

ECOS Board Meeting Wednesday, February 23, 2005  
Gresham Employment Department – 19421 SE Stark  
9 AM to 11 AM

## MEETING NOTES

**Participants: Debbie Foote – DHS, RuthAnne Cox-Carothers – Oregon Easter Seals, Teddy Forester – OVRS, Kay Lopez – Workforce Connections/MHCC, Derek Beaudry – Human Solutions, Karen Cusick – Employment Department, David Dragavon – Aging and Disability Services, JoAnn Espinosa – Springdale Job Corps, Brenda Butler – Rockwood Weed and Seed, Joan Pasco, facilitator.**

### **Old Business:**

The Minutes from January 26 Board Retreat were approved as presented.

The Board approved revisions to the ECOS Mission Statement. The new mission statement reads:

ECOS is an alliance of over 35 workforce and community partners convened to foster a systemic and holistic approach to workforce and community development through information and data sharing, prioritization of service need, encouraging efficient delivery of services, joint resource development and fund procurement, and collaborative problem solving.

### Vision statement:

It is this system approach that utilizes the expertise of ECOS partner agencies to:

- Increase the skill and ability levels of the East Multnomah County workforce that enhances business operations for employers.
- Reduce the number of East County families living in poverty through the development of individual skills and removal of barriers that prevent greater employment opportunities.
- Jointly identify solutions to gaps in the workforce and community development systems and cultivate a greater understanding of complex community problems that require a holistic approach.

By-laws review – recommended changes: The Board reviewed and is recommending the following changes to the organizational by-laws:

- Allow for partners to use a proxy vote
- Allow board decisions via an email vote.

Other related issues discussed included: clarification of organizations entitled to appoint a seat to the board and an effort to obtain new agreements from agencies joining since 2000.

Current/active board members for 2005 are listed below.

Organizations that were represented on the charter board, but are no longer active include: SMS Services and the MC Heath Dept – open seat since Carol Cole retired. The following school districts Gresham-Barlow, Centennial, David Douglas, Parkrose, and Reynolds (also Alpha HS) elected to have one of their school work coordinators represent all schools – Fred Rau had this role prior to his retirement. Then Renee Sessler assumed this role under the umbrella of the Mt. Hood Education Consortium. She has moved to Boise and no one has taken her place. FamilyWorks and Eastwind Center – both agencies have been closed.

New agencies added since incorporation in 2000 include: IRCO, Mercy Corps, Goodwill Industries, and Rockwood Weed and Seed.

Name	Year board tenure began	Organization/Affiliation
Marian George	2004	At-large
Fred Rau	2004	At-Large
Patti Swanson	2000	At-large
Carolyn Morrison	2000	Child Care Development Services
Ron Hall	2004	David Douglas School Dist
Debbie Foote/John Filar	2003	DHS – Self-Sufficiency
RuthAnn Carothers	2002	Easter Seals Cares Oregon
Mae Cha/Anne Peterson	2004	EC and MC Caring Communities
Gloria Wiggins	2001	El Programa Hispano
Lani Staab	2004	Goodwill Industries
Jean DeMaster/Derek Beaudry	2002	Human Solutions
Victoria Libov/Hanh Ly	2002	IRCO
David Dragavon	2000	MC Aging & Disability
Lonnie Roberts/Gary Walker	2000	MC Commission
Dave Landis	2000	MC Dept. Comm. Justice
John Haines/Paige Coleman	2003	Mercy Corps Northwest
Kay Lopez/Kelli Walker	2004	MHCC – Workforce Conn.
Robert Brown/Karen Cusick	2000	OR. Employment Dept.
Angelique Kaufmann	2001	OR. Human Develop. Corp
Kim Rush/	2004	Portland Habilitation, Inc.
Brenda Butler/Maura White Cioeta/Kathy Minden	2003	Rockwood Weed and Seed
JoAnn Espinosa	2000	Springdale Job Corps
Teddy Forester	2004	VRD
Sheri LuRu/Jake Smith	2003	Youth Employment Initiative

**A formal vote to accept by-law changes will be on the agenda for the next ECOS Board meeting – April 6, 2005**

**Budget/finance report** – refer to finance report – attached, separate excel doc. Members were reminded that their annual ECOS partner contributions are due.

**New Business:**

Future trends – discussion on implications

Casino in the Gorge: extensive discussion on the implications of this development on East County. All partners can expect some impact. There will likely be more hotel jobs and transportation opportunities for new shuttle businesses. We should try to build a partnership with our counterparts in Hood River and Cascade Locks.

Medical care/health care insurance costs: as these costs continue to escalate, fewer employers can or will offer comprehensive coverage. Those on the OHP will be OK, and those with high income will be OK...the moderate to middle income families will be impacted the most. There are new lower cost options emerging – perhaps ECOS could sponsor a workshop to generate discussion on these and how people can tap into them. We could also add a directory of these services to our web site.

**Monthly Discussion Topic: Triage concept from retreat – ideas and resources to implement**

Triage for the clients served by all partners that are “unemployable”: the time all partners spend with these clients is costly. Perhaps we could collectively contract out services to these few individuals and find the funding within our own budgets. First option – make certain they continue to pursue getting on SSI – if they are denied once, they may still be eligible with support from someone that knows the system. We need to dedicate time at each ECOS Board meeting to generate ideas. *David suggested we each bring a profile of someone we work with that falls into this category to the next meeting.*

**Project reports**

**Rockwood International Marketplace** – Joan reported on the CBDG application with the City of Gresham – a request to fund staff for the marketplace for the coming year. Vendor training will be held in April and May. This training is for all outdoor market vendor businesses – not just those selling at the RIM.

CEO/Joli project with Easter Seals: Ruthanne reported on the CEO Boot Camp and registered participants. She is now putting applicants on a waiting list as she has over 60 interested.

**Regional reports:**

**WSI and state workforce:** wsi is seeking a new President as Bob Visdos has submitted his resignation.

**Workforce Connections:** Will be hosting their annual Business Appreciation Breakfast in March.

Gresham Employment Office: Their remodel is about completed. Over 35 people are attending each of the twice-weekly orientation sessions and getting registered in IMatch. OHDC now has a representative in the office on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Other: Debbie announced that Metropolitan Family Services received a grant to help people with car repairs.

Next Board Meeting: April 6, 2005 (Due to Spring break)

Finance and Management Team: Monday, March 14 11:30 at Applebee's 102<sup>nd</sup> and Halsey