

**East County One Stop  
Board of Directors/Steering Committee Meeting  
Friday, August 30, 2002  
DHS Dept. of Vocational Services – 305 NE 102<sup>nd</sup>, Suite 200  
8:15 to 10:30 AM**

Attending: JoAnn Espinosa – Springdale Job Corps, Chris Bekemeier – FamilyWorks, Catherine Zimmerman – Resource Connectors, Helen Estrada – Human Solutions, Lennea Cordray and Karen Cusick – Gresham Employment Office, Patti Swanson – Janus Youth Programs and Eastwind Center, Jesse Kappel – Vocational Rehabilitation Services – DHS, Sheri Luru – Youth Employment Initiative, Deb Meihoff – City of Gresham, Gwen Nothwang – MHCC and Workforce Connections, Joan Pasco – ECOS project manager.

**Agenda and Meeting Notes:**

Welcome and Introductions – around the table – share the latest and greatest; ask for partner assistance with programs or funding; update information that needs to be distributed to ECOS partner organizations; any web page updates?

**DHS – VR Services:** The DHS reorganization continues, services will be centralized with integrated staff in several areas, will have a greater presence in the STS office on 122<sup>nd</sup>, still working on a co-located site in the Rockwood area, state budget impact continues to be an unknown; still no word from the state on how food stamp funds will be re-distributed and how this will impact local services.

**Gresham Employment Office:** The employment department operates (with the exception of the Child Care division) on Federal funds and payroll taxes. The across the board cuts being discussed at the state level will only apply to the Child Care budget. However, federal funds have been reduced and more reductions are expected. There may be some resources available from the Reed Act Funds – there is statewide discussion about how these funds can/will be used. The office is registering about 700 new claimants per week, down from nearly 1400 a few months ago. Many people are on extended benefits. The department has many management changes, both at state and regional levels. Currently there are three management positions open in the Portland Metro area. DeDrae Cottrell was promoted to regional manager, replacing Nancy Shire who recently retired. Virginia Warren is doing a weekly talk show on the local Hispanic radio station promoting job availability and workforce services to the Latino population – each Tuesday afternoon. This may be an opportunity for ECOS partners to convey information to this population as well. Lori Rose is now out-stationed full time at Workforce Connections – the east county certified one stop resource center.

No **Job Shop Job Fairs** are scheduled until the economy becomes more robust. There will still be one large metro area job fair at the World Trade Center on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

The **Community Justice Office** is presenting a Back to School Fair in the Rockwood Fred Meyer parking lot on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Several ECOS partners will be there with information and materials.

**The Gresham Employment Council** will hold a breakfast meeting on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 AM at Bogies; presentation will be on employee discipline.

**Janus Youth Programs/Eastwind Center:** Agencies relying on county funds will likely see an adjustment depending on what cuts are made at the state level. Their annual “Evening of Excellence” will be held on September 12 at the Eastwind Center Campus from 5 to 8 PM. All are invited and welcome to attend. No charge, music, art, cultural displays, good food and lots of fun. There will also be a Back to School Celebration resource fair for Davis Elementary School students and parents.

**Workforce Connections:** Currently experiencing large numbers at their orientation/information sessions, although jobs and hires continue at a steady pace. Many Portland Public School custodians are using the site/services to seek new employment opportunities. Funding frustrations are high as grants and contracts have been slow to materialize. They could experience a downsizing of their own staff if some of this funding does not become available before Jan. 2003.

WSI is running a free CNA training program at Providence in NE Portland. The training is available for persons over the age of 18 who reside within the PDX city limits. The Dislocated Worker Program is also doing free CNA training – call Gwen Nothwang at 503.252.0758 for more information.

The state extension service will conduct a workshop on how to stretch your budget – economizing on grocery/food prep, etc. at Workforce Connections on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 6 to 7:30 PM.

