

East County One Stop Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 25, 2006 – 9 AM

Rockwood Community Center - 18719 SE STARK – Fred Meyer Annex bldg.

Host: Rockwood Weed and Seed

Board members present: Human Solutions: Derek Baudry, Tosca Rawls, Nell Whitman, Linfield School of Nursing: Karen Hubbard, Rockwood Weed and Seed: Brenda Butler, OVRS – Connie Foster, Worksource Oregon/Workforce Connections: Kay Lopez, Easter Seals Oregon – Catherine Todd, DHS – Debbie Foote, Goodwill Industries – Lani Staab, Springdale Job Corps – JoAnn Espinosa, Senior Safety Pin Project – Marian George.
Others Present: ECOS Project manager – Joan Pasco

Introductions and welcome: Partner reports – news, events, and announcements

Human Solutions: Held a successful Leadership Luncheon on October 24th, over 250 people were there.

Goodwill Industries: Have lowered their participation age from 18 to 16.

Independent Living Resources: Georgina Moran is available to assist with ADA compliance issues. She can be reached at 503.232.7411.

The minutes from the September 27th board meeting were approved as presented.

Regional reports:

WSI and state workforce; Workforce Connections and Gresham Employment Office

Worksystems, Inc: Joan distributed a copy of the wsi strategic plan and spoke about their emphasis on system development. They are beginning a resource mapping process to map all workforce resources in the region; respective budgets, outcomes and targeted populations.

Workforce Connections/Worksource Portland Metro East: Kay Lopez distributed the 2005 placement report from Worksource Portland Metro East/Gresham office. Information/orientation sessions for class recruitment are held on Thursdays from 1 to 4 PM. They are again recruiting for the bi-lingual welding training. Participants need to have level 3 English speaking ability. This is a rigorous training, 7 hours a day from Jan. to June. Graduates are placed in high wage jobs. With over 500 users per day, the Gresham One Stop Resource Center has the highest use rate of any One Stops in the Portland metro area.

Other Project reports

Rockwood Weed and Seed – Brenda reported on the successful Back to School Fair held in September in conjunction with the grand opening of the Rockwood Community Policing Office. Over 700 people attended. She passed out information on attendance by school district and a list of entities assisting with or donating to the event. The Rockwood Business Coalition will meet next week. Their application for a SAMSA Drug-free Community Grant was awarded funding - \$100,000 a year for five years. The fiscal agent is PAL. These funds will allow many of the Weed and Seed activities to continue beyond the end of W&S designation. (2006-07 is the last of the 5 year designation). The IRS funded VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Center will be open to provide services for the 2006 tax season. They are seeking volunteers to help staff the center. The IRS will provide training on income tax preparation. The tax assistance is free to low and moderate-income persons. A community planning session will be held on November 20th to discuss how best to utilize the computer resource room after tax season. Several suggestions were offered including classes in basic computer training and computer training for certain populations

like senior citizens who do not like to take training with younger people who learn at a different rate, etc.

SSP – Senior Safety Pin Project – Marian and Karen – A feature article on the project will be in the Weekly section of the Oregonian tomorrow (Thursday Oct. 26th). They have room for about 6 more seniors to participate in the project, and then a wait list will be formed. Marian is working with several agencies that work with the senior population to identify those who live alone, are isolated, and would benefit from regular contact from a nursing student. So far the project is going well, the students are getting a good experience and the seniors are being cared for by someone who can check for safety issues, med management, and general ability to be self-sufficient. The students are also seeking activity options for those they visit and contacting neighbors about checking on them as appropriate.

SCSEP – Senior Community Service Experience Program – a collaboration with Easter Seals. Project Director Catherine Todd briefed the board on the transition process. Easter Seals was awarded the contract to administer this work experience program in August and the transition of participants and host sites from AARP began October 1. Project staff has been hired for both the Portland and Salem offices. Easter Seals is administering the program in 4 Oregon counties: Multnomah, Clackamas, Hood River and Marion. Current focus is on re-certifying all current program participants and getting new host site agreements signed with host sites currently in place. Once this process is complete, new host sites and new participants will be brought into the program. Participants need to be low-income, over the age of 55 and lacking work experience or skills to be competitive in the job market.

