

ECOS Board Of Directors
Thursday, March 27, 2003 – 8:15 AM to 10:30 AM – Workforce Connections
4510 NE 102nd – Corner of 102nd and Prescott

Meeting notes:

Participants: Jean DeMaster – Human Solutions, Charlotte Dorsey - Webmaster, Gwen Nothwang – MHCC/Workforce Connections, Jesse Kappel – VR, Maren Peterson – Portland Habilitation Center, Catherine Zimmerman – Resource Connectors, Karen Cusick – Gresham Employment Dept., Joan Pasco – ECOS Project Manager

Presentation: Workforce Connections – overview of site/services

Workload has been/continues to be intense. People who are losing social services but are not very employable are coming in to try to find work – thinking they can work when really they can't. DWP funds are finally being released by the state – state has had the funds since August, but is just now releasing them.

New Business:

Finance report – approval of invoices for March - the Board approved the following invoices for payment:

ETP licensing costs – Job Coach Institute: \$1300

International Marketplace project management: \$1425

Job Coach Institute Instructors: 50% of their contracts:

David Drake: \$2600

Glen Sebera: \$1000

Larry Kirkhart: \$800

Project reports:

CNA grant and Health Care Forum – future focus – Catherine Zimmerman reported that the CNA grant is completed with good results. The goals of the grant were accomplished and a curriculum was developed to train nurses as educators. Several barriers to moving more people into health care careers or education have been mitigated as a result of work with the State Board of Nursing. The East County Health Care Forum will now be working on three key issues: 1.) nursing practice – reentry and licensure issues, 2.) training for in-home care workers; and 3.) support for Deaf NW assisted living center staffing/training.

ECOS and Deaf NW have applied for funding from the VR to support pre-employment training for persons working in the new assisted living facility; orientation for the vendors that will be working with the deaf population; and staff retention strategies. The facility will be hiring in July, opening in August, 2003. They will employ about 30 persons – full and part time.

International Marketplace – Rockwood - Joan reported on the planning process for the Marketplace and potential for use of the Rockwood Fred Meyer building to enhance an International retail environment.

Bi-lingual Job Coach Institute – Joan reported that the Institute will kick-off on March 28-29 with a Menucha retreat. There are 12 persons registered. The Institute has been certified as an Eligible Training Provider and now qualifies for DWP and WIA funds.

Re-entry planning team – Maren and Joan reported on progress with the planning for an employment strategy that will create enterprise specifically to employ ex-offenders. The plan is based on the Pioneer Human Services model in Seattle.

Pioneer Human Services (PHS) is an entrepreneurial non-profit organization that improves the lives of its clients through employment and training, social services, and housing. Since 1962, PHS has offered a “Chance for Change” to high-risk populations, particularly adults and juveniles who are former offenders and substance abusers. PHS serves more than 6,000 clients a year and 1,900 individuals at any given time in its employment, training, counseling, community corrections, and housing programs and facilities. PHS’ philosophy is to serve its clients and the community through social enterprise.

The PHS employment and training model consists of several manufacturing industries and distribution services. PHS also operates a retail food business and construction service.

- . Pioneer Industries manufactures and finishes light metal parts for aircraft, telecommunication, medical and power management systems.
- . Pioneer Distribution Services has three business units that operate under this division to provide assembly, repackaging and transportation services.
- . PHS prepares and delivers more than 750,000 meals annually to Pioneer programs and third party customers.
- . Pioneer Construction Services employs more than 60 people in remodeling and construction projects, including roofing and siding.

ECOS will be working with Central City Concern on a funding proposal to the SOROS foundation to secure planning funds to begin a similar project in the Portland Metro area. Joan will be meeting with representatives from SOROS in May while in New York attending meetings of the Legal Action Center. The Legal Action meeting is scheduled in conjunction with her role as a member of the Council of State Government’s Re-entry Policy Council. Note: the Legal Action Center has listed ECOS work with ex-offenders as a Model Practice for re-entry of former felons to their communities.

Projects for employing the disabled – home based business strategy – Jesse and Ruthanne – Still awaiting word from Salem as to whether funds will be approved from the Services to Groups project to begin this process. Although the funds are to be spent by June 30, 2003, Jesse believes they can be carried over to fall, if committed. These federal funds can be leveraged with a 4 to 1 match ratio.

Regional and System reports:

Worksystems, inc. – Jesse and Gwen

Wsi received a multi-company grant (80 companies are on the eligible list) funds must be spent by June 30th and there are limited persons qualified/eligible to participate. There may be no reductions in WIA funds from the federal budget for the next FY. The reauthorization of WIA act may lead to some changes in how funds are administered, it will be late fall before we know how that will play out. The Governors will likely have a lot of control over funding decisions in each state. Wsi continues efforts to establish only one full service comprehensive one stop resource center in the region – the Capital Center in Beaverton. What this will mean for the rest of the operational centers is still unknown.

Wsi is restructuring how services will be delivered as well. It appears that the intent is for the one stop(s) to do intensive and training with core services delivered at the employment department offices.

Employment Dept. report – Karen reported on office activity and the IMAX skills process. The Gresham office is a test site for the new skill matching resource, with full roll out to other offices due in the fall. Their office handled the mass recruitment for the new WINCO store on 122nd and

Halsey. They were hiring for mostly entry-level jobs. The state extension for UI benefits is still undecided – unexpired claims after January could qualify for another 13 weeks.

Planning activity – Retreat for 2003 – discussion on date and location
Tentative dates: June 27-28 in Bend – Catherine will host the meeting portion of the retreat at her home and will get out a list of area lodging facilities for those staying overnight.

Expansion of grant writing activity – reports on progress

Healthcare – Catherine Zimmerman – may apply for OCCWD funds

Re-entry, community dev., Job coach/ESL – Joan has the following applications in process: Most are in the early stages of pre-application.

DuBois Salon – OCCWD fund

Rockefeller Foundation – International Marketplace

National Endowment for the Arts – Marketplace

Oregon Cultural Trust – Marketplace

SOROS Foundation – Reentry Strategy – Project Rejuvenation

Next Meeting: April 24th – Host: Portland Habilitation Center