I. Subcommittee Round-Table Updates:
   • Hospitality – August hotel reservations busy, many properties are full, however September remains unknown, bookings are really low because of the uncertainty of how schools are going to open. Also, cruise and MotorCoach tours that were a significant part of autumn business are not visiting. Exploring options for homeschool + vacation packages. Deposits that have normally been made on 2021 vacations and weddings are not being made because of the uncertainty – this is what keeps these businesses alive through the winter.
   • Retail – information gathering stage right now, to explore holiday shopping season, as an industry and educating consumers. How to manage level of crowds, festivals and events around holiday shopping, managing expectations. Shopping local vs. ordering online (Amazon) is a concern as well.
   • Financial institutions are keeping a close eye on deposit balances & 30-day delinquencies.
   • Restaurant – Portland restaurant scene seems stable the past couple of weeks, and remains stable throughout the week, not just on weekends. Staffing - summer college students are figuring out how to remain at work as they attend classes virtually from home. Labor crunch may not be as bad as it typically is after Labor Day.

II. DECD Economic Plan
   • Hospitality, Tourism & Retail references in DECD 10 Year Plan –
     1. Intro Letter from Commissioner Johnson
     2. Page 4, Undertaking a branding effort...
     3. Page 18, Some sectors are crucial to Maine’s economy but...
     4. Page 27, Action B5...
     5. Page 39, What makes a hub...
        a. Are there any ‘hubs’ missing?
   • Talent/Work Force – Hospitality, Tourism & Retail (HT&R)
• With a target goal of 75,000 new workers – how is progress going to be measured against the DECD plan? What are measurements?
• There is a different kind of workforce challenge for the Hospitality, Tourism and Retail sectors – The people moving to Maine and purchasing homes most likely aren’t the ones who will fill the workforce gaps in HT&R sectors.
• Other workforce groups to target:
  ▪ New Mainers
  ▪ Older workers/retirees – technology needed but would be easy to implement.
  ▪ High Schoolers
  ▪ Disengaged workers – 18-35, living at home

• Need to hear from programs that area currently in place:
  ▪ Suggestions that benefit the HT&R sectors
    • Jobs for ME Graduates
    • Dan Belyea - Chief Workforce Development Officer, Maine Community College System
    • Live & Work in Maine
    • Commissioner Laura Fortman, Dept. of Labor and/or Heather Johnson, DECD Commissioner

• **Innovation / Infrastructure**
  • Retail sectors have seen a lot of new growth in innovation technology – online stores, contact-less ordering, delivery, curbside, etc.
  • From March to current times – what are some of the changes according to the Executive Orders, State of Emergency, that can be changed permanently, i.e. curbside pickups, food & beverage To Go, outdoor/street dining, other business regulations that can change to benefit the HT&R.
  • There is a piece of Agriculture that can also support HT&R, foods that people are looking for, as food preferences shift, farm to table.
  • Are there changes that have been/could be made with the restrictive nature of the work rules around young people/high schoolers.

• **Shift to Winter Tourism**
  • How are winter businesses, industries preparing?
    ▪ Possible updates from:
      • Maine Snowmobile Association
      • Ski Maine Association
      • Ski Areas – Sunday River, Sugarloaf
      • Others?

**NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, August 19th- 9:00am**