

Coastal Operators Group (COG) Meeting

Minutes

July 24, 2024

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Agenda Item	Notes	Next Steps
<p>Welcome & Review June meeting minutes</p>	<p>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)</p>	<p>June Minutes: Joy hoping for grant funding to support → move to Linda Greer's update</p>
<p>Updates from the group</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Jeff (Workforce Solutions) was busy meeting with participants and enrolling in programming so could not attend.</p> <p>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. *</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>*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.</p>