**Resource Connectors (RCL):** Their organization is feeling the effect of the economy down cycle as people re-think how they spend funds for elder and family care. Many are choosing facility based care as a cheaper option than in-home care. RCL continues to monitor and anticipate the In Home Licensing procedure being rolled out by the state – expect enactment in October with a four-week compliance deadline for organizations that employ in-home care givers. (However, there is no monitoring or enforcement piece in place.) They are recruiting for a MSW – clinical position and are especially interested in someone with geriatric experience, salary range \$35,000 to \$52,000 DOE.

**Human Solutions:** A new Executive Director will be introduced to staff later that morning. Helen thanked the ECOS partners that sent support letters for their successful rest assistance grant. PP & L also has energy assistant funds for persons who live in mid-county area. They have hired a new Energy Coordinator, Thomas Ayala. Requests for food baskets are high – and they have limited ability to help with these requests.

FamilyWorks: They received a small grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation – to hire a PT Spanish speaking person to counsel Latino children and families, working with area middle schools. Sheri Luru with YEI is out-stationed in their office on Tuesday and Thursday, and a STS volunteer is there 20 hours a week. Both have been valuable resources for FamilyWorks.

The **Parkrose Community Builders Club** have completed a project and published a book. The project entitled “Parkrose Past and Present Oral History” engaged high school students to interview community elders and record their recollections of the community and its history. The official unveiling of the book will take place at Rossi Farms Harvest Festival on Sept. 7 at 7 PM. (The festival is from 5 to 9 PM) They are seeking other

outlets to showcase both the work of the project and the history book. This is the same group that presented their Community Asset Survey to the ECOS board two years ago.

**Youth Employment Institute:** Sheri is at FamilyWorks on T-Thurs and at Eastwind Center M-W-F. She also is working with all area schools, and coordinating youth employment workshops with Project Yess. The first workshop was very successful; the city of Gresham donated meeting space and pizza for the kids – arranged by Richard Fung with the city HR dept. They are planning a second workshop, tentatively for September 19<sup>th</sup>, again at the City of Gresham conference room.

**Springdale Job Corps** – JoAnn Espinosa welcomed ECOS and partners to the campus on October 4<sup>th</sup> for the ECOS Fall Celebration and board meeting; this is also graduation day at Springdale, and campus tours will be available for those attending the meeting. A new Electrical Trade program is being initiated and a new facility has been completed. An Instructor for the program is being recruited.

**Rockwood Urban Renewal** update – Deb Meihoff, urban planner with the city of Gresham presented an update on the Rockwood Urban Renewal planning and approval process. She distributed several handouts, which are available at [www.ci.gresham.or.us](http://www.ci.gresham.or.us) (for ECO partners not able to attend the meeting.) The next community workshop is on October 5<sup>th</sup>. The final plan will be presented to the city council on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Gresham requires public approval in order to use Tax Increment Financing as an Urban Renewal Tool and this issue will be on the May 2003 primary ballot. A citizen organized campaign committee has been established to educate voters on how Rockwood is connected to the rest of the community and the importance of investing in the infrastructure of this part of Gresham. If passed by voters, funding will first be available in July of 2004. They are designing a 25-year plan – which means the tax increment revenue will be available until 2028. The city has several people available to make presentations to groups and meetings as part of their outreach. If you are interested, contact the information hotline at 503.618.3201

### **Old Business:**

The minutes from June 29<sup>th</sup> were approved as emailed to the board.

**ECOS Summer Celebration Picnic Report** – Attendance exceeded 80 at this year's picnic. The games and music were well received. Many thanks to Karen for arranging the vocalists and to Eastwind Center for use of their campus – a perfect venue for Extreme Croquet!! We will plan to repeat this event on an annual basis. To sum it up: "A good time was had by all".

**Worksystems, Inc. report** – Jesse Kappel, wsi board member announced that Bob Visdos was hired as the new CEO – and will begin soon. He is a nationally recognized speaker and presenter on the Workforce Investment Act and is moving to Portland from the east coast. The wsi website has information about the status of the YO funding and center.

