

Coastal Operators Group (COG) Meeting

Agenda

September 27, 2023

3:00 – 4:00 PM

Agenda Item	Notes	Next Steps
Welcome and Review 6/28 Meeting Minutes	Amy Geren (OSO); Rene Smith (MDOL/CareerCenter – Brunswick); Rob Klaiber (MDOL/CareerCenter – Portland, Springvale); Krista Campbell (MDOL CareerCenter – Portland, Springvale); Jeff Martinelli (Workforce Solutions); Sheila Muldoon (Workforce Solutions); Mike Robinson (Workforce Solutions); Kim Desso (MDOL/Voc Rehab)	
Goals Progress: 1. Referral system data collection 2. Business services outreach progress 3. Presentation slides review	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WFS/Maine Joblink (Dave shared de-identified data); MaineSTARS (Kelley shared sample de-identified data); Voc Rehab (working with Chris to obtain similar AWARE data); spoke with Ginny and Josh after hearing about the addition of a Job Corps-specific referral tab in MJL. Anticipating the virtual AJC will have capacity for referral data. 2. OSO presented to Portland Downtown 8/2/23; extended the offer to assist with career fairs in combination with other events. The organization routinely holds a worker appreciation event in the spring, which would be a good fit for this. OSO scheduled to join the November meeting of EE Connect, a monthly cohort meeting of Maine Downtown Center’s (MDF) Entrepreneur Ecosystem Building Participants. The group includes the majority of Main Street programs in our region (excepting Brunswick, who Amy has already presented to). OSO intends to continue attending bi-monthly meetings of these organizations to be available for questions and resources. OSO and WFS business outreach staff have begun a monthly meeting schedule to share resources brainstorm on opportunities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeff is looking for entrepreneur presenters for LeaningWorks students. • Krista is developing a job fair for people interested in working for startups; could use connections to small businesses. Has spoken with Katie Shorey/Live + Work Maine. 3. Amy developed a PowerPoint presentation that the group can use to introduce business services within the WIOA One-Stop Partner system. 	<p>Jeff will check type of businesses students are interested in; Amy will connect with businesses for presentations.</p> <p>Amy will connect Krista with EE Connect.</p> <p>Amy will send presentation to group.</p>

<p>Updates from the group</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Programmatic updates/initiatives 2. Biggest challenge of the month 	<p>Jeff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concluded AJC apprenticeship – students in York, Cumberland, and Sagadahoc Counties – worked with ~32 youth. • Launched YouthBuild career advisor in August, supporting workforce development and career exploration at LearningWorks. • Made connections with Boys & Girls Club and My Place Teen Center – Westbrook and Biddeford locations. <p>Sheila:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with David Watts and Joe C. with Adult Education in the region on new project to support youth; Brunswick has a good model. • Adult Ed and Alternative Ed programs getting are back on track with Adult Ed workforce development and HiSET. • Training a new adult career advisor (Liz); numbers keep rolling in • Quest program is doing well. Ten work experiences right now; half will turn into full-time employment. • Transportation can be complicated for program participants – working with transportation providers and alternatives. • Afghan Career Pathways Grant continues to see some connections. • A challenge is getting new hires trained and up to speed; using Maine JobLink training can be cumbersome. <p>Mike:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a lot of collaborating right now – Alex and Meghan doing a great job for DWG/Employment Recovery. • Posting for a career advisor in Belfast, onboarding others. <p>Krista:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach and getting involved with local groups to get a sense of startups. AI is a big topic, how it effects the future of workforce development. <p>Rene:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior health expo in Brunswick is coming up. • Finally making headway in coastal high schools, starting workshops about career center offers, and intends to have a hiring event after workshops. • Working ~weekly with recovery center in Bath. 	
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- Has a peer navigator taking over connecting with town halls, libraries
- Helping Town of Brunswick to work with ~60 immigrant families moving into new housing.
- Connecting with immigrant community through Adult Ed.

Kim:

- Finally hired a RC II councilor despite lower salary!

Rob:

- New connection with Maine Pretrial (drug court), opportunity for outreach for community-based services.
- Coordinating with Fedcap in Sanford for an event in October – first collaboration with that office.
- City of Westbrook collaboration for another career fair this year – might have chief of police and mayor involved.
- Collaboration with Boys & Girls Clubs in Portland and South Portland to hold job fairs.
- Lola is putting together financial literacy for hotel residents in collaboration with M&T Bank (community service commitment from FDIC).
- Work continuing at Windham correctional center.
- Lola has identified a new group being formed with Edward Kato – support group working with new Mainers.
- October 4th is the next monthly event at the career center.
- Sanford has switched to every other Thursday at Adult Education.

Amy:

- Maine Outdoor Economy Summit by Maine Outdoor Brands to be held in Rockland this year November 29th – December 1st.
- OSO to judge the Roux Institute's Start Summit on Workforce Innovation, a hackathon that will be held at the UNE-Biddeford campus on October 21st. Roux is hoping to get the word out to potential participants. There is no fee to attend, and there is prize money for the top two teams which will be assigned at the event.

Maine Outdoor Economy Summit registration link:
<https://maineoutdoorbrands.com/news-events/>

Start Summit Registration link:
https://rouxevents.northeastern.edu/workforce-innovation-startsummit/web-reg#_ga=2.260642245.997030882.1695920397-313989942.1695737099

Adjourn

3:53 PM

Next Meeting: October 25, 2023 @ 3:00PM