

Coastal Operators Group (COG) Meeting

Minutes

May 24, 2024

Agenda Item	Notes	Next Steps
Welcome and Review 4/24 Meeting Minutes	In attendance: Amy Geren; Jeff Martinelli; Sheila Muldoon; Krista Campbell; Susan LeClair; Rob Klaiber; David Watts; Joy Rodrique; Samantha Funk; Rene Smith; Abbie Yamamoto;	
1. Conference share-out	<p>Inclusion Maine Krista attended but missed a lot; participated in the Colorado Office of New Americans presentation – local participants had a lot of good suggestions with education support. Rob attended. Inclusion is a goal toward making someone feel included.</p> <p>ClimateWork Maine Amy attended the conference; Mike and Tomas from Workforce Solutions had a table to connect on the building infrastructure grant.</p> <p>Maine Employer Summit Amy was part of the planning committee for the summit, and moderated a panel on <i>Creating Trauma-Informed Workplaces for Mental Health & Recovery</i> and was provided assistance for the <i>Creating Inclusive Workplaces for Older and Disabled Workers</i> Session. Susan assisted with the Innovation Hall. Youth were brought in to speak with employers and resource providers.</p>	
2. Updates from the group	<p>Jeff: Starting summer cohort with AGC – in South Portland alone they have 32 participants, may have up to 60 participants. New Mainers are struggling to get connected with good opportunities in the workforce. Has participants who attend PAE cultural classes to learn ‘technical’ language. Krista: Agrees that this is a challenge, especially English language acquisition. Noted that Maine Medical has a lengthy application process, for example. There are many multi-lingual job-seekers coming in for services at the Portland CareerCenter. They work a lot to bridge cultural gaps. Abbie: Challenge of looking at deficits among New Mainers is that we sometime miss seeing assets that non-English language speakers have. PAE offers cultural ‘jargon’ for specific jobs, i.e., medical, renewable energy. Re: ‘On time’ – Can vary depending on the industry as well as the culture. Sheila: Three new career advisors in the last three weeks. Starting the Building Infrastructure Grant.</p>	

	<p>Rob: Springvale CareerCenter has a new consolidated Veteran representative, who has a strong connection with the business community. Works for both Veteran job-seekers and with the business community.</p> <p>Portland is moving toward appointments, and they are tracking data. About 50% of appointments are showing up, but no-show appointment slots are filled with walk-ins. Staff feel things are more manageable. Ultimately are serving more people – clients are limited to 90 minutes. Jobs for Veterans State Grant is being audited tomorrow. This is the first time for most staff to be going through this process.</p> <p>Sam: ESL conversation – similar conversation at the Greater Portland Workforce Initiative meeting yesterday. AGC cohort at a Saco hotel – had support for construction-specific English, and all were hired.</p> <p>David: Outside of Greater Portland and New Mainer population, there are huge issues. WIOA money for Adult Education has been reduced to fund literacy programs. Struggling to find teachers to run cohorts; transportation challenges in rural Maine; housing costs for workforce. It is four times more expensive to run a program outside of Portland.</p> <p>Susan: Brunswick Career Center is collaborating with Rockland Career Center are working to connect with Midcoast recovery center for Second Chance programming.</p> <p>Rene: Shared staffing changes – John Wagner has retired and Rob Ducharme is in that role now.</p> <p>Abbie: PAE has a new director for the New Mainers Resource Center – Barb Stoddard.</p>	
3. Career Center / Affiliate Site Certification Process Review	<p>Rene, Rob, Sheila, Susan</p> <p>Labeling can differ between Word Docs. Use underscore in place of period when saving.</p>	Reach out to Amy with questions or challenge.
Adjourn		3:54 PM

Next Meeting: June 26 @ 2:00PM