

ECOS Board Meeting Wednesday, July 26
Vocational Rehabilitation Services – East Office
305 NE 102nd, Suite 200 9 AM to 11:30 AM

MEETING NOTES:

PARTICIPANTS: Catherine Todd – At-Large, Kay Richards – Avita and Associates, Joan Pasco – Child Care Development Services, Easter Seals Oregon and Project Manager, Connie Foster – OVRs, Natalie Mitchell – Rockwood Weed and Seed, Karen Hubbard – Linfield School of Nursing, Marian George – At Large, Derek Beaudry, Lyvbov Tsinovkina, and Anna Volkova – Human Solutions, Laura Camocho – Portland Habilitation Center.

Introductions and welcome: Partner reports that are not on the agenda – news, events, and announcements.

Portland Habilitation Center – recruiting for Janitorial jobs, attended the Hispanic Metro Trade Show held on July 25th – gave it high marks. Hunter-Davidson, a local contracting firm is providing paid apprenticeships with hiring incentives.

Human Solutions Peer Support Workforce Development program provides training, ESL assistance, and services that include vocational support, and job coaching. They have about 57 persons from many countries enrolled in the program. The **Multnomah County Medical Van** is at the Human Solution Office each Friday providing **FREE medical services** to low-income and people without insurance. 8:30 to 4 PM each week.

Reed College is again offering a FREE college-level humanities course for adults living on low incomes. The information was distributed; enrollment is due by August 18th. 25 people will be accepted for classes beginning in September. Applicants must read and write English fluently and submit an enrollment application that includes a written essay. Former participants have described this project as a “life changing experience”. Contact Jennifer Allen at 503.241.0543 or email at jallen@oregonhum.org for more information.

The Minutes from June 28th board meeting were approved as presented

Regional reports:

WSI and state workforce; Workforce Connections; Gresham Employment Office – no reports. This is the week that Workforce Connections moves into the Gresham Employment Office and they become collectively, “Worksource Portland Metro East”. The logistics of the moving made it impossible for any of these partners to attend today’s meeting.

Project reports

OECDD MVIP – Market Vendor Incubator Project: The OECDD has approved a change in the scope of work for the Market Vendor Incubation Project. The change added \$7000 to the approved project budget and will incorporate outreach to rural communities. A project team recently spent three days in southern Oregon doing retail consultation for the communities of Merrill, Malin and Tully Lake. They reviewed retail practices, store appearance and merchandizing and then presented findings at a three-hour workshop for local merchants. The project will also make training available for local retailers and offers one-on-one coaching for persons selling in local farmers and other outdoor markets. The project is also working with 6 women who sell Tamales in local markets. The MVIP coaching has resulted in a significant increase in sales through expansion of their presence in markets, price adjustments and new menu items. ECOS developed the MVIP training modules for the Rockwood International Marketplace and is now making this resource available to people with an interest in micro-enterprise, small retail or outdoor market businesses. Joan Pasco and Don King are the primary ECOS project managers working with this project.

CEO/JOLI project with Easter Seals: This project will sunset in February 2007. JOLI = Jobs for Low Income Persons. This is a self-employment Micro-Enterprise strategy to determine if low-income people can be more successful with small business start-ups when attached to a project that provides coaching, training and support. There are 56 active businesses enrolled that are receiving business coaching, workshops, and other support services including access to start-up business loans. No new participants are being enrolled. This is a demonstration project with a fixed number of participants that have been able to access program services for a minimum of 9 months. Businesses enrolled range from beauticians, contractors, home repair, cleaning services, florists, consultants, professional services, landscapers, computer repair, graphic design, web page design, marketing, custom sewing, food products, solar energy and inventors. ECOS, CCDS, Mercy Corps NW and Easter Seals are the partners for the CEO project. Easter Seals serves as the fiscal agent; CCDS and Mercy Corps manage loan funds, and ECOS provides project management.

