

Coastal Operators Group (COG) Meeting

Minutes

June 24, 2026

Agenda Item	Notes	Next Steps & Shared Resources
1. Welcome & review of the agenda	In attendance: Jeff Martinelli (Workforce Solutions) Sheila Muldoon (Workforce Solutions) Samantha Funk (Workforce Solutions) Joy Rodrigue (Workforce Solutions) Allen Lambert (Adult Ed Hub 7) Linda Greer (Adult Ed Hub 9) Barb Stoddard (New Mainers Resource Center, Adult Ed Hub 8) Kim Desso (MDOL Vocational Rehabilitation) David Grima (MDOL Bureau of Employment Services) Rene Smith (MDOL Bureau of Employment Services) Sue LeClair (MDOL Bureau of Employment Services) Dave Lorenzatti (MDOL Bureau of Employment Services) Amy Geren (OSO / Catherine Cutler Institute, USM) Robert Ducharme (Career Center)	May minutes will be posted on coastalcounties.org
2. Support cross-training between agencies	Amy Shared One-Stop Delivery System presentation (with updates based on feedback from previous meeting). Left off: Native American Jobs Program and the Second Chance Act due to limited access in the region. Feedback: better, shorter, there is a lot of info, so that is difficult. Should it be broken down into multiple trainings? The audience is career advisors, frontline staff, any new staff. Having a hard copy to refer to would be helpful. One resource that is on CCWI's website is one-pagers about each program located:	

	Coastalcounties.org>boards>One-Stop Operator>Training (These do need to be updated) but we can use these as a reference. Also talked about upcoming One-Stop certification process. This year will be a little bit different than previous years – hopefully more manageable. Amy will meet with each career center in person and go through the information gathering together.	
3. Updates from the group	Barb (via email): - NMRC's expansion grant is winding down. Individual contracts are ending on June 30 for my 2 colleagues in Portland and my colleague in Bangor (Portland NMRC specialist, Kate Points, was hired by Gorham Adult Ed as a program coordinator). NMRC's Lewiston representative will remain employed until 9/30. - NMRC received a two-year grant from ME Health Access Foundation that will begin on July 1. The grant will fund a two-track project: a healthcare workforce development track for adults age 55 and older, and strengthening existing workforce pathways for internationally trained healthcare professionals and multilingual adults entering the healthcare field for the first time. The grant will pay for the remaining unfunded portion of the statewide coordinator's role (Barb's position) and one additional FTE. Due to the nature of the work, the other FT position will not be housed in Portland - working on a job posting now and plan to have it posted in early July. - Chris Scott from the Portland Career Center has been on-site from 1-3pm on Wednesday afternoons to support PAE students and NMRC participants who are seeking employment. Hope to restart this offering when classes resume in the fall. - PAE's workforce department will be offering the following workforce classes for 2026-27: Medical Assistant Pre-Apprenticeship, Supported CNA, Health Office Certificate, Bridge to HVAC and Trades, Teller Training, Early Childhood Child Care. Here is the student interest form. - The Third Place is hosting a BIPOC Summer Interns and Professionals networking event with Maine Career Catalyst on 6/29 from 5:30pm-7:30pm. Jeffrey - AGC Summer construction academy	PAE's workforce classes student interest form Third Place is hosting a BIPOC Summer Interns and Professionals

	- This Way Onward program with Old Navy/Gap (workforce development program): looking for youth that may not naturally gravitate to retail. A few participants very serious about program. Includes warehouse, stocking, customer facing roles, etc, and a lot of support from the ground up. Amy: reminds me of a manager at Macy's who used to join the community advisory group for LearningWorks, who had worked her way through something similar. Jeffrey: she is very supportive of YouthBuild folks. Amy would like to connect Jeff with Mary O'Neil to talk about a national retail training program through the industry partnership. Linda: we connect students to national credentials (RISE UP - done remotely online). Could be done while they are on the job. Sheila - It is the end of our year – we are getting reports done, connecting with clients to make sure they have their training done - Still taking adults clients, but no \$ for training. Can provide everything else and get them ready for fall training. - Still have dislocated workers in training; Still have HVAC to trades; OJTs going on – some very successful for both youth and adult; some peer for youth (ie Solar) successes Amy: State workforce board has received notification of what the WIOA funds are, but the algorithm has not been applied yet to determine amounts distributed to local areas. Joy - Nothing new to report in Knox, Waldo, Lincoln; working on reporting, diving into caseloads to see who we can nominate for employee of the year/client of the year Amy: Annual Meeting (CCWI) on September 11th Freeport at the Hilton Amy: asks Linda to share updated information (will list as interested person) Dave - Springvale and Portland Career Centers - Joining meetings and groups that Renee was a part of – expanding network of partners/influencers Amy: created a tool for WFS to determine eligibility, i.e., whether they are included in a low-income Census tract. [email to the group with notes] Linda	National Retail Foundation: RISE UP
--	---	--

	• Graduation last month • Kittery Walgreens store manager is looking for employees who need an extra hand (similar program to the Old Navy program)– received a community partner award • Summer classes continue • Folks working on HiSETs Amy • Defended dissertation proposal • Graduation data from community colleges will be released by the end of the month for an analysis for her final dissertation	
4. Wrap-up and next steps		Adjourn 2:40

Next meeting:
July 22, 2026 @ 2:00PM