

East County One Stop Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, July 23 9 AM to 11 AM

Thanks to Marina and Heather & Portland Habilitation Center for Hosting!!

Participants: Catherine Todd – Easter Seals Oregon SCSEP Director, Laura Bock – Job Developer’s Network Coordinator, Robert Costello – OVRS Regional Manager, Kristina JohnBaptiste – YWCA Senior Services Director, Sherrie Smith – Community Energy Project, Donna Patrick – Springdale Job Corps Director, Juan Serratos – Human Solutions Employment Services Director, Heather Selek and Marina Rikker – Recruiters for Portland Habilitation Center, Doug Cooper –Mercy Corps NW, Anne O’Malley – Attorney, Non-profit Strategies and Affairs, Joan Pasco, ECOS Project Manager.

Partner reports:

Springdale Job Corps: Donna Patrick – Springdale provides training and employment services for youth 16 to 24 years of age. They have 165 resident students living on campus and many commuting students. A satellite campus is located in Montgomery Park in downtown Portland. That site is working with 60 female students. Springdale was recently named 11th best performing center in the US (out of 122) . They partner with employers for work-based and intern experiences. This fall the electrical training will be dropped and the auto-body program doubled. **Students are looking for community service opportunities** to meet their graduation requirements. If you have a project that could benefit from student volunteers, call Donna at 503.695-2245.

Human Solutions – Juan Serratos – Human Solutions is investigating the potential of starting an enterprise to employ clients and provide work experience opportunities. Juan asked for suggestions of possible business opportunities – ideas included: bakery, restaurant, moving services, child and adult day care, catering, handy man services, small appliance and computer repair, interpretive and translation services, vintage clothing – extension of retail and the Helping Hands store, construction clean-up, apartment turn-over, seasonal work, transportation services – especially to get people to jobs.

Human Solutions manages 3 employment and training programs: 1.) Peer support for Eastern Europeans – language and career develop training, 21 out of 26 participants have completed all goals. This is a 36-month program funded by BHCD. 2.) Gresham funded employment program – one year training – clients have significant barriers and low skills and education – making placement difficult. Program provides skill training and internships. 3.) Successful Solutions – training at the retail store includes customer service, basic retail, development and fund raising, managing volunteers, how to relate to others in a work setting, job seeking skills, connections to resources, etc.

Community Energy Project – Sherrie Smith – CEP provides free weatherization workshops that include a free weatherization materials kit; lead poisoning workshops, volunteers that will come into homes (for low income seniors and persons with a disability) to provide weatherization services, small safety repair programs for seniors – installing grab bars, railings etc. New projects include workshops on outdoor water conservation and two-tiered lead poisoning prevention and restoration of older homes. They have been asked to train other agencies throughout WA and OR on their successful approach to motivate people to make good energy choices and fix home problems. Their success strategy is based on behavior change through empowerment. 2000-2500 annual volunteer hours support the program – volunteers average over 15 hours each. Last year the program provided weatherization services to over 850 households. They are faced with reduced funding for 2008-2009 and will not be able to serve more than about 550 homes.

YWCA Senior Services: Kristina JohnBaptiste – Program services are delivered in two locations – Multnomah East (8th and Kelly in Gresham) and a North Portland office. They provide case management and advocacy to persons over 60; family care givers – including grandparents raising grand children; and in home personal services such as bath assistance. Services include financial planning and assistance, links to resources, support groups, computer learning lab, exercise programs and more.

Mercy Corps NW: Doug Cooper – Their small business and self-employment programs are seeing three times as many people as last year. This can be attributed to tighter access to credit through conventional lenders; and the trends for young people and retiring baby boomers seeking self-employment options. They have a new web-based platform that is easy for these clients to use and may also contribute to this increase in numbers.

The board approved the minutes from the June 25th board meeting

WSI/WIA update – Catherine Todd reported that Sharon McFarlane could not attend this meeting but will be invited to make a presentation at the October ECOS board meeting. There was extensive group discussion about the reorganization of area one stops and the mergers with state employment offices. Many one stops are closing and there are staff lay-offs at most of the remaining centers. Apparently this is a state driven initiative to create service consistency at all state one stop centers. Federal regs are exacerbating the problem, as it appears fewer job seekers will be served due to diminishing resources. The roll-out is scheduled for October 1, so we will have more information after that date.