Rockwood Weed and Seed – Natalie provided the following updates for Rockwood Weed and Seed and “Rockwood Makes Me Want to Go MAD” – Make A Difference:

- August 1st – National Night Out at Red Sunset Park 6 to 8:30 PM – Free hot dogs, ice cream and lemonade; many public safety and community groups will be present.
- August 2nd: Rockwood Business Coalition Meeting
- August 5th – Nadake Renewal Community Project: 9AM to 2 PM at Nadaka Park SE 178th and Glisan or SE 176th and Pacific. Park restoration and clean up project. Lunch provided. Bring gloves, clippers and rakes. RSVP to Darrin Marks at 503.224.7800 #131
- August 26th: Rockwood Click In event at Peace Mennonite Church. Table sponsors are being solicited. Social Service groups are welcome to participate.
- September 9th – Back To School Fair and grand opening of the Gresham Police Satellite office in Rockwood (Fred Meyer lot at 18st and Burnside)

The July 23rd Clean-up Event resulted in 3 large dumpsters filled with trash that was hauled away. They have received a VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) grant. A room in the Community Policing center will be set aside for tax assistance. 6 computers and a printer will be available. Volunteers are needed.

DBA – Differently-Abled Business Association – United Way Project: Avita and Associates are providing project management for this new project. A part-time office assistance has been hired. Program activity will begin in September. Outreach to partners will begin soon for referrals to the project. The project will provide resources, training, networking, and sales assistance to businesses and self-employed persons who have a disability.

SSP – Senior Safety Pin Project – United Way: Marian George is the manager for this new project in partnership with Linfield School of Nursing and Human Solutions. Home bound senior citizens will be connected with senior nursing students – see below:

East County One Stop Project Senior Safety Pin is seeking participation by 48 eligible east county seniors who live alone and who would benefit from receiving twice-monthly in-home visits by a senior nursing student from Linfield School of Nursing. The purpose of the visits will be to help the senior manage his or her medications, help assess and recommend any changes needed in the home environment and provide social interaction. For details about the program, including location limitations, please contact Marian George, East County Senior Safety Pin Project representative at 503-233-2398 or e-mail your request for information to mariangeorge@juno.com. East County One Stop is a cooperating group of social support providers. Senior Safety Pin is a 1 year pilot project made possible through a United Way grant awarded jointly to East County One Stop, Linfield School of Nursing and Human Solutions, Inc.

MIPO: Micro-Enterprise Inventors Program of Oregon – ECOS has been awarded a grant from the Lemelson Foundation to fund a new project to support innovation and inventors. This is

also a strategic alliance with the National Inventors Association. August is National Inventor's Month and will be a good time to announce the beginning of this new program. Avita and Associates with Kedma Ough and Kay Richardson as project managers will direct this new program.

Budget/finance report – refer to finance report – attached, separate excel doc.

2006 ECOS partner contributions are still due – If you need a second invoice, please let Joan know.

Contributions have been received from Springdale Job Corps, Mercy Corps, MHCC, Goodwill Industries, Rockwood Weed and Seed, Easter Seals Oregon, OVRs, and Portland Habilitation Services – Thank you all for your prompt response – and a gentle reminder to other partners – your support is needed to cover the 501 c3 obligations for our organization. There are certain expenses that cannot be covered from grant funded projects.

Pending grants: The following grants are still pending.

- JOLI grant with Easter Seals Oregon, CCDS and Mercy Corps – application for 2006 funds to replicate the CEO project in Woodburn and Salem. (Fall)
- SCSEP – collaboration with Easter Seals (July)
- Growing Tomorrow's Parents Today – CCDS, ECOS and PSD – (August or September)

New Business:

September is Workforce Development and Small Business month – events and activities will be announced as they become available.

Other items of interest? Trends that may have implications for partners?

Adult Day Care: By the year 2010 there will be more full time workers needing adult day care for dependent elders than those needing child care. Over 30% of the current workforce have primary care responsibility for an elder dependent. This growing trend has become costly to employers due to loss of productivity due to absenteeism and distractions from the workplace. There are only a few centers in the Portland area that serve elderly people needing care during the daytime hours. This is a different need from services provided by Adult Foster Care or skilled nursing facilities. Families are increasingly seeking resources from 8 to 5 for people no longer able to live alone, but not needing to go into assisted living. In many cases, they live with their adult children who are their primary care givers. When both adults are working, they need to make some accommodations for daytime care. This is becoming a critical workforce issue that will need to be addressed by ECOS and its partner agencies.

Meeting schedule for summer:

Finance and Management Team: Monday, August 14th - 11:30 at Sunny Hans – Downtown Gresham

Board Meetings: 4th Wednesdays – 9 AM to 11:30 AM

August 23 – Portland Habilitation Center, September 27 – Gresham Main City Park – CCDS hosting