

# Coastal Operators Group (COG) Meeting

## Minutes

February 26, 2025

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Agenda Item	Notes	Next Steps
<p>Welcome &amp; Review November meeting minutes</p>	<p><b>In attendance:</b> Rob Ducharme, (BES, Brunswick &amp; Lewiston CareerCenters); Joy Rodrigue (Workforce Solutions); Sheila Muldoon (Workforce Solutions); Joy Rodrigue (Workforce Solutions); Jeff Martinelli (Workforce Solutions); Mike Robinson (Workforce Solutions); Rob Klaiber (BES, Portland and Springvale CareerCenters); Kim Desso (Voc Rehab); Amy Geren, OSO (USM)</p>	
<p>Updates from the group</p>	<p><b>Rob Ducharme:</b> Busy career fair in Lewiston recently (~200 people). Big Lots reached out to meet with staff about employment and services.</p> <p><b>Mike Robinson:</b> Leaving Goodwill and starting as a branch manager at Empeople Credit Union. Focus on financial literacy.</p> <p><b>Sheila Muldoon:</b> Ending employment recovery grant. Clients have met goals and are co-enrolled in other programs.</p> <p><b>Jeff Martinelli:</b> Two new staff members from a quality group of applicants. Farm skills program for youth starts March 24<sup>th</sup>. Looking at 8 enrollments. Met with Lori Moses at the Cutler Institute who is trying to develop a Pre-apprenticeship.</p> <p><b>Kim Desso:</b> Hired five new staff members in January, possibly a couple more this spring.</p> <p><b>Rob Klaiber:</b> Staffing success – three veteran positions (James, Mike and Vicki). Spring calendar is filling up for job fairs – three in March, six in April. Several different focus, including lot of partnerships with community and government agencies. Looking to do some best-practice panel discussions at one. Veterans focus at another event in Westbrook.</p> <p><b>Amy Geren:</b> Is there something the COG could do to support all the new hires? One-Stop Partner system one-sheets are available on CCWI's website: <a href="https://www.coastalcountries.org/board-operations/">https://www.coastalcountries.org/board-operations/</a> → One-Stop Operator → Training tab</p>	<p>One-Stop Operator to reach out with an update request for these resources.</p>

	<p>Kim shared that a quarterly staff training time could be a good time for a panel presentation or Q&amp;A session with OSPs.</p> <p><b>Barb Stoddard</b> (New Mainers Resource Center / Portland Adult Ed) shared via email:</p> <p>Portland Adult Ed <a href="#">Workforce Dept</a> has applications due THIS FRIDAY (2/28) for the following programs that begin on April 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation Careers (preparation for the written CDL Class B permit)</li> <li>• Clean Energy Partnership - Heat Pump Installation Pre-Apprenticeship</li> <li>• Bridge to Healthcare Careers</li> <li>• Medical Assistant Pre-Apprenticeship</li> </ul> <p>See the application process <a href="#">here</a>. FMI contact Barbara Mascarenas at <a href="mailto:mascab@portlandschools.org">mascab@portlandschools.org</a>.</p>	<p>May 8<sup>th</sup> 1:00 – 2:30 PM at Portland CareerCenter staff training time. Amy will work with Kim to coordinate invites to OSPs.</p>
Work Source Maine Virtual CareerCenter Updates	<p>Feedback from user testing during the last week of January was positive; recommendations included less requirements for account passwords, and more clarity around site purpose, i.e., <i>not</i> job searching. Web developer is working on logic that is not returning relevant resources with user input.</p> <p>Scheduled live date is March 6<sup>th</sup> with full media launch the following week. Site will be accessed via MDOL’s BES site temporarily, then it will transition to a new site branded Work Source Maine Virtual CareerCenter.</p>	
Coming Up	<p>Maine State Chamber of Commerce event: Implications of Immigration Changes on Maine Employers: 2/27 @ 9:00 AM</p>	<p>Registration link - <a href="https://web.mainechamber.org/events/Implications-of-Immigration-Changes-on-Maine-Employers--736/details">https://web.mainechamber.org/events/Implications-of-Immigration-Changes-on-Maine-Employers--736/details</a></p>
Adjourn		2:35 PM

**Next Meeting: March 26, 2025 @ 2:00PM**