

# Coastal Operators Group (COG) Meeting

## Minutes

January 22, 2025

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Agenda Item	Notes	Next Steps
Welcome & Review November meeting minutes	<p><b>In attendance:</b> Linda Greer (Kittery &amp; Marshwood Adult Ed Director, HUB 9); Robert Ducharme (MDOL BES, Brunswick CareerCenter); Sheila Muldoon (Workforce Solutions); Barb Stoddard (New Mainers Resource Center, Portland Adult Ed, Hub 8); Joy Rodrigue (Workforce Solutions); Hannah Oliver (Manpower); Samantha Funk (Workforce Solutions); David Watts (Central Lincoln County Adult Ed Director, HUB 7)</p>	
Updates from the group	<p>Kim Desso (not in attendance):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeking 2 Counselors to work with youth</li> <li>• Welcoming Rehabilitation Assistant, William Safari, on February 10th along with Rehabilitation Counselor, Jeromy Strickland, who will work with adults. William will conduct outreach and provide resources to underserved communities.</li> </ul> <p>Robert Ducharme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hiring event in Brunswick last week. Lots of IT people showed up, which is unusual. Employers were happy with the event. Another event on February 19<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul> <p>David Watts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dental Assistant program is running on a grant. First eight people are onboarded with room for two more. Based in Rockland.</li> <li>• Highschool completion programs have already reached last year's totals five months before year end. Funding is being reduced, however.</li> <li>• Third CNA apprenticeship beginning – 28-30 people registered.</li> <li>• 80% of workforce training students are funded through CCWI grants</li> </ul> <p>Sheila Muldoon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Midcoast School of Technology is working with career advisors.</li> <li>• 4-5 cohorts with adult ed – Healthcare technologies, teller, green infrastructure</li> </ul>	
Manpower Presentation	<p>Client population sparked idea for a “reverse job fair”            “Talant on Tap” – Building Productive and Inclusive Workforces Together            Tapping into current workforce availability reality, available resources, and employment resources</p>	Share Manpower presentation with meeting minutes

	<p>Manpower is a franchise in the HR and staffing fields</p> <p>Barriers to employment: communication (language), culture, education (credentials, etc.), economic (transportation, childcare, basic needs), background (experience, immigration status)</p> <p>Examples of clients: Finance professional with 19 years of experience in the US; Engineering professional with 13 years of experience for a rail company (international); Manufacturing professional. Highly skilled experience among clients.</p> <p>Manpower has restrictions on hiring and there is a fee associated with temp and temp-to-hire positions.</p> <p>April 9<sup>th</sup> is the anticipated date to begin holding events.</p>	<p>Locations for event still TBD.</p> <p>Reach out to Hannah if the CareerCenters, Adult Ed offices, One-Stop Centers, etc. can accommodate and you are interested in collaborating.</p> <p><a href="mailto:hannah.oliver@manpower.com">hannah.oliver@manpower.com</a></p>
Work Source Maine Virtual CareerCenter Updates	<p>The project has reached the pilot testing phase, and recruitment efforts are underway. Job-seeker focus groups are full, except for Lewiston. Employer focus groups need recruitment. In-person participants will receive \$150 in a bank gift card. Recruitment materials attached.</p>	
Adjourn		2:55 PM

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