

# Coastal Operators Group (COG) Meeting

## Minutes

**July 27, 2022**

**3:00 – 4:00 PM**

1. *Hear updates and potential challenges from program partners*
2. *Have a plan for developing a group mission statement*
3. *Have an agreement on when future meetings will occur and with what frequency.*

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Action Item(s)</b>
Welcome	Susan LeClair; Mike Robinson; Rob Klaiber; Paulette Bonneau; Kim Desso; Rene Smith; Mark Guzzetta; Jillian Sample; Amy Geren; Sheila Muldoon in attendance	
Review 6/30 Meeting Minutes		
<i>Have an agreement on when future meetings will occur and with what frequency.</i>	Wednesday 3:00 works better for the group Next month might be low attendance due to vacations near holiday weekend	Amy: Email group assessing availability for next month; will schedule recurring meetings beginning in August or September
<i>Hear updates and potential challenges from program partners</i> • Programmatic updates/initiatives that you want other partners to be aware of	Rob: Springvale and GP career centers Putting together first larger impact report; one volume of job seekers, partners, referrals, event involvement, etc. Happening across the state, putting together for the end of the week, will be compiled with state – getting data in front of commissioner, governor 25 employer event at York Community College – strong interest in investment for apprentices, would value that career pathway	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biggest challenge of the month</li> </ul>	<p>Challenge: Identified a significant number of new Mainers in GP area (Freeport – Kennebunk/Wells + Lewiston)  Working with Catholic Charities, Jewish Community Alliance  1,200-1,500 new Mainers – assessing status (visa status, etc.)  Challenges for this population – health care and English language skills</p> <p>Susan: Outreach / AARPA – finding individuals to create results / outcomes  Supporting staff who are committed to their work – encouraging them to do their work / staying positive  Working as a group to cross-refer  Success and struggle – attendance at Career center has been light  Seasonal jobs might be contributing to slow summers</p> <p>Rene: Agrees with Sue and Rob  Last summer had outside hiring events in Brunswick and Lewiston; have expanded to Oxford and Franklin Counties – varying attendance  Struggle for employers  Amy noted that CCWI visited the career fair in Brunswick</p> <p>Sheila: Common to see July slow down; meet with the teams each week around recruitment so that they can get ahead of the late August/early September busyness  Getting end of year reporting ready  Challenge of getting folks in  Belfast – Monday and Tuesday were busy  Opioid grant has an end date of December, but continuing to get people enrolled  Youth have picked up summer jobs, but continuing to engage – looking at career pathways, back in school  COVID has resulted in disengagement  Lots of new Mainers  New business program coordinator – Alex (career advisor as well)</p> <p>Mike: DWG &amp; Rural Healthcare – slower in July  Not existing pipeline of leads – getting the word out for referrals  Hasn't done a lot of referral work in Springvale and GP – can help communicate with Rob (Rob and Mike will connect off line)  Susan mentioned a regular meeting with Sheila that Mike could join  Sarah is the contact for referrals</p>	
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	<p>Kim: (VR) Summer has been busy – do a lot of summer employment experiences for youth; working all over Cumberland and York Counties – need job coaches, which is challenging due to internal workforce challenges  Co-enrollment – have limited information that she can share from database  Challenges: Staffing down six</p> <p>Paulette: Getting ready for the fall semester  Challenge – instructors to teach job skills training programs, workforce issue which limits what they can offer  Expecting influx of over 100 new Mainers soon  Biddeford is planning to provide services to hotel accommodations  This population is eager to work, yet they cannot always be employed based on status  Rob asked what certification instructors would need  Depending on what they were teaching – based on certification requirements for field</p>	
Job-Seeker Enrollment process		Amy: Reach out to those she hasn't spoken with yet
<i>Have a plan for developing a group mission statement</i>	Can be a grounding force and good process Solidify language – can take some doing, can't say a lot	Amy & Jillian: Will propose a draft and send out to the group for feedback
Adjourn		3:43 PM

**Up-coming Job Fairs:**

Greater Portland CareerCenter: 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the Month, 9-11:30 (8/3/22; 9/7/22)

Brunswick CareerCenter: Downtown Brunswick, 9/29/22