

East County One Stop Board of Directors Meeting
April 22 9 AM to 11 AM
Multnomah East – 600 NE 8th St. – Gresham

Participants: Heather Selek – PHC, Lani Staab – Goodwill Industries, Luis Rodriguez – Human Solutions, Laura Bock – JDN, Cindy Bennett – LDS Employment Resource Center, Karen Hubbard – Linfield School of Nursing, Donna Patrick – Springdale Job Corps, Kristina JohnBaptiste – YWCA Sr. Svcs, Carolyn Morrision – Child Care Development Services, Joan Pasco – Project Manager.

Meeting facilitator for this month: ECOS Co-chair: Carolyn Morrison

Partner updates and reports

Goodwill Job Connections: Goodwill is opening another new store in Beaverton – close to the MAX line and the Business Development Facility. It is a good location and the store will be open by end of July. All Goodwill employees were offered free tax preparation service as an employee benefit. Job Connections still has people on wait lists to get enrolled. The number of Hispanics seeking enrollment has increased considerably as has the number lacking eligibility documentation. The program is now conducting a weekly orientation session in Spanish. The Goodwill HR department will be conducting a workshop on how to verify documentation so that they are applying this consistently at all job connection sites and staff is comfortable with the legality of questions they may ask.

This led to an animated discussion on documentation – participants described what they look for and how to spot fake identification and Social Security cards. Everyone had a story to tell!

Portland Habilitation Center: They have fewer jobs open now than any time over the past 10 years. Training sites are overwhelmed with numbers, which has backed people up behind lagging jobs and contracts. More people are applying that do not have proof of a disability. So far, they have had no staff lay-offs.

LDS Employment Resource Center: Cindy is seeking two candidates to fill an employer need for truck drivers in the nursery business and a para-legal position. Luis and Kristina both indicated they had a good candidate for one of the driving jobs and Carolyn has a person that might be interested in the para-legal position. The center does database searches to try to find matches for the employers that contact them seeking employees. LDS also provides an interview room if needed. This is a free service and is not just for LDS church members.

Linfield School of Nursing: Karen reported that they expect over 800 applications for the 140 nursing slots that will be available this fall. Many of the student applications are from people who are re-careering after a job loss. Budget shortfalls are contributing to some positions being combined when people retire or leave. The spring faculty retreat has

been trimmed from 3 to 2 days and there are other cuts being made. The average age of their nursing faculty is 56 and many retirements will take place over the next few years, This is a serious problem and nurse educators are very hard to locate due to the education level and criteria required by the Oregon Board of Nursing (OBN). In order to teach, the nurse must have advanced degrees and teaching pays less than nursing itself.

This also triggered a spirited discussion about what needs to change in order to assure adequate nurse educators to train the workforce for the future. Joan explained that ECOS had worked on this in the past with support from the Workforce and Community Colleges and even created a nurse educator curriculum designed to teach nurses with over 20 years clinical experience how to become nurse educators. The East County Health Care Forum spent 18 months trying to get the OBN to relax the academic requirements and focus instead on clinical expertise as the primary metric to qualify a nurse to become a nurse educator. This could be changed legislatively, but the OBN would not budge. This is a topic that we may wish to re-engage in when the legislative mood is right.

Springdale Job Corps: They are seeking community connections for students and will be working with the YWCA Teen Network. Contact Donna if you know of any community service volunteer activity the students could engage in. Students are also available to do projects in the classroom such as mass mailing, flyers, compiling notebooks, etc They are also seeking office environments to tour. (ECOS partners had several suggestions) The job shortages have certainly impacted their students and their placement rates into jobs. Their National contract process is moving along and they will have a new contractor in place by October. Two students accompanied staff to Washington DC recently. They toured Capital Hill and visited with several of the Oregon congressional delegation. Rep. Blumenaur suggested they consider starting a bicycle repair training – which they are looking into. Springdale is also seeking training access to green opportunities– solar and wind, local community gardens, etc.

YWCA East – Senior Services: Kristina reported on the April 9th Job Resource Fair for seniors. She thanked all who contributed to this first effort to offer assistance to seniors seeking to re-enter the job market. Over 100 people attended. (They were expecting 75) The event received good media coverage. The budget picture is dour and it is pretty likely that Oregon Project Independence will be eliminated. OPI provides in-home care for seniors without which many may be forced into assisted living or a nursing facility– a much more expensive option than a little help with daily living in their own home.

