

Coastal Operators Group (COG) Meeting

Minutes

May 24, 2023

Agenda Item	Notes
Welcome and Review 4/26 Meeting Minutes	In attendance: Amy Geren, OSO; David Watts, Adult Ed.; Mike Robinson, Workforce Solutions; Sheila Muldoon, Workforce Solutions; Rob Klaiber, MDOL – Portland & Springvale Career Centers
<p>Goals Progress:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tracking referrals to Adult Ed for testing 2. Referral system data collection (Adult Ed; MDOL) 3. Video progress; cross-training brainstorm 4. Business services outreach (Main Street and affiliate programs) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Referrals to Adult Ed from the One-Stop: Can reach out to Sarah for data. 2. Both Maine JobLink and Maine STARS contacts with MDOL and Adult Ed are likely able to make updates to improve referrals within system. Workforce Training enrollment, for example, does not allow for referral data in Maine STARS, David noted. Adult Ed is revamping the system a bit to be able to make it work better for their needs. Currently during intake, local programs should be capturing three pieces of information regarding referrals: 1) if they are co-enrolled with another agency; 2) who referred them; and 3) how they heard about Adult Ed. There is an opportunity to make it more relevant to WIOA guidance on referrals between partners. 3. Amy hasn't made progress but will be scheduling a video recording with LearningWorks. Noted that LearningWorks has received the DOL Youth Build grant, and the new executive director will begin in July. 4. Amy has presented at Portland and Brunswick Main Street programs; David looked into the new contact with Rockland Main Street and will share it with Amy.
<p>Updates from the group</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Programmatic updates/initiatives 2. Biggest challenge of the month 	<p>Rob was traveling from Saco/Biddeford where services have been brought to hotels where immigrants are getting trained; Adult Ed was administering CASAS testing. Will be bringing Adult Ed and support services into hotels in Freeport and Yarmouth as well.</p> <p>David mentioned the challenges with hiring for smaller hotels on the coast. Amy shared an idea from the Reach employer conference (5/23/23) where financial institutions have partnered to establish training and support to get immigrants skilled up to work in banks and credit unions.</p> <p>David noted the housing and transportation issues, and long waits for English language classes.</p> <p>Sheila noted that summer is busy, and accommodations are made for schedules with children being out of school, etc. Several projects are going on to keep momentum going with youth. Reach out to Sarah to get youth to worksites for exposure.</p> <p>Mike mentioned healthcare classes in Gray/New Gloucester; supporting Abbot layoffs; Workforce Solutions has career advisor positions open.</p> <p>Rob will be holding the next job fair (June 7th – 1:00 – 4:00) at The Point; have had large numbers lately. Things have been steady at the Career Center. Wrapped up a front-line first responder job fair – had four employers and 16 job seekers; noted new funding for first responders. Surprised by salary range; has gone up (~\$25/hour) which has been a barrier in the past.</p>

	<p>David asked if it makes sense to have representatives from Adult Education and Workforce Solutions to observe gaps between employers present and job seekers.</p> <p>Rob notes that Workforce Solutions and Adult Ed have been at job fairs, and that they have been adding additional resources to job fairs, to include clothing, community policing, etc.</p> <p>Amy shared the resource fair model that she is working on with Portland Adult and the Portland Career Center.</p>
Adjourn	3:48 PM

Next Meeting: 6/28/23