MHCC - Joan met with Dr. John Sygielski, the new college President. He is very interested in the ECOS collaborative model and projects and offered to host our August Board Meeting in his boardroom. For the first 10 years of the ECOS Alliance, MHCC was an active participant. For many years the directors of Project YESS, Transitions, Steps to Success, Workforce Connections and other departments attended on a regular basis. It would be terrific to have this level of participation again!!

Action Team reports:

1.) Reentry/ Enterprise Development Team: ROAR – ReEntry Organizations and Resources – Anne and Doug – Over 45 agencies are now attending quarterly ROAR meetings. The group is working closely with the Governor’s ReEntry Advisory Council which has 4 working groups: workforce/employment, housing, One-Stop resource centers, and health/addictions. The state group is looking to ROAR for guidance on system development for reentry services in other areas. ROAR will also be serving in an advocacy capacity for policy change in the criminal justice system.

2.) 2008 Senior Services team – Karen, Catherine and Marian – no report at this time

Other Project reports

SSP – Senior Safety Pin Project – Marian and Karen – This program is on hold until the fall when Linfield School of Nursing students come back to class. Over 50 area seniors receive twice monthly visits from a student nurse.

SCSEP – Senior Community Service Employment Program – a collaboration with Easter Seals – Catherine reported on the development of their Business Advisory Council – she is seeking members to serve on this council – if you have a suggestion, call her at 503.228.5100. June was very busy due to the national audit and year end activity. They ended their program year with excellent placement rates – over 72 people were placed in jobs last year. Funding was received to purchase 4 more computers for the learning lab; they are still seeking space to lease for a training center – need at least 2000 sq. ft with easy transit access. Participants need to learn basic computer skills in order to be able to complete on-line employment applications that are pretty much standard now. Most are not able to do this. Tutors are needed to assist with this training. The SCSEP National Conference will be held in Portland in August – the performance of the local program is one reason Portland was selected as host! Catherine distributed the conference agenda. The Workforce Development and TEACCH training sessions are open to interested persons – there is an enrollment fee to participate – contact Catherine if you are interested.

MIPO – Inventor project and DBA – Differently-abled Business Association – Project Director Kedma Ough is on maternity leave – her baby is due any day. (Baby Boy Fallon arrived on July 24th!) These programs are meeting or exceeding their performance goals. The final report on DBA was submitted to United Way and they are very happy with project outcomes. The mid-year report for

Lemelson Foundation for MIPO is due in September. The training room recently obtained two more computers from OECDD surplus.

JDN Jobs Network – Laura Bock reported on the summer training and academy workshops. Their web site re-design will be completed in September and will include a section on how to work with employers and a section on re-entry employment services. The September Academy will feature job development, effective listening and more. For complete details on the JDN training and activities, go to their web site at: www.jobdevelopers.net

META: Micro-Enterprise Technical Assistance grant from OECDD – Joan – State Re-organization plans – Governor is splitting the department and separating community development activity from economic development. In the initial drafts the department was divided into 3 program areas: Traded Sector Industries, infrastructure (city and rural sewer/water etc.) and Community Based Services that included the SBDC's targeted service providers, ports, main street programs and others. The decision making process is to figure out the most appropriate state department home for each of these program areas – some will stay at OECDD others will relocate to Housing or another agency. After public comment, the list is now up to seven – with the Ports and Small Business services – SBDC's & TSP's pulled out of the community based collective. A recommendation will be made to the Governor in September. ECOS has received TSP funds for over 6 years. Most of the TSP's (there are 12) are advocating staying within the department of Economic Development as we think that is the best fit for what we do. More to come as this moves through the planning process – I will keep you posted.

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

New Grant Submissions:

Letters of Inquiry to Spirit Mountain Community Fund for ROAR (\$38,820) – We were invited to submit a full application, but will be limited to \$25,735 – 50% of project budget.

Letter of Inquiry to SOROS After Prison Initiative – submitted

If they like us, they will invite us to submit a full application due in September.

Finance meeting: August 19 – 11:30 – Applebees on 102nd and Halsey

NEXT BOARD MEETING: August 27 – MHCC President's Board Room