

Coastal Operators Group (COG) Meeting

Minutes

May 28, 2025

Agenda Item	Notes	Next Steps
<p>Welcome and Review 4/23/25 Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>In attendance: David Watts (Adult Ed Hub 7); Barb Stoddard (Adult Ed Hub 8/NMRC); Joy Rodrigue (Workforce Solutions); Sheila Muldoon (Workforce Solutions); Jeff Martinelli (Workforce Solutions); Samantha Funk (Workforce Solutions); Robert Ducharme (MDOL BES); Rob Klaiber (MDOL BES); Linda Greer (Adult Ed Hub 9) No edits to minutes suggested.</p>	<p>Post April minutes to CCWI's website.</p>
<p>1. Updates from the group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmatic updates/initiatives • Biggest challenge of the month 	<p>David Watts: Beginning retirement plan; will direct Maine Adult Education Association half time beginning later this summer. Adult Ed grants are ending June 30th and not sure what final numbers look like at this point. 30 CNA candidates are getting trained across four hospitals starting in June. Bridge to employment grant – “bridge” financing with WIOA partners.</p> <p>Barb Stoddard: At a national welcoming conference last week; event earlier in the month went well; Maine State Chamber of Commerce is thinking about running something to support ELL. Erica Harris is the interim director of ONA.</p> <p>Sheila Muldoon: Working with MDOL on a focused job fair for people graduating from Adult Ed training. Working with SMWI and Pamela on the childcare workshops to support women. Working with GA office in Portland to work with people to upskill with credentials, job search, etc.</p> <p>Joy Rodrigue: Ended employment recovery grant and enrolling into DW grant now from that population; CNA cohort with Adult Ed Hub 7; AGC construction cohort ending June 1 (women in corrections focus).</p> <p>Jeff Martinelli: AFL-CIO union construction academy, one person moving on to welding. Seven partner sites for summer workforce programs – Biddeford, Bonny Eagle, Sacopee Valley, South Portland, Portland, Gorham, Bath – approaching 100 participants.</p> <p>Samantha Funk: Just attended MANP community forum on executive orders and how they are affecting nonprofits. Will share information from follow-up email.</p> <p>Linda Greer: This summer crosswalking over to a new site - Maine Adult Education Association, so websites are in a state of change. Some programs are running over the</p>	

	<p>summer. Have an MOU with Kittery and Marshwood and Mainspring to host to host HiSET and ESOL classes.</p> <p>Robert Ducharme: Hiring event in Brunswick last week. Good attendance from employers with a lot of industries represented. Next event is June 18th. August will be in downtown Bath. CJ has been doing workshops at the Curtis library for high school kids looking for work. Worked with Sacopee Valley as well – soft skills, interviewing, etc.</p> <p>Rob Klaiber: First Wednesday career fair is coming up. Moses is retiring in June. Alex Richards will be stepping into that capacity (alex.richards@maine.gov). Partnering with SMWI. Always encouraging of partnerships. Moving forward with an MOU with Mainspring (https://www.mainspringcollective.org/) in Kittery, building out a schedule around Springvale open hours.</p>	
<p>2. OSO Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan • Direct Linkage • AI Summit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCWI is in the process of updating its local plan. The draft plan is available on CCWI’s website for public comment May 22 – June 2, 2025. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.coastalcounties.org/announcements/ • Direct Linkage Training Document has been updated to include WIOA-required methods of linkage. • AI Business Summit at the Roux Institute <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://rouxevents.northeastern.edu/AIBusinessSummit/portlandchamber 	
<p>Adjourn</p>		<p>2:46 PM</p>

June 25, 2025 @ 2:00PM