

Coastal Operators Group (COG) Meeting

Minutes

November 29, 2023

3:00 – 4:00 PM

Agenda Item	Notes	Next Steps
<p>Welcome and Review 10/25 Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>In attendance: Jeff Martinelli (Workforce Solutions); Sheila Muldoon (Workforce Solutions); Rene Smith (Brunswick Career Center); Linda Greer (Adult Ed Hub 9 York County); Abbie Yamamoto (Adult Ed Hub 8 Cumberland County); David Watts (Adult Ed Hub 7)</p>	<p>Sheila would like to connect with Abbie re: language learning / CASAS scores.</p>
<p>Goals Progress / Related Topics: 1. Adult Ed COG Representation: Welcome new COG participants! 2. Video Recordings 3. Business services presentation for Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Communities of Maine Downtown Center's Main Street programs</p>	<p>Amy welcomed Abbie Yamamoto (Adult Education Hub 8) and Linda Greer (Adult Education Hub 9) to the group.</p> <p>Amy will be recording an informational video with Justin O'Tool, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor II in the Portland Vocational Rehabilitation MDOL office, on Friday. She also connected with Mahir Hasanov, who could represent business services through MDOL. Rene recommends Rob Ducharme from her office.</p> <p>Shared the prepared PowerPoint presentation with Maine Downtown Center's Main Street Entrepreneurial Ecosystem on 11/8. Main Street programs at the meeting from the Coastal Counties region included Belfast, Biddeford, Rockland, Saco, and Westbrook, plus Augusta, Gardiner, and Holton from the other regions. Amy shared contact information for Workforce Solutions, Career Centers, and Eastern Maine Development Corporation (for CWMWDB and NEWDB).</p>	<p>Good to interview Mahir for a bridge to services. Rene to share Rob's contact information with Amy for video recording. Amy to send WIOA business services PowerPoint to Linda and Abbie</p>
<p>Updates from the group 1. Programmatic updates/initiatives 2. Biggest challenge of the month</p>	<p>Jeff: Challenged with finding staff for career advising. Candidates non-responsive after initial outreach. Will connect with Linda Greer for Kittery Adult Ed contact. Linda is interested in connecting with workforce Solutions regarding recovery/second-chance support.</p> <p>Sheila described grants for new COG members: Opioid grant resulted in staff well-versed in working with populations specific to this grant focus, substance use, justice involved. Continued interest in working with Adult Ed for CASAS testing, etc. Adult grant is picking up for career changes, second income in family, going back to work, etc. Have a lot of people in training for career opportunities; using Ed-to-go. Openings for the QUEST grant. Meeting with people in the</p>	

	<p>community, working with businesses. Afghan grant career pathways development. In response to question, Afghan grant is available for Lewiston residents.</p> <p>David: ETPL question. Sheila said they use Massabesic adult ed.</p> <p>David: Needs help with medical assistant program. Cannot find an instructor in the mid-coast area. No applications have come in. Next cohort to start in February. Working on a program similar to YouthBuild. Providing a financial incentive for 16 – 24-year-olds (WIOA youth age). Minimum of ~60 hours and will earn money toward drivers’ education. Similar in Sagadahoc County, and looking to collaborate with Adult Ed in Lincoln, Knox, and Waldo Counties. Hoping to co-enroll participants for high school completion.</p> <p>Linda: York County – Lifting state workforce grant for new Mainers: CNA, CMA, retail. National training for dementia caregiving. Grant for rural Maine healthcare money. Mike Robinson is in charge of H1B, and could answer questions about funding and eligibility. Joy Gould with DHHS will know more as well. David suggest connecting with York County Community College workforce development.</p> <p>Rene: Career Center career fair on December 6th in Brunswick. New Mainers accessing services are housed in permanent housing. Abbie asked who is providing housing. Town of Brunswick is working to make new housing available. A group meets with the town and a cultural broker monthly. Rob on her staff is working with recovery house in Bath.</p> <p>Rob: December 6th job fair. Sanford Adult Ed on December 7th, last in series. Fedcap outreach on site in Sanford office. Going into the prisons weekly. New Mainer shelter is opening on Riverside Way. Provide services in hotels as well. Setting up financial literacy courses in partnership with M&T Bank. Centers have seen a spike in traffic, particularly in Springvale (10 – 14 pp/day, up from ~5 daily). Two openings in Veterans services.</p> <p>Abbie: New Mainer Resource Center and new coordinator hired. Revamping program with written policy regarding who is served. Generally for internationally trained professionals, adaptation to new environment.</p>	<p>Rene will find out about ETPL question and respond to David and Linda.</p> <p>Amy to connect Linda with Mike and Joy. Linda will reach out to Cait Grant with YCCC for workforce development contact.</p>
Next Steps	Abbie requested to move the meeting an hour earlier or later.	
Adjourn		~4:00 PM

Next Meeting: December 20, 2023 @ 2:00PM