

**ECOS Board of Directors/Steering Committee**  
**Friday, June 28, 2002**  
**8:15 to 10:30 AM – DHS – Office of Vocational Services**

Present: Jesse Kappel - VR, Catherine Zimmerman – Resource Connectors, Gwen Nothwang, Kelli Walker – MHCC Workforce Connections, Maren Peterson – PHC, Ruthanne Cox-Carothers – IAM CARES, Patti Swanson – Morrison/Janus Youth and Eastwind Center, John Filar – DHS – Self-Sufficiency, Alison Duffy – El Programa Hispano, Chris Bekemeier – FamilyWorks, David Dragavon – MC Aging and Disability Services, Joan Pasco – ECOS Project Manager. Guests: Liliana Talanco, Ivan Muenguia Tadeo, and Maria Martinez Duenas

Partner updates:

Eastwind Center phone system is in transition, in the interim, reach Patti at 503.233.6090. All voice mail is going to one central location for about a month until they convert to a new system.

State Youth Summit was held on Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, Patti attended. There was only one youth in attendance from Region 2, we will be assisting with the organization of a few more local meetings and will want to engage more of our young people in this format.

Workforce Connections is waiting for contracts to be signed, but both 1 Stop and DWP have been awarded and will still be in business on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

DHS – waiting for work on the budget from Salem – stalled until they know what to expect.

Portland Habitation Center – hiring 300 janitors, recruiting from the non-disabled as well as the disabled populations for these positions. As these are school based janitors, background checks will be done, and applicants must be documented workers.

IAM CARES will be developing a partnership to create a wholesale bakery business to provide transitional work experience for disabled persons.

Resource Connectors – they are recruiting for an administrative Exec. Assistant and seeking 3 CNA's or CMA's also have an opening for one RN.

**Guest Presentation:** Maria Martinez Duenas and Liliana Talancon with Centro Mexicano, [1224 SE Morrison St, 503.946.0100 and Ivan Muenguia Tadeo with the Mexican Consulate office [503.274.1442]

There are 170,000 Hispanic people living in Portland. Hispanics comprise 8% of the total population and 24% of these are of Mexican descent. There are many services available through these two agencies. ECOS can help by providing access to information for our Hispanic customers.

Ivan – Mexican Consulate Office:

People from Mexico have access to many services from the Consulate office and should be encouraged to use this resource. Sometimes people fear doing business with them because the office appears to be so “official”, authoritarian and government-like. However, they offer many valuable services. ECOS partners can help by letting their customers know that the consulate can help Mexican Nationals (documented and undocumented) with the following services:

- Obtaining a personal Identification Card: by showing proof of identity – birth certificate and a photo ID, Mexican nationals can obtain a security document that will allow them to open bank accounts, apply for a driver’s license and insurance. The ID card can help them avoid expensive check cashing services and help them start a business.
- Assistance with legal counsel for the INS – help with immigration issues

Maria and Liliana – Centro Mexicano De Oregon

Educational services: Their office has free textbooks for elementary and middle school aged children who may need language assistance with their learning process. Call them for more information. There may be a small handling fee of about \$1 per book, but they can get this resource to organizations that need it. They have many other educational resources as well and most are free.

Their adult education program is geared for persons 16 years and older. It is offered in 3 parts: literacy, primary and secondary levels. The educational program is offered free of charge. Applicants take a diagnostic test to determine their level of ability. Many older adults are surprised at how much they have learned on an informal basis, even though they may only have a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade education. The test helps them understand the skills they have and use – math, etc. This process is very good for their self-esteem because they usually test higher than they think they will.

If they demonstrate proficiency/competency, they receive the certification for literacy and/or primary levels. For a person illiterate in their Mother tongue, it generally takes about 8 months to learn to read in Spanish, about 18 months to complete the program and achieve the elementary certificate and about 24 months to complete the middle school portion of the program. At this point, they are 85% prepared to take their GED. (They will lack only what is available mainly in the US, i.e. North American History, etc.) In only a year or two, they can be literate, able to pass their GED and begin to learn in English.

This training is available through their organization, or other organizations can get people certified to facilitate the training and conduct this training on their own, with support from Centro Mexicano de Oregon. It costs \$50 for the 2-day certification training. Good candidates for this process must be bi-lingual or Spanish speaking individuals. It is very hard for persons illiterate in their Mother tongue to learn a new language...if their own

language is well based they will be better prepared to work and understand concepts in a second language.

