

Coastal Operators Group (COG) Meeting

Minutes

June 28, 2023

Agenda Item	Notes	Next Steps
Welcome	Amy Geren (OSO), Sheila Muldoon (Workforce Solutions), Rene Smith (Brunswick CareerCenters), Jeff Martinelli (Workforce Solutions), Krista Campbell (Portland & Springvale CareerCenters)	
Goals Progress: Business services outreach – Webinar series?	Krista suggests adding some success stories for employers in addition to job-seeker successes.	Link to OSO Resources/Training Tab: https://www.coastalcounties.org/board-operations/
Updates from the group 1. Programmatic updates/initiatives 2. Biggest challenge of the month	Kim Desso (Voc Rehab) via email: Summer Work Experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with 10 schools in Cumberland/York counties to support summer work experiences (about 8 weeks) for youth ages 16-19yrs • Seeking job coaches! – If anyone knows of someone who is interested in helping to provide job coaching support, please contact Kim asap RFP for CRP services posted on procurement site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Annette Stevens with any questions • RFP #202305120 • https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/vendors/rfps Challenge – staffing!!! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have not been able to hire RCII in more than 2 years – need salaries to match living costs in southern ME. Jeff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just hired two people who are starting next week. Community advisor (Jeff) and YouthBuild in-house advisor (Lilly). Very busy. • Two summer programs – AGC pre-apprenticeship partnership (Bath, Gorham, Westbrook – worked with Biddeford already); Anticipates 10-11 youth • Matching people up with good opportunities • Have had stability on staff for 6+ months • Challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Managing bandwidth, making strides ○ Drivers Ed for youth; could embed in schools/community for better accessibility 	

	<p>Sheila:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All project grants have been very busy. With Sarah on vacation, Sheila is taking referral calls. Doing amazing work. • Partnership with business coordinators is phenomenal. • Have been working with people with language barriers, and it is going well. Interviewing skills need improvement. • Cohort going into welding for women coming out of Windham correctional facility. • Issues with transportation. • Reed & Reed OJT opportunity just wrapping up. • Working well to cross-train on different grants. • It is yearend for grant reporting, so busier than usual. • In the process of filling two career advisor positions in York. Need an additional one for Portland. <p>Rene:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brunswick hiring event included DOT who shared inside secrets for getting people into CDL training (DOT will hire people with a clean driving record in recent years, and will train, including new Mainers) • New Mainers can work for US Post Office after five years of residency • US government rules for hiring have relaxed to only restrictions on people from countries where trade bans are in place <p>Krista:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a new in role with CareerCenter – ETS IV Supervisor • Challenge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How best to serve new Mainers; housing is an issue – joining Tarlan and Catholic Charities to consider options Training resources, language, etc., so that they are ready to work when permitted to work 	
2023 -2024 Meeting Schedule	July and August are busy with vacation, but Wednesday is generally a good time to meet. Amy will be away for much of August, so COG will not meet in August.	Send inquiry with meeting minutes re: July availability
Adjourn		~3:48 PM

Next Meeting: TBD