down opioid grant – making sure clients are getting connected to other grants, career advisors are helping • Hiring, getting positions filled • Challenge – people getting connected during holiday season, room to reconnect, working on for six weeks, move forward and complete goals 	

<p>2. Biggest challenge of the month</p>	<p>Rob (Portland/Springvale CareerCenter)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career Center trying to fill positions; a time sensitive term position is expiring in six months. • Career fairs continuing • York County attendance at job fairs has been challenging – looking at agencies who might have captive audiences before. Looking at Kittery area – community centers, Adult Ed agencies, more populated areas, unique scenario utilizing vacant retail space. Promotion through papering/postering, using retail networks, community policing, churches, social media <p>David Grima (Rockland CareerCenter)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seasonal pickup with unemployment; monitor the state re: businesses closing, rapid response, media is paying more attention and shows high number of closures • Pattern returning to before COVID, making use of people doing outreach / libraries, back to new normal, education with employers, long-term demographic impact that we will be living with for a long time, not something that’s going to end • Businesses need to make decisions based on facts rather than what they believe or hope, large numbers of workers won’t be applying, try tactics that do work, hard to know how to share the information, all are willing to acknowledge the labor shortage, media is hedging bets – not telling what it is going to be like • Business closures – restaurants, retail going out of style, staying vacant • Making business decisions based on the old way of thinking <p>Rob</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDF report (July) Making Maine Work speaks to these issues 	<p>Rob to share link to MDF report</p>
<p>COG Goals Review 1. CASAS (or other literacy) Testing in</p>		<p>Amy will break down goals into some strategies.</p>

<p>collaboration w/ One-Stop Center</p> <p>2. Streamline the referral system between One-Stop Center and system partners</p> <p>3. Business Service Coordination</p>		<p>Amy will connect with Kim re: voc rehab specific goal</p>
<p>Adjourn</p>		<p>3:45 PM</p>

Next Meeting: 1/25/23