### **Status reports on current grant applications:**

**Regional Investment Board application** – This application was submitted in April. August 28<sup>th</sup>, the board awarded ECOS \$50,000 to fund the International Marketplace

project. The other project application for Home Based Business support was not funded. We will continue to seek other funding venues for that project. Contracts (with fiscal agent, PDC) will be executed in September with project activity for the marketplace to begin October of 2002 with completion by June 30, 2004. Other East County applications to receive funds include: \$50,000 for the Center for Advanced Learning, (Mt. Hood Consortium) \$36,600 for Rockwood Urban Planning, and \$54,222 for a transportation and telecommunications corridor assessment (City of Gresham) Dept. of Justice application with Janus Youth Program is still pending. No word yet that these funds have been allocated to any applicants. Dep. Of Education – Partners with Industry – IAM CARES and ECOS – Decisions are expected in September. 79 projects will be approved – odds are good that the ECOS application will be funded.

### **Current Project reports:**

**East County Health Care Industry Forum** – Catherine Zimmerman reported on progress on the ECHCIF and CNA Capacity projects. Important work is being accomplished, meetings are well attended and there is significant industry support. The project collaborates with many other local and statewide initiatives including the state CNA Special Task Force and the Governor’s Task Force on Health Care. A new, competency-based approach to CNA curriculum is being piloted at Springdale and New Care Directions. Curriculum for non-CNA caregivers is also being developed and is designed to be compatible with the CNA curriculum. Caregivers will then be able to receive credit for prior learning if they elect to enroll in CNA training. MHCC has developed a re-entry training program for RN’s that has some distance learning components and a strategy to work with clinic sites in home areas for persons using the distance learning option. The curriculum has been developed for the nurse educator-training program. 6 to 8 individuals will participate in the first class (pilot) in October and November. Next steps include a retention strategy for health care workers and seeking continued funding for these initiatives after January 2003.

**Bi-lingual Job Coach Institute** – Joan Pasco announced that the web page for the 2002 graduates should be ready soon. She will be making application to Verizon for scholarship funds for the 2003 session that is scheduled to begin in January. This is still in a pilot stage and each institute will help refine the curriculum and class format.

**Weed and Seed** – Patti Swanson and Karen Cusick reported on the Weed and Seed initiative. Still no word on final approval of the ECOS application, but approval is anticipated, if not this year, in 2003. The by-laws have been adopted. The DA’s office is funding a case manager that will be working with all three area Weed and Seed sites in their community court program. A community court will be established in Rockwood; however, it will only serve the adult population.

### **ECOS Committee Reports:**

Finance/Management – Jesse, Gwen and Catherine – The board approved the following invoices: \$4650 – Resource Connectors – CNA grant and Jim Brinkman – Accounting services.

Integrated services office – Rockwood - no meeting in August, still waits contract letters from key tenants, including DHS.

Marketing – Patti and Catherine – best marketing we have right now is word of mouth and the media. Lennea suggested putting all newspaper articles on our web site.

**10:00 - New Business:**

The board asked for interested persons to participate in a task force to work on long-range funding and future project grants. Jesse (After March 2003), Patti, Catherine, Gwen and Chris indicated an interest in participating. The first meeting of this newly formed Future Focus Team will be at Workforce Connections at 3:30 PM on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Initial charge for the group is to help the board find exciting projects that meet gaps in our collective ability to serve the community. Anyone who has an interest is invited to attend the meetings of this team.

Planning for Fall Celebration – October 4<sup>th</sup> at Springdale Job Corps – special board meeting open to staff from all agencies, and interested parties. Suggestions include: Do a press release to attract media representation; highlight 2002 projects, partner organizations, future focus for the organization etc.

Miscellaneous: Catherine suggested that more industry partners be encouraged to become involved on the ECOS board. She has an individual from the Health Care Forum that she would like to ask to participate. Catherine will continue the conversation with this individual. The Finance and Management Team will put this issue on their September meeting agenda as well as discussion on a process to engage others and find meaningful ways for them to be active partners.

The next meeting is October 4<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM to 11:30 AM at Springdale Job Corps. Brunch will be provided.