

Coastal Operators Group (COG) Meeting

Minutes

April 24, 2024

Agenda Item	Notes	Next Steps
Welcome and Review 3/27 Meeting Minutes	In attendance: Sheila Muldoon, Jeff Martinelli, Susan LeClair, Linda Greer, Rob Klaiber	Add Joy and Sam to meeting invite
1. Retail Association of Maine: Rise Up program overview	Amy shared document from Mari O’Neil from the Retail Association of Maine	Share Retail Association document with meeting minutes
2. Updates from the group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmatic updates/initiatives • Biggest challenge of the month 	<p>Kim shared via email that Voc Rehab has the following positions open:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Rehabilitation Assistant 1 Rehabilitation Counselor I 1 Transition Rehabilitation Counselor II 1 Adult Rehabilitation Counselor II <p>Linda: Abbie, David, and Linda have been attempting to get oral health instruction coordinated with community cohesion.</p> <p>David: Making a lot of referrals for WIOA services and other grants. Have four Maine Health partnerships for training (CNA) – flows to community college enrollment to continue with nursing skills. Eye on the Midcoast youth program session has begun. The cohort is eight participants – don’t want more than ten. (Sheila has information and can update WFS youth team.) Participants earn \$200 grocery store gift card. Culinary onramp pilot is starting in two weeks – 60-80 hours, includes Serve Safe. Have restaurant partners in Knox County.</p> <p>Jeff: Not a lot different from last month. Summer work experience recruitment is underway. Referrals from partners demonstrate effectiveness.</p> <p>Sheila: Increase in youth enrollments in all six counties. Word of mouth is the best referral. Business services coordinators are doing well and are working together.</p>	

	<p>Grants are very busy and getting enrollments – 75 enrollments this month. Still seeing dislocated workers. Seeing a balance of grant fits. Still looking for a couple of career advisors.</p> <p>Susan: Rockland Career Center is seeing high numbers in attendance at job fairs. Community partners are referring. Working with Second Chance and Adult Ed partners. Possible to replicate in Midcoast (David)? Grass roots effort, so it could work well by collaborating with community partners.</p> <p>Rob: Portland is still seeing healthy traffic. May 1st, 9:00 – 12:00 is the next career fair. Employers are reporting good outcomes. Walmart application process is challenging due to English language limitations. Keisha Ivy is holding application workshops to support this challenge. Center is shifting to making appointments for job seekers versus walk-in model. Hoping for predictable foot traffic. Trying to alleviate pain-point of staff and customers.</p> <p>Working closely with York County CAP, Sanford Adult Ed. Might try to accommodate summer schedule different, i.e., align with food pantry schedule.</p> <p>Day three of a new hire – Veteran rep (Nick Taylor).</p> <p>Partnership with SBA, Brad Curry, is continuing. Hosting at local hotel to reach new Mainer population; mentorship from Colorado professionals.</p>	<p>Susan and David will connect to plan further.</p>
<p>3. One-Stop Center Certification Update</p> <p>4. Career Center / Affiliate Site Certification Process Review</p>	<p>Amy shared One-Stop Center certification steps and status.</p> <p>Amy reviewed process for the affiliate sites.</p>	<p>Amy to share Google Drive folders with affiliate site leaders; and confirm certification review team selection with CCWI.</p>
<p>Adjourn</p>		<p>4:08 PM</p>

Next Meeting: May 22 @ 2:00PM