

Coastal Operators Group (COG) Meeting

Minutes

July 23, 2025

Agenda Item	Notes	Next Steps
Review 6/25/25 Meeting Minutes	<p>In attendance: Jeff Martinelli, Workforce Solutions; Joy Rodrigue, Workforce Solutions; Sam Funk, Workforce Solutions; David Grima, MDOL BES; Rob Klaiber; MDOL BES; Rene Smith, MDOL BES; Allen Lampert, Adult Ed; Barb Stoddard, NMRC PAE</p> <p>No edits suggested for the minutes.</p>	Finalize meeting minutes for CCWI's website.
1. Follow up from June's meeting	<p>Maine Commission for Domestic and Sexual Violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kim is meeting with Carolyn Delaney after the introduction. She is creating a proposal to share with the commissioner. <p>Maine Outdoor Economy Summit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires speaker contact and a 250 word or less outline of the topic. 	<p>https://form.123formbuilder.com/6850898/2026-moes-call-for-papers</p>
<p>2. Updates from the group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmatic updates/initiatives Biggest challenge of the month 	<p>David is looking for training resources for incumbent workers</p> <p>Sam noted that Sheila is doing incumbent worker training under specific grants. Barb shared that PAE is partnering with the Office of New Americans to work with employers. Rene agreed that it can be challenging to know all the opportunities available, but she has a better grasp on what is going on with EMDC because staff comes to internal staff meetings. There is an opportunity to share resources and training, etc., beyond the COG meetings. There are challenges with accessing resources in the VCC due to search feature limitations.</p> <p>Rene – Outside career fairs are occurring again. Bath next month (8/20) and Brunswick in September. Office hours have changed – open on Thursday until noon, then doing outreach.</p> <p>Rob is getting ready to post for the business outreach position. Alex is training to support in the position in the interim. He is going through the MyWorkSource Virtual training and will be the contact for posting in the platform. Working with Veteran reps for July 30th resource fair geared toward community-based support programs and resources. ~20 programs will be represented at the fair. Biddeford Adult Ed collaboration is being reevaluated. First Wednesday career fair is coming up. Springvale career center had a strong showing at the last career fair which was held later in the afternoon until 6:00 PM; for a July event, it was very</p>	<p>Rob has had outreach from Madeline Kennedy who is looking to do 30-minute interviews with people with workforce connections in renewable energy.</p>

	<p>well attended (~50 attendees) and employers were pleased. Will move to the library to take advantage of air conditioning for the rest of the summer. Appointment scheduling is softening – wait is less than one day.</p> <p>Allen said that summer is typically quiet, but they are running some programs over the summer. Federal funding for English Language instruction has ended so continuing training will be a challenge. Worried about how much academic programming can continue. Have long depended on Workforce Solutions. Requests to local school districts. Merry Meeting Adult Ed carries a fund balance to support for a little while.</p> <p>Barb is also seeing reductions in funding. Abbie is working to find support through other funding sources. Attended GA job fair which was moderately attended. Updating licensing guides. PAE is doing onsite English classes for ME Health incumbent workers in their Environmental Services Department. NMRC is partnering with ONA, Maine State Chamber, and EnGen to support incumbent worker English language support through free EnGen licenses. The program runs for 6 months (thru 12/31/25). Barb provided a flyer for this program.</p> <p>Kim has been notified about a focus group opportunity for adults 60+ who are interested in employment for a USM research project. Summer youth work experiences. Reach out to her if you have interested job-seeker clients.</p> <p>Jeff reported that the AGC summer pre-apprenticeship program is wrapping up, and approximately 55 participants are enrolling into WIOA youth programming. Partnered with Portland High School to support a CNA program. Workforce Solutions is committed to working closely with Adult Ed for HiSET completion.</p> <p>Sam reports that the Lewiston cohort that worked with Sam Boss completed a welding segment. Having challenges with new Mainers willing to share personal information due to the threat of ICE detainment. The team is building trust with agencies to establish connections: Preble Street, FedCap.</p> <p>Joy let the group know that they received an additional dislocated worker grant.</p>	
<p>3. OSO Next Steps & Reminders:</p>	<p>Cross-training opportunities? Kim noted that they don't have another meeting set up at this point.</p> <p>Amy let everyone know that she will be working with the Maine Apprenticeship office to better integrate apprenticeship tech reps into the one-stop system.</p> <p>Inclusion Maine conference is 8/12 – 8/14</p> <p>SWB Sector Partnerships Training Series: Lessons Learned from Retail and Hospitality Partnerships (MBEP & MTA)</p>	<p>https://www.inclusionmaine.org/conference</p> <p>https://www.maine.gov/swb/sptswebinars/</p>

4. Review next steps	Shift to the 3 rd week of August next month due to Amy being out of the office the 4 th week.	
Adjourn		2:48 PM

August 20th, 2025 @ 2:00 PM