MIPO – MicroEnterprise Inventor Program of Oregon and DBA – Differently-abled Business Association – These two projects are funded by United Way grants. Kedma Ough is the project director for both. She is out of the country for a few weeks and will make a full report on the projects at the November meeting. The DBA had a highly successful grand opening on October 13th. Over 75 people attended and Mayor Tom Potter was there and welcomed the project and its goals as a new resource for the small business community. The project was prominently featured in an article on the front page of the Oregonian Business section on October 12. More detailed information on both projects can be found on the ECOS web site: www.eastcountyonestop.org

OECD MVIP – Market Vendor Incubator Project – Project Director Joan Pasco reported that the training team conducted three workshops in the past week – 2 for the Portland Saturday Market vendors and one for vendors at the Hollywood Farmer’s Market. The workshops are being very well received. This project is funded through June 30, 2007. Future workshops will be held at the Hillsdale market, one in Bend and Prineville. She asked the ECOS board to be considering projects for the next round of OECD funds. They accept applications every two years. Options include continuing with a market vendor/micro enterprise training strategy; support for MIPO or DBA, or other projects that support Oregon’s small business community. (These funds do NOT support job training activities, just self-employment options to create, support or grow small and micro enterprises.)

CEO/JOLI project a partnership with Easter Seals, Mercy Corps, CCDS and ECOS – Joan reported that this project is in its final months. There are still 56 businesses in the project; no new participants are being enrolled; the training is now being conducted through the DBA project; and participants have until February to access small business loans from the revolving loan fund. Participants are still tapping into the resources of their business coaches.

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, WorkSource Oregon, 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.

New Business:

Job Developers Network needs a new home – Connie Foster presented an overview of the JDN – it started in 1998 under the OVRS umbrella and with 6 job developers. JDN has grown to over 297 members in 187 non-profit agencies within a 5-county, 2-state area. DOL recognized the network as one of the most effective urban area JDN's in the US. They mainly exist to share information on jobs, training events, employer fairs, and other information important for job developers to convey to clients. They do not consider their activity to be in conflict with a regional systemic approach to contact employers. Rather, they are an important compliment to what the employment department and wsi has in place. VR funding to support the network was pulled due to the fact that only a small percentage of those served by the network have disabilities. SE Works took over the administration of the network and found funds in a grant to cover the approximately \$10,000 a year to keep one part time person engaged to do the day-to-day work of the network. This funding has now gone away and the JDN is looking for a new sponsoring organization. They are creating a 7-person board and considering several options. One would be to come under the ECOS 501 c3 umbrella; another would be to form their own 501 c3; or be incubated by one of their other agency participants. The ECOS board approved consideration to provide a home for the group. ECOS can offer them a web presence and a legal structure to apply for funds to sustain their efforts, but no cash.

United Way Fund Drive – Marian and Joan – ECOS was awarded two grants from the United Way. Part of our contractual obligation as a partner is to participate in their annual giving campaign. Joan and Marian spoke about the new focus of United Way community investments and offered incentives for ECOS board members to contribute to the campaign. Donation materials were distributed. Kedma, Marian and Joan will treat the ECOS board member that secures the most campaign dollars in contributions from their own organization to lunch. It was stressed that ECOS should try to make a good faith effort to secure funds as United Way has certainly made a significant investment in ECOS.

DHS restructure in Multnomah County: Over 800 people are employed by DHS in the county. The agency is undergoing an effort to streamline client services. The new process is designed to be more efficient for clients and staff; offer greater customer service; better outreach to schools; increased use of technology and partners; and make the application process more user friendly.

Meeting schedule for fall/winter:

Finance and Management Team: Monday, November 20th - 11:30 Thai Orchid

Board Meetings: November 29 – Worksource Portland, Metro East – 19421 SE Stark

No meeting in December

January 31st – annual board retreat – Springdale Job Corps