

Coastal Operators Group (COG) Meeting

Minutes

November 19, 2025

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Agenda Item	Notes	Next Steps
<p>Welcome and Review 10/22/25 Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>In attendance: Joy Rodrigue (Workforce Solutions) Sheila Muldoon (Workforce Solutions) Jeff Martinelli (Workforce Solutions) Sam Funk (Workforce Solutions) Robert Ducharme (MDOL BES) David Grima (MDOL BES) Rene Smith (MDOL BES) Kim Desso (MDOL Voc Rehab) Barb Stoddard (NMRC PAE; Adult Ed Hub 8) Linda Greer (Adult Ed Hub 9) Allen Lambert (Adult Ed Hub 7) Amy Geren (OSO / Catherine Cutler Institute, USM) – meeting facilitation & minutes</p> <p>Minutes reviewed and accepted; no edits suggested.</p>	<p>Submit October meeting minutes to CCWI for website posting.</p>
<p>Updates from the group</p>	<p>Rene: Portland and Springvale hiring events have gone well. Will start hosting a couple of employers onsite to make connections. Assistant manager will be hired soon. Rob (via Rene – audio issues): Hiring event in Brunswick yesterday went well. December 10th virtual hiring event. 2nd time doing the virtual event. David: Brief quiet season. Visit planned with Knox County government re: sending population to Two Bridges due to repairs needed at the Knox County prison. Will work with the lay-off process for those jobs. Held a social services event to bring services to unhoused population; didn't go as well as last year due to less outreach. RSU 40 Adult Ed director met onsite recently; hope to host a group from RSU 40 life skills class. Exposure to the CareerCenter will help facilitate familiarity with job-seeker services as they age out of services. Kim: Busy with interviewing for two positions. Allen: A couple of Adult Ed programs will be exploring more workforce programs, based on HVAC training in Oxford Hills. Long-term process – ~fall of 2026. Region 10 CTE is expanding to the</p>	<p>Amy has been in touch with</p>

	<p>Landing in Brunswick. Attended State Directors meeting in Augusta last week. Adult Ed offerings driven by needs in community. Recovery-focused partnerships and recovery-based work. Starting programs in correctional facilities with art programming to gain trust and interest of people in recovery; has shown successful entry into education and training programming.</p> <p>Linda: Also attended Adult Ed Director meeting in Augusta. Emphasis on getting out to employers to discover skills lags and to create opportunities. Adult Ed panel at Portland CareerCenter was informative.</p> <p>Barb: Attended the Adult Ed Directors meeting last week as well. Enjoyed Chris Quint’s presentation on WorkSource Maine; soft launching in mid-December. Kate Points attended the clean energy job fair last week; a number of employers interested in hiring. PAE’s Workforce Department is piloting a program for students to include workshops on resume review, mock interviews and completing job applications. NMRC also collaborating with Lola from DOL to create weekly employment support office hours and workshops, hoping to begin in December. PAE’s Supported CNA Integrated Education and Training (IET) program has been officially approved by the Maine Department of Education. PAE’s Teller Training Partner Kick-off Call is scheduled for Nov 19. The program starts in January and runs for two trimesters. NMRC’s internationally trained professionals licensing guides are in the final stage of being updated and should be ready for publication in early 2026. The first round of updates includes guides for physicians, nurses, teachers, electricians and lawyers.</p> <p>Sheila: Sam is partnering with Biddeford Adult Ed to do some OJT training; unique process for WFS. A lot of training cohorts are winding down for a variety of industries. Has connected with Ben from the Maine Apprenticeship office.</p> <p>Sam: Working on a Maine EPA waste diversion grant. Hoping to connect elements with renewable energy building infrastructure grant. Met with David Watts on a CNA cohort.</p> <p>Joy: Recent corrections release has increased workload for Emma – will be doing a presentation at the reentry center and will bring Michelle with her. [Amy added that Michelle impressed CCWI staff at the renewable energy fair in Rockland last month.]</p> <p>Jeff: YouthBuild cohort launched with 11 students. Career advisor is enrolling them into WIOA.</p>	<p>Carlyn Delaney with Journey Magazine about speaking with the One-Stop Partners on the topic of recovery-friendly workplace practices.</p>
Adjourn		2:40PM

December 17, 2025 @ 2:00PM