Coastal Operators Group (COG) Meeting

Minutes

July 24, 2024

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Agenda Item	Notes	Next Steps
Welcome & Review June meeting minutes	In attendance: Linda Greer (Adult Ed Hub 9); Rene Smith (MDOL BES/Brunswick CareerCenter); Rob Ducharme (MDOL BES/Brunswick CareerCenter); Mike Robinson (Workforce Solutions); David Watts (Adult Ed Hub 7); Rob Klaiber (MDOL BES/Portland & Springvale CareerCenters)	June Minutes: Joy hoping for grant funding to support -> move to Linda Greer's update
Updates from the group	Abbie (Adult Ed Hub 8) was conducting interviews for the New Mainers Resource Center (NMRC), so shared via email that the NMRC is gearing up to hire two new Specialists based in Portland who they hope will be fully onboarded by September. PAE's Assistant Director search is also in its final stages. Once this is finalized and the new Assistant Director is onboarded, they should be back to full capacity. Jeff (Workforce Solutions) was busy meeting with participants and enrolling in programming so could not attend. Mike (Workforce Solutions): Business coordinators are setting up work experiences. Outreach: email campaigns going out (~4-5K emails). The healthcare team is swamped – a lot of CMA/MA training going on. One Business Coordinator is having trouble finding entry level IT positions. * Linda (Adult Ed Hub 9): Received grant funding from the Governor's Energy Office: Clean Energy Partnership for clean energy work training to serve ~70 people for new Mainers or someone just entering the career pathway. Looking at similar grantees [as with BIG grant, etc.] can provide opportunities for braiding of funding, i.e., with WIOA. The recent multilingual learning conference showcased tools to support this population. David (Adult Ed Hub 7): Serving on the BIG advisory committee with Heidi Nolan and Linda Winton; braiding funding came up in the meeting yesterday. Longer training for these programs (> six months) should go to the community colleges versus Adult Ed. Challenging to make sufficient gains with English language learning with short-term grants. AFLA grants keep getting smaller. Midcoast hybrid CNA program is busy; braiding funding to support five Adult Eds and six hospitals. Just started third cohort with 18 students, averaging 20 people per cohort. Starting to make a dent in demand. The culinary program needed to be canceled because businesses backed out; will try again in the fall. Funding that supports a navigator is up, so they	*Rob D. noted Maine Health needs tech hires and will be at the Bath career fair next week. Tyler Technologies was also suggested as always needing analysts.

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	will lose that position. Meeting with Mike & Dave (Workforce Solutions) to determine how long	
	H1B grant funding can last.	
	Rob (MDOL/BES Portland & Springvale CareerCenters): Holding a career fair in partnership with	
	Adult Ed in Springvale. Coordinating with Kittery Community Center on a resource fair;	
	revisiting previous efforts that used to be held in vacant retail spaces. Fall series will likely be	
	2X/month until holidays. Maintaining monthly Portland job fairs; dip in participants (~65 job-	
	seekers, ~20 employers) recently. Continuing to work with Saco and Westbrook transitional	
	housing sites. Coordinating with Westbrook Police Department on a hiring event. Providing	
	basic needs at events, clothing, etc. – Lola coordinates. Veterans positions; career consultant	
	position open.	
	Rene (MDOL/BES Brunswick CareerCenter): Getting ready for Re-Employment Services	
	Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) monitoring. New employment training specialist in Brunswick	
	taking over business services. Bath waterfront event on Wednesday next week, 10:30 – 1:00.	
	Downtown Brunswick event soon as well.	
Affiliate Site	The five affiliate sites – Workforce Solutions' Belfast location, and the Brunswick, Rockland,	
Certification updates	Portland, and Springvale CareerCenters – are under review by the review committee. The	
	process should be complete by the end of next week. Certification materials for all sites,	
	including the Comprehensive One-Stop Center, will be sent to Chris Quint, State Workforce	
	Board director.	
One-Stop Center	The Comprehensive One-Stop Center is in the process of being relocated.	
Relocation updates	The CCWB authorized a relocation committee that oversaw the process of new site selection	
	according to One-Stop Partner needs.	
	A lease is being negotiated for a new location. The new site is at 56 Northport Drive, is 2,600	
	square feet, and is on outer Washington Avenue in Portland, so it meets secondary priority for	
	site location. The site meets the requirements shared via survey and small group meetings with	
	One-Stop Partners, and for ADA accessibility. A workers compensation advocacy office is also	
	located in the building.	
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