

**East County One Stop Board of Directors Meeting
July 22nd 9 AM to 11 AM**

Human Solutions Rockwood Community Center Office:
18709 SE Stark Street, Gresham, OR 97233

Participants: Lani Staab – Goodwill Job Connections, Kristina JonBaptiste – YWCA Senior Services, Laura Bock and Sherri Luru – JDN, Heather Selek – Portland Habilitation Center, Cindy Bennett – LDS Employment Services, Sherrie Smith – Community Energy Project, Joan Pasco – ECOS project manager.

Partner updates and reports

Community Energy Project – Key activities: workshops on weatherization, lead detection and removal, water conservation. A new product is a window weatherization screen that rolls up during the summer months and can easily be pulled down when the weather gets cooler. Their program vastly exceeded all performance goals for the past year. More people are meeting their income guidelines this year. Volunteers are an important component of their ability to deliver services.

Which triggered an interesting discussion on use of volunteers: It is getting ever more important to have a system in place for volunteers to track and record their hours. This is important on many fronts:

- Some 50+ hotels are offering free room nights to people who have volunteered for over 8 hours at a local non-profit – but they need to provide verification. Locate these hotels at www.giveadaygetanight.com. Deal runs from July 1 to December 20.
- As of October 1, the Serve America Act will be rewarding volunteers with college tuition credits – and these can be gifted to children or grandchildren. People who regularly volunteer will need to be able to track and verify their hours.
- The value of these volunteer hours can be counted as in-kind match. www.independentsector.org is a web site that lists the value of these hours – currently the federally accepted rate is \$20.25 per hour. This adds up fast and translates to legitimate match for grant applications.
- The cost to use volunteers also needs to be assessed. They need to be trained, motivated, rewarded and coached. For the Community Energy Project, this is pretty much a full time job.
- PHC, Community Energy Project and the YWCA have systems in place to track volunteer hours.

Portland Habilitation Center: They are working with a consortium of service providers to put on a “Connecting Communities” forum on October 15th. The forum will focus on services provided to persons with disabilities.

This triggered a new discussion thread concerning **getting people with disabilities and seniors listed as a protected class of employees** that would entitle employers to tax credits. Tax credits are given to businesses that hire from the TANF population, disabled

veterans, under served youth, and others. The state office for Minority, Women Owned, and Emerging Small Business should also be encouraged to add people with disabilities to this resource. The office helps Oregon Businesses meet their EEO requirements. This is something that should be extended to both seniors and people with a disability. It was noted that perhaps this is a cause that could be addressed during the Connecting Community forum and planning process.

YWCA Senior Services: Oregon Project Independence funding was restored in the final days of the legislative session. However, it is still uncertain what funds will actually be available to the local service providers. The YWCA is creatively using volunteers and interns to maintain all services, even though there has been a reduction in staff. Interns and volunteers are coming from MHCC, Springdale Job Corps, Steps to Success and many community volunteers. They have a database developed specifically to track and record these hours. Their Thrift Store is open and a Craft Fair and Sale will be held on July 31st – both designed to raise new funds for programs. Kristina and others are working with a group called “Store to Door” that uses volunteers to shop for seniors and has paid drivers that deliver same. Unfortunately, they do not deliver in East County. There is an effort to change this. There are good pockets of volunteers in East County that could support this service.

Goodwill Job Connections: They offer job resources in two divisions: the Job Connection for people with skills to be employed; and the Assistive Contract division which provides contract work for individuals with severe disabilities. This division needs to be re-certified every five years. The most recent certification process resulted in a letter from the certifier that they passed with No Recommendations – an A+ report that is seldom awarded. Other activities include networking events with employers – important even if the employer is not currently hiring; motivating people to stay positive when it takes a long time to find a job and other job search techniques. Goodwill has outsourced one of their job connection employees to the North Portland office of Worksource Oregon and they are working to get a similar position in the Vancouver office. The new Cedar Hills Goodwill Store has a grand opening this week.

The board approved minutes from the June 24, 2009 meeting

Project reports

SCSEP and PWI– collaboration with Easter Seals – Catherine Todd – no report

MIPO – Inventor project –Kedma Ough – no report

Oregon Disability Chamber –Kedma – no report

JDN Job Developers Network – Laura introduced Sherri Luru the new business services director for JDN. Sherri used to be an active ECOS board member when she was with Youth Employment Services. The JDN is working on an Oct. 6-7 Business Connects Expo as well as a Diversity Job Fair in March. For more details on JDN events log on to: www.jobdevelopersnetwork.org

Senior Services and Projects: Joan recently completed a metro area needs assessment

on seniors and caregivers entitled: It Takes A Village To Live a Life. The report is the product of a planning process that began last fall and was sponsored by United Way, Urban League, Volunteers of America and LifeWorks NW. She will email a copy of the report to the board.

One Voice One Message: The report is presented in a positive writing “voice” that emphasizes the economic advantages of vital, healthy aging in an environment that allows older people to live independently for as long as possible. The board discussed how powerful it would be if we **ALL adopted a similar tone** to our respective messages. The public, government and business leaders respond much more positively to this voice than to a message of doom and gloom. If we would all frame our messages around the power of living independently, being able to support oneself, being a contributor to a healthy economy, self-actualization, etc., these messages will have more leverage than begging for help for disadvantaged populations.

Even though it was not funded, the Adopt a Grandparent project is being piloted by the Center for Advanced Learning. They are seeking 15 older adults to participate as adopted grandparents and need to secure these folks by October 1.

ROAR – Re-Entry Organizations and Resources: They were awarded a United Way grant submitted by Mercy Corps. The One Stop Resource Center opens on August 17.

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
OVRS**

Pending grants:

MMT letter of inquiry for Adopt-a-Grandparent – decision on August 11.

Parkrose – Community Volunteer project – in the works

Finance meeting: August 19, 2009 – 11:30 at Ya Hala

NEXT BOARD MEETING: August 26, 2009 – Portland Habilitation Center.