

**East County One Stop Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, June 25 9 AM to 11 AM – OVRS Hosting**

Participants: Robert Costello – OVRS, Sherrie Smith – Community Energy Project, Lani Staab – Goodwill Industries, Catherine Todd – Easter Seals Oregon, Laura Bock – Job Developers Network, Kedma Ough – Avita & Associates, Marian George – Senior Safety Pin Project, Karne Hubbard – Linfield School of Nursing, Joan Pasco – ECOS project manager.

Partner updates:

Community Energy Project: Sherrie Smith will be representing the project at ECOS meetings as CEP Director Sherry Burbach is not always able to attend ECOS meetings. Sherrie described the CEP primary projects: Free Weatherization workshops that include a \$150 home weatherization kit; help with installation for accommodation devices such as ramps and grab bars for the elderly and disabled; and free lead poisoning workshops and testing. They also provide water conservation workshops and get energy assistance funds from Oregon Heat.

Goodwill industries: Lani is now the manager of the Vancouver Goodwill and she is focusing on outreach to the Vancouver community. Job Connections is expanding its HR/professional development with detailed topical training provided at each staff meeting.

OVRS: Robert is concentrating on building the client caseload for counselors, now averaging 74 per counselor. They are also working on a state pilot project featuring motivational interviewing and enhanced employer outreach.

Joan was asked to provide an **overview of how ECOS was developed.** (OK – Take a DEEP BREATH)

The beginning: WIA is a congressional mandate that all federally funded workforce programs operate in a One Stop SYSTEM. The Workforce Investment Act was passed in 1998, but system development and planning funds were given to states before the act was passed – Oregon began receiving these planning funds in 1996. The Governors in each state were charged with designing how WIA would be administered in their respective states. Therefore there were several very different approaches to creating a one-stop system incorporated throughout the US.

Oregon established 15 workforce regions and Gov Kitzhaber charged each region to develop its own plan. Region 2 (Washington and Multnomah) began with a concept of creating one One Stop system planning effort with only one center located on MLK in NE Portland. Services delivered region wide from only one location did not sit well with other parts of the region. Commissioner Sharron Kelley wanted one in East County and the Washington Board requested one on the West side – so we soon had 3 WIA planning groups in Region 2. Sharron convened the East County One Stop in May of 1996. The Capital Center One Stop convened shortly after. By the end of 1996, SE Works and Central City Concern were also convened. From 1996 to 1998 these 5 groups developed individual community plans and ONE STOP system concepts – and each had a slightly different approach. ECOS, under Sharron's leadership was the only one that included CBO's and non-federal agencies in the planning process. Therefore we had 40 partners instead of six or seven. She was a firm believer in the importance and effectiveness of the many employment and training programs being delivered through social service agencies such as Goodwill Industries, St. Vincent DePaul, Human Solutions, El Programa, and others. From inception the ECOS One Stop planning group included school-to-work leaders and all agencies of any size that provided programs to get and keep people employed.

The initial planning funds were distributed in 6 equal payments of \$66,000 each year - to the 5 planning groups and worksystems inc. ECOS used these funds to build relationships and trust among alliance members. We held over-night strategic planning sessions; joint staff training; did extensive research and needs assessments, etc. Our initial goal was “any door is the right door” concept using a “working together without walls” approach to creating a one-stop system. This was not intended to mean there would be no brick and mortar one-stop resource center, but rather a reliable information loop that connected all agencies and offered seamless delivery of workforce products to the community. It became clear in the early implementation years that there was competition between the community colleges and the employment department about who would be in charge of the process. ECOS began with a governance process that gave every member an equal vote – regardless of size. The college and the employment dept. should not be able to trump the process. We also were in accord that no one agency would provide management for ECOS – but an outside, independent contractor would be used to prevent even an illusion of one agency being in control. ECOS chose to contract with me, and has renewed this agreement each year.

Worksystems Inc. eliminated planning funds for system development after WIA program dollars became available in 2000. The five planning regions either stopped their system development efforts; secured fair share support from partners, or some other combination of resources. ECOS began plans to incorporate as a 501 c3 in 1999. We also asked partners to provide voluntary financial support. The goal was to be able to apply for non-WIA funds to continue to do system development as well as provide extra help for people with high barriers to employment. In our case these were the disabled, non-native English speakers, and persons with a legal history – all people that could not easily or realistically access intensive services funded by WIA dollars.

