

COASTAL COUNTIES WORKFORCE BOARD

Minutes of CCWB Meeting

MRRA Community Room - Brunswick Landing

June 13, 2024

Board Members in Attendance: Mary Ellen Barnes, Kate Bellmore, Sara Brinker, Samantha Fenderson, Kelly Flagg, Neil Greenberg, Cory King, Robert Klaiber, Tom Nickerson, Brie O'Malley, Peter Russell, Kate Van Savage, Jennifer Steeves, David Watts, Robin Wood

Board Members Absent: Chris Arbour, Derek Armstrong, Scott Christman, Justin Cotta Holmes, Charles Crosby, Jonathan DaSilva, Jennifer Kopp, Carrie Murphy, Lydia Sy, Jim Whitten

Staff in Attendance: Antoinette Mancusi, Executive Director; Jillian Sample, Deputy Director (outgoing); Heather Stott, Deputy Director (incoming), Valerie Odams, Executive Assistant; Kyle Olson, Senior Program Manager; Lynn Dondis, Program Manager; Amy Geren, One-Stop Operator

I. WELCOME / CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS – *Peter Russell, CCWB Vice Chair*

- A. CCWB Vice Chair Peter Russell welcomed everyone to the meeting at 11:00am. Attendance was taken and it was determined that quorum requirements were met.
- B. The CCWB was reminded that the CCWI Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, September 20th at the Hilton Garden Inn in Freeport. Invitations will be sent out shortly. Sponsorship opportunities are available.
- C. Meeting minutes of March 14, 2024 and April 11, 2024.
Consideration of Action to Approve the Draft Minutes of 3/14/24 & 4/11/24.
Motion: Cory King Second: Peter Russell Vote: All

II. Executive Director's Report – *Antoinette Mancusi, CCWI Executive Director*

- A. Antoinette thanked Jillian Sample for her hard work over the past 5+ years and wished her the best as she leaves to spend more time with her family. Antoinette also welcomed Heather Stott, who has accepted the Deputy Director position. Heather has been in Maine's workforce development industry for approximately 24 years and comes to us from our service provider, Workforce Solutions.
- B. CCWI has applied for two large grants – the Climate Ready Workforce Grant (~\$5.8 million) and the PREP-ME Grant (\$4 million). Unfortunately, we received word that with over 100 applications, our application for the Climate Ready grant was not funded. Word on the PREP-ME application is coming soon.
- C. PY24 WIOA Allocations – The repercussions of low unemployment rates have shown up in our allocations for this year with a drop of ~\$350k in funding.

III. WIOA Reauthorization

The US House of Representatives passed a bipartisan WIOA Reauthorization bill (HR 6655) on 4/10/24. Although a bipartisan effort, this bill has many flaws that will hurt the nation's WIOA workforce system. The most detrimental of these is the mandate that 50% of WIOA Adult and DW funds are allocated solely to training. It will result in less people served, reduction in critical support services, and will most greatly impact the most vulnerable populations. Concerned parties are encouraged to reach out to their congressional delegates.

IV. CCWI Program Overview – Kyle Olson, CCWI Senior Program Manager

BIG Implementation Update

This \$2 million project was awarded to CCWI in September of 2023 and will run through September 2028. It aims to train 315 participants in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors and supportive pathways. CCWI has partnered with various entities including education/training providers, employers, and industry/municipal partners to develop and implement career pathways in this sector.

Maine Refugee Career Pathways Program Grant Update

This \$750k DHHS grant was awarded to CCWI in September of 2022 to serve 125 recent Afghan refugees who came to the US after 7/31/21. As of this meeting, only 25 participants have been enrolled. Two factors that have contributed to low enrollment have been outmigration and lower referrals from CBOs. CCWI reached out to the FPO renegotiate the metrics down ~\$42k and to 50 participants served. The FPO approved the modification.

V. One-Stop Comprehensive Center Location Update – Thomas Nickerson, Director, UMA

The lease for the Coastal Counties One-Stop Center, currently at 190 Lancaster Street, Portland, is expiring. The CEOs voted in March to allow CCWI staff and Workforce Solutions to begin searching for a Portland-centric site for the OSC. The result is 56 Northport Drive, Portland. Talks are underway for a long-term lease for the location.

VI. One-Stop Operator Updates – Amy Geren, CCWI One-Stop Operator, Cutler Institute, USM

Regional Plan Update

Each Workforce Board must submit a Local Plan every 4 years that outlines a comprehensive plan on the current and projected needs of the local area's one-stop delivery system. CCWI's expires in 2025. CCWI has been working with Maine Center for Business & Economic Research and other partners to address the needs and concerns of partners, employers, and job seekers into the next plan for 2026-2030.

Virtual American Jobs Center

The Comprehensive & Accessible Reemployment through Equitable Employment (CAREER) National Emergency Grant was implemented to design and rollout a statewide virtual American Jobs Center called Work Source Maine Virtual CareerCenter. It is designed to bring all partner resources together in one online place and bridge the divide for those in Maine's rural communities. A September rollout is expected.

VII. Program Reports

A grant summary report has been included in the packets for each active grant.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

CCWI Vice Chair Peter Russell adjourned the meeting at 11:28a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Valerie Odams
CCWI Executive Assistant

APPROVED: 09/20/2024