

Coastal Operators Group (COG) Meeting

Minutes

October 22, 2025

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Agenda Item	Notes	Next Steps
<p>Welcome and Review 9/24/25 Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>In attendance: Joy Rodrigue (Workforce Solutions) Sheila Muldoon (Workforce Solutions) Jeff Martinelli (Workforce Solutions) Robert Ducharme (MDOL BES) David Grima (MDOL BES) Linda Greer (Adult Ed HUB 9) Kim Desso (MDOL Voc Rehab) Barb Stoddard (NMRC PAE) Sam Funk (Workforce Solutions) Amy Geren (OSO / Catherine Cutler Institute, USM) – meeting facilitation & minutes</p>	<p>Send September minutes to CCWI admin for posting to website.</p>
<p>Updates from the group</p>	<p>Kim: New HR system (Prism); have two new rehab II employment opportunities, having a hard time filling at the salary offered (posting states they can work closest to their residence most days). Will be at the homeless Vets standdown. Bootcamp at schools. The Portland Vocational Rehabilitation office is seeking two candidates for Rehabilitation Counselor II positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCII - Portland Application - Closes November 5 • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcuQ2ea-99Q <p>Linda: Digital resource fair – observing there are a lot of needs in this skill area. Sheila: Goodwill no longer has clothing vouchers available for unenrolled job-seekers. WIOA enrolled clients are still eligible for support as needed, PPE, etc. CDL training clients need a permanent resident card minimally to get a license. New employment recovery grant for eligible dislocated workers. Jeff’s team wrapped up a huge AGC cohort over the summer. Have had to cut workforce internally – redistributing client-load amongst staff, including management. Jeff: New career advisor starting on Friday. Thank you to Barb for responsiveness regarding request for New Mainer clients. Sam: Managing caseloads due to career advisor turn-over.</p>	<p></p>

	<p>Barb: Adult Ed workforce programs this fall (medical, etc.); bank teller training lined up for January. Significant drop in in-take. Health Workforce Summit in Augusta and Adult Ed conference in Bangor last week.</p> <p>Joy: Sheila, Sam and Joy have had to take on caseloads.</p> <p>David: Clean Energy Hiring event in Rockland at Bartlette Woods senior living hosted by CCWI; was a good event to witness. Held a guided tour of a lobster trap making facility; open to hiring. Maine State prison system has requested services, and continuing to work with local facility. Seasonal hiring required significant, proactive planning, and employers who do so have better long-term outcomes with their workforce, i.e., tourism and hospitality industry. Some employers hope to tap into employment after arrival, but they need to engage for their own workforce. Email blast to businesses in area to share about MDOL BES services; shows success over time.</p> <p>Rene: Hiring event in Portland (11/5). Hiring for Portland and Brunswick offices. Hiring hold has been lifted. Portland office does take appointments, however, primary focus is getting customers in the door and meeting needs; potentially setting up following appointments.</p>	<p>Be sure to check the virtual career center for events, etc.!</p>
Adjourn		2:40PM

November 19, 2025 @ 2:00PM