

Coastal Operators Group (COG) Meeting

Minutes

March 22, 2023

3:00 – 4:00 PM

Agenda Item	Notes	Next Steps
Welcome and Review 2/22 Meeting Minutes	In attendance: Amy Geren (OSO), Kyle Olsen (CCWI), Rene Smith (MDOL), Mike Robinson (WFS), David Watts (Adult Ed/Hub 7), Sheila Muldoon (WFS), Rob Klaiber (MDOL) No edits suggested for the February 2023 minutes.	
Referral system data collection update	Amy has been in touch with Adult Ed director and data coordinator to assess referral data categories. Workforce Solutions tracks referral data and can provide something similar. CareerCenter referral data: Josh Brown can run reports from MJL via Tableau. Question from David Watts about case notes coming through in report.	Amy: Reach out to Josh w/ MDOL to confirm report capabilities
Business Services Outreach Next Steps	Connect with Main Street programs, BIDs, Chambers of Commerce: Amy has met with the Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce, and is scheduled to present on business services to a Main Street affiliate program 3/24. Does it make sense to continue to connect with this type of business membership organization? Seven of the ten Main Street programs in Maine are in the Coastal Counties region. https://www.mdf.org/program-partnerships/maine-downtown-center/main-street-maine/ Rockland Main Street program – David was connected several years ago; leader retired so connection is lost. Amy has connections with several other Main Street programs, although some have new leadership in recent years. Antoinette had mentioned creating lunch and learn series. Industry-specific language focus for Adult Ed, i.e., criminal justice academy connected with Adult Ed for input; manufacturing association, etc. Helps for getting exposure in field. HUB 7 has been building bridge programs (with grant funds) where the need is present; have money to potentially work on industry-specific language focus. Should be presenting the system versus individual partners. If there was a general presentation for the one-stop system, someone could have questions.	David: Reach out to Adult Ed directors in Belfast and Rockland to confirm relationship with Main Street program directors. Amy: Reach out to Main Street programs in Brunswick and Bath.

	David could use presentation slides to help explain the One-Stop system to potential stakeholders.	Amy: Draft PowerPoint for uniform presentation
Updates from the group	<p>Sheila: Did first Afghan enrollment. WFS is seeing increase due to inflation affecting pricing on necessities. Challenge – Abbot layoff continues to keep them busy; WIOA teams are pitching in to help. New staff are helping. Have hired several multi-lingual staff which is very helpful.</p> <p>Mike: Meeting weekly to measure capacity. Will start working toward hiring additional staff. Challenge – Unemployment Insurance funding running out; SNAP decrease; layoffs.</p> <p>Rob: Talked with Martha Stein with Hope Acts and formalized work clinics at Portland Public Library for applying for and renewing work permits; assisting on site with job search, preparation, etc. Will take place on Tuesdays 9-11:00AM.</p> <p>Rene: Brunswick will be welcoming ~85 New Mainer families in the fall. Buildings behind the Cooks Corner Mall are in development for housing and some has been designated for New Mainers. Have been working with Fatuma with Immigrant Resource Center on rapid response re: Abbot layoff to clarify UI. Looking at doing a hiring event at center for New Mainers, etc.</p> <p>David: HUB 7 plans to embed at a program in the area to support New Mainer residents. Looking at an increase in ~300 learners. Bridge Coordinator has been hired and starting on Monday! Coordinator has employer contacts from recent work experience with MDOL. Focusing on Sagadahoc and Lincoln Counties.</p> <p>Kyle: Working on the next set of funding for employment recovery; youth engagement strategies.</p> <p>Kim: [Not present – shared via email] – Today (3/22/23) is National Rehabilitation Counselors Appreciation Day. Announcement from DOL highlighted the achievements of a CareerCenter job-seeker who became the first woman to ever be hired by Machias Public Works after support from the center for CDL training and referral for the job opening.</p>	
Adjourn		3:55 PM

Next Meeting: 4/26/23