This is a free program for groups; the Centro Mexicano De Oregon provides textbooks, marketing tools, and support. They will also provide the facilitator at a cost of \$25-\$35 per hour if a local group does not have a certified facilitator. The training is self-paced and groups will have persons working at all levels of the training. People may start and stop at any time. Classes generally meet for 4 hours each week.

This would be a valuable resource for ECOS to generate. If partners wish to explore getting a staff person certified to conduct this training they may contact Maria or Liliana.

### **Old Business:**

WSI budget discussion – Jesse Kappel – The WSI budget process has been vague and confusing with about 45% held back for special projects or emergency funds, but with no plan or process on what these funds should be used for/what constitutes an emergency? There is also about \$1.4 million in the budget CFO could not account for. The distribution formula for youth and adult funds was examined, discrepancies noted, and one Board Member, Sue Mazzio asked for a correctional plan and timeline to be developed and brought back to the board at their September meeting. East County and Washington County are both receiving less funds than what their degree of need would indicate as appropriate.

Regional Investment Board – the ECOS 2002-2004 application will be reviewed by the board in an interview scheduled 7/31. There were 14 applicants invited to interview and respond to questions from the RIB. Final funding awards will be made by mid-August, with projects starting in mid-September.

DHS – Office of VS has committed \$8000 match to this project. All cash match will have to be documented during the interview.

RIB final report – 2002-project wrap-up – Joan reported on the remaining tasks to complete all projects. There are still 5 career models to be interviewed and the Bi-Lingual Job Coach web site needs to be completed and brought on line.

CNA grant progress – Catherine informed the board on progress to modify regulations and asked for board approval to pursue legislative action on regulations. They demonstrated research from 13 states that interpret the federal language differently than Oregon, however, the OR AG will not make the same interpretation, and the Oregon Board of Nursing will not consider a state change. Therefore, The East County Health Care Forum would like to approach Senator Wyden to sponsoring legislation to make this change at the federal level.

M/S to have the ECHCF participate in this activity on behalf of the ECOS board – carried by consensus. The grant's 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter report is due on July 15, 2002.

Grants submitted by ECOS, but no award decision has been made:

ECOS and Morrison Center – Dept. of Justice – Rockwood youth mentoring project – \$73,340 per year for three years

ECOS and IAM CARES – Dept. of Education – Partners with Industry Grant - \$220,000 a year for 3 years. 79 grants will be awarded, at least one in each state. Only aware of one other applicant from Oregon. – Odds are quite good.

**Business:**

July Picnic – ECOS will hold its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual partner picnic on July 25<sup>th</sup> at Eastwind Center  
Discussion on team activities – partner challenge: bring a team of 4 people

**Committee reports and updates:**

Finance Committee – Jesse Kappel – See attached report – Jesse reminded partners to submit their partner contributions if they have not already done so.

Training sessions – Gwen and Kelli reported on the Stages of Change workshop held last week. It was successful and well received and a follow-up session, for those that participated in the June 21<sup>st</sup> training will take place on July 26. This is the last training funded by the SIP funds which are no longer available.

Marketing – Catherine and Patti – brochure sample was presented. Catherine will try to find a graphics design person that will mock this up for us on a pro-bono basis.

Community Center –Jesse, Kelli, Joan – HAP is leading the effort to obtain enough lease contracts from co-locating firms to secure the Fred Meyer building on Start for a Central Services Office in Rockwood. So far there has been interest by DHS, VR, Child Care Development Services, Human Solutions, El Programa Hispano, Eastwind Center, YEI, MHCC Head Start, Workforce Connections, Oregon Research Institute, HAP, Steps to Success, Unlimited Choices, Bicycle Recycling, Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission and others. There is 60,000 sq. ft in this building with lots of potential for 1<sup>st</sup> class office space in a remodel. If HAP can secure lease commitments for 40,000 sq. feet, it is believed that the co-locating group could secure the entire building; preventing lease to other outside parties (like a bingo club or check cashing business).

**Board meeting Calendar:**

July 25<sup>th</sup> – Picnic – no board meeting

August 23<sup>rd</sup> – Board meeting – Rockwood Urban Renewal presentation –

October 4<sup>th</sup> – Fall Kick-off and Celebration – Springdale Job Corps