

Coastal Operators Group (COG) Meeting

Minutes

June 25, 2025

Agenda Item	Notes	Next Steps
Review 5/28/25 Meeting Minutes	Linda Greer: Emailed an edit to the minutes. No other suggestions for edits.	Make update to meeting minutes and finalize for CCWI's website.
<p>1. Updates from the group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmatic updates/initiatives • Biggest challenge of the month 	<p>Kim Desso, Voc Rehab: College bus tour happening this week, plus lots of summer programming. DBVI has camps going on. Three vacancies for VR counselors to serve adult clients. Training at Thomas College just occurred. George Dennehy, a famous musician, was the keynote speaker.</p> <p>Rob Ducharme, BES: Brunswick hiring event last week – rain affected, but still had ~80 job seekers. Some employers backed out due to weather. Working with the City of Bath to recruit for a job fair scheduled for July 18 & 19 (Friday and Saturday). June 13 & 14th in Lewiston – 160 people showed up for on-the-spot interviews.</p> <p>Rob Klaiber, BES: Job fair today. July 2nd fair in Portland (1st Wednesday). Putting together a Veterans resource fair for July 30th at the Portland CareerCenter. Partnership initiative with Southern Maine Workforce Initiative – reverse job fair. Dates for cohort TBD. Seasonal decrease in numbers now. When appointment scheduling became a new policy there were longer waits; more immediate appointments are available now. On the cusp of getting into the Alfred jail in partnership with RSU 57 Adult Ed. Training for VCC is happening for staff now.</p> <p>Amy asked about VCC criteria for posting. Postings go through the career centers. Connect interested parties with employer support at</p> <p>Krista Campbell, BES: SBA workshop for growing a business.</p> <p>Sheila Muldoon, Workforce Solutions: End of fiscal year. Cohort with Sam Boss – construction focus in Lewiston. Wrapped up two with AGC. Mini job fair for people who had just completed training in Biddeford – heat pump focus. Smaller employers are most likely to hire, but having the ability to staff a job fair is challenging.</p> <p>Rob K. noted that they are finding large employers in the area who have an out-of-state or national headquarters, which could engage well through the virtual platform once those job fairs are up and running. Could connect online with job offers for Maine workers.</p>	<p>FMI on the Veteran Resource Fair, contact Michael.morkve@maine.gov or Vickie.hayer@maine.gov or TTY users call Maine Relay 711</p>

	<p>Jeff Martinelli, Workforce Solutions: Summer construction academy in collaboration with area high schools. All hands-on deck to support youth engagement and enrollment. Working with Portland High School on supporting CNA group that starts next week; providing supportive services.</p> <p>Joy Rodrigue, Workforce Solutions: Not much to add to what Sheila shared.</p> <p>Sam Funk, Workforce Solutions: Working on childcare cohort with Pamela Bennet (United Way of Southern Maine).</p>	
<p>2. OSO Updates & Reminders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCWB Local Plan update • AI Business Summit Overview 	<p>The new local plan is posted to CCWI's website: chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.coastalcounties.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Local-Plan-2025-2029-CCWB-1.pdf</p> <p>The new plan is a refresh of the prior five year plan, but includes an additional goal of being responsive to funding changes.</p> <p>Amy and Krista shared feedback on the AI Business Summit. Usama Fayyad was a charismatic keynote speaker. https://roux.northeastern.edu/people/usama-fayyad/</p> <p>Maine Outdoor Brands will be hosting the Maine Outdoor Economy Summit in January. Are there ideas that workforce development partners could bring forward for a conference program? https://form.123formbuilder.com/6850898/2026-moes-call-for-papers</p>	<p>Connect with Amy if anyone has ideas that they would like to present at the Maine Outdoor Economy Summit</p>
<p>3. Review next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule 2025 – 2026 meetings • Additional Requests 	<p>The schedule will remain the same for the next fiscal year: Fourth Wednesday at 2:00 PM, pending holidays, etc.</p> <p>Kim was asked to assist on planning for Maine Commission for Domestic and Sexual Abuse – How can MDOL contribute to the effort? Meeting again in September. Hoping the commissioner will give her a few months.</p> <p>Rob K. asked about the mission statement for the commission. Kim shared: “The Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse is established by statute and has existed since 1990. The Commission’s statutory charge is to advise and assist the executive, legislative and judicial branches of State Government on issues related to domestic and sexual abuse. The Commission may make recommendations on legislative and policy actions.”</p> <p>Sheila noted that the effort to get resources to employers is helpful, even if just making awareness.</p>	<p>Schedule COG meetings for FY 2025-2026</p> <p>Amy will connect Kim with Carolyn Delaney (Journey Magazine) and Elisabeth Snell (VAWA MEI programming at Catherine Cutler Institute)</p>

	<p>Krista mentioned BES bringing employers into domestic violence shelters to connect on workforce opportunities. Mini job fairs to include information on DV could be a resource.</p> <p>Rob K. thought maybe there could be career pathway/certification training for support professionals in this field.</p> <p>Sam mentioned reaching out to DV shelters for survey data or feedback from clients that shares what could have been helpful as resources from employers.</p> <p>Sheila recalled a training that cosmetologists completed to be informed reporters or a resource provider. Finding our Voices is a good local resource already doing this work.</p> <p>Jeff checked with an AI tool: How can a state department of labor contribute to a commission on domestic abuse?</p> <p>Amy mentioned the work of Carolyn Delaney (Journey Magazine) and Elisabeth Snell (VAWA programming at USM) who may have ideas or resources.</p>	
Adjourn		2:55 PM

July 23, 2025 @ 2:00PM