Child Care Development Services: Carolyn recently attended the Leadership Conference for Child Nutrition in Washington DC and visited congressional leaders about reauthorization of the Child and Adult Food Care Program. CCDS is seeking funds for a pilot project that would replace the 3 annual unannounced visits to providers homes with a virtual option. Providers would be called and told to turn on their video cam, so reviewers could see the children and observe meal activity. On-site visits in person would be pre-arranged and would include training. CCDS monitors providers from Columbia County to the Idaho border as well as central Oregon and all of the Portland metro area. The virtual monitor system would save thousands of miles of travel and staff time. Their

on-line training program is growing at a good pace. It makes it more convenient for child care providers to get required training. The training units will soon qualify for CEU's as well. The number of child care providers is growing as people are laid off and turning to day care to both care for their own children and create an income stream. Also, as more families have had to become two income earners in order to get by, more children must enroll in day care. CCDS administers the USDA food program subsidies for a very large geographic area in Oregon. All reporting is now done on-line. They also administer the Child Care Resource and Referral Network and conduct child development training, and Red Cross CPR training.

Human Solutions: The Helping Hands Store will be closing by the end of June. New resources to keep this store operating have not materialized. Juan and Luis are seeking resources to start an entrepreneurial program for low-income people. Joan referred them to the JOLI grants administered by the Dept. of Health and Human Services.

The board approved the minutes from the March 25, 2009 meeting

New Business:

United Way Application process: Karen, Carolyn and Joan reported on the interview for the Adopt-a-Grandparent grant application. They felt like the interview went well and that the panel was very receptive. Bill Lesh, Director of the Center for Advanced Learning also participated in the interview. He has offered student assistance to produce professional "Living History" products and work with home improvement projects for seniors. In addition to their Allied Health program, they offer students training in re-engineering and digital-media. He wants students from all 3 programs to participate in the outreach to senior project. This really enriched our proposal and interview.

Parkrose High School – Joan met with Roy Reynolds, Principal of Parkrose HS last week. They hope to fund a "Volunteer Connection Center" at their community center and want to apply through the ECOS 501 c3 as schools do not qualify for the foundations they hope to approach. The ECOS board was supportive and thought this to be a good idea.

Ted Kennedy Service America bill – President Obama signed this bill into law on April 21st. It will triple the scope of AmeriCorps and expand opportunities to earn college grants and re-image volunteerism. The board discussed how our organizations need to begin to document volunteer hours. These college credit dollars can be accumulated and used by persons of any age. Young people, in particular, need to get letters documenting work they are doing for individuals and non-profits.

Action Team reports:

Reentry/ Enterprise Development Team: ROAR – ReEntry Organizations and Resources – Joan reported that ROAR had a highly successful two-day Re-Entry Conference in early April. Legislation to fund four Re-entry One Stop Centers in the state has actually made it out of committee, so there is hope that something may happen in this

be-ennium. If not, at least in-roads have been made for the future. If funded, the Portland center will be located at Calvary Church in North Portland.

Other Project reports

SCSEP and PWI– collaboration with Easter Seals – Catherine Todd was not able to attend.

MIPO – Inventor project and DBA – Differently-Abled Business Association – Kedma was not able to attend.

Job Developer’s Network: Laura Bock: They have been attending many job fairs; the Gresham job fair was cancelled due to lack of employers. The Urban League job fair attracted over 1200 job seekers. Others yet to be held include the Tomorrow Pathway’s to the Future and the NW Youth Crew Expo, and New Heights Community Church. PGE has requested the JDN conduct another Diversity Fair in the Fall, which they plan to do. US Bank may help support this second one. The JDN has implemented a new program called BEST – Business Employer Services Team, and will be increasing outreach to employers. Plans include a virtual job fair and possible resource fair. JDN registrations have declined by about 50% mostly due to the economy, lay-offs, and down sizing

META: Micro-Enterprise Technical Assistance grant from OECDD – Joan Pasco: This grant was cut 5% with the reduction in funds coming out of the final check in July. We were expecting a 10% cut, so this was better than hoped. The project will eliminate two market vendor trainings to make up for this loss of project support.

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

2009 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.

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED TO DATE: MANY THANKS!!

**GOODWILL INDUSTRIES
SPRINGDALE JOB CORPS
PORTLAND HABILITATION CENTER
CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
HUMAN SOLUTIONS
LINFIELD SCHOOL OF NURSING
EASTER SEALS OREGON**

Pending grants:

United Way – SSP support – Adopt a Grandparent and Intergenerational Day Care

Finance meeting: May 20 – 11:30 at Ya Hala

NEXT BOARD MEETING: May 27, 2009 – Community Energy Project - 422 NE Alberta