Since 2000 ECOS has generated over \$2.5 million in grant funds to expand workforce services to these populations. The funds have been highly targeted to populations with greatest need. More recent focus includes employment services for seniors and developing opportunities for self-employment.

If you have any other questions about this process, please give Joan a call.

The board approved the minutes from the May 28th board meeting as presented.

Old Business:

Action Team reports:

- **Reentry/ Enterprise Development Team: ROAR – ReEntry Organizations and Resources –** Anne and Doug were not able to attend the meeting, but Joan asked for board approval to submit a letter of inquiry to the SOROS Foundation’s After Prison Initiative for \$125,000 to support the development of the ROAR collaboration. Funds will pay for project management, coordination and meeting expenses for 18 months.
- **Report from 2008 Senior Services team: Catherine, Marian and Karen – no report at this time.**

Other Project reports

SSP – Senior Safety Pin Project – Marian and Karen – Karen reported that the project would begin again next fall when students return from summer break. There will be some staffing changes at Linfield that may effect how the project is managed. She will know more by late summer. Marian continues to do outreach to get more seniors signed up to participate in the fall.

SCSEP – Senior Community Service Employment Program: collaboration with Easter Seals – Catherine reported that the project audit by Easter Seals National went very well. Their placement rates are exceeding expectations. Participants have identified health care followed by housing and transportation as key issues. The project will be working with legislators to communicate these needs and get legislative support. The program needs training space – at least 2000 sq ft, with good tri-met access. A Projects With Industry Grant application has been submitted and awards will be made next fall.

MIPO – MicroEnterprise Inventor’s Program of Oregon:–Kedma – The third and final year of Lemelson Funding begins in October. She is focusing on making the project self-sufficient with user fees and corporate support to be less dependent on grants. (Which are hard to get if not serving children, homeless, or the arts.) She has new talent on board to support inventors with patent research and marketing.

DBA – Differently-Abled Business Association –Kedma – Kedma is completing work on an audit by United Way and is gearing up for the final year of UW funding which begins in July. The new UW contract was signed by the ECOS President and will be submitted this week. This program is setting up standard operating procedures for all functions; is becoming more fee-for-service and membership dues driven, and looking towards self-sufficiency by July 2009. Two people have been hired to support the project. They currently work with many artists and are looking at more cooperative ventures to market their artwork as a group. The move to the new office has been delayed due to construction and contractor delays. They expect to be in by first week in July.

JDN Job Developers Network – Laura Bock – please log on to www.jobdevelopersnetwork.org for a complete listing of upcoming training and activities. This project is operating entirely on fees-for-service from training, workshops, job fairs, and member subscriptions. The JDN generated over \$10,000 in 2007 and ytd for 2008 over \$27,500. Upcoming training topics include Motivational Interviewing - Person Centered Planning that motivates people to change; Ticket-To-Work, and JDN Academy. Laura directed us to a free webinar site: www.workforce3one.org. You can access the audio from past workshops.

META: Micro-Enterprise Technical Assistance grant from OECDD – Joan reported on the Farmer’s Market and Micro-enterprise training that is being conducted with these funds. They recently conducted a market workshop in Brownsville Oregon. ECOS developed the market vendor training with funds from a 2005-2007 OECDD grant and is the only entity in the state providing this particular support for persons selling in markets. We have been asked to deliver the project statewide. During this funding cycle, we will conduct 6 on-site market workshops, 10 topical, customized training sessions, and one statewide workshop.

Budget/finance report – refer to finance report – attached, separate excel doc. Joan went over the financial report to explain how all funding is reported. Each project has its own column in the excel file with expenses and income detailed on a monthly basis. ECOS charges a 10% indirect fee on grants and income - this money is reported in the unrestricted page of the finance report. These are the funds that cover all ECOS monthly expenses: coordination, accounting, web costs, etc. Voluntary Partner contributions are solicited each year to pay corporate costs and insurance. – See below.

2008 ECOS partner contributions are now being solicited –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. Thank you all for your support with this.

Many thanks to the following partners who have contributed:

PORTLAND HABILITATION CENTER
GOODWILL INDUSTRIES
CHILDCARE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
LINFIELD SCHOOL OF NURSING
SPRINGDALE JOB CORPS
EASTER SEALS OREGON
HUMAN SOLUTIONS
OVRs

Finance meeting: July 15 – Applebees on Halsey

NEXT BOARD MEETING: July 23 – Portland Habilitation Center