

EAST COUNTY ONE STOP BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2006 9 AM TO 11:30 AM
WORKSOURCE PORTLAND METRO EAST
19421 SE Stark, Gresham

Meeting Notes:

Participants: Kay Lopez, MHCC and Worksource Oregon, Debbie Foote – DHS, Luba Tsniovkina, Derek Beaudry and Tosca Rawls – Human Solutions, Catherine Todd – Easter Seals Oregon, Karen Hubbard – Linfield School of Nursing, Connie Foster – OVRS, Laura Bock – JDN, Abby Kennedy – YWCA, Keith Biggs – Reynolds School District, Marian George – SSP, Kedma Ough – Avita and Associates, Joan Pasco, ECOS project manager.

The minutes of the October 25th board meeting were approved with one revision in wording in the section about the JDN.

Regional reports:

WSI and state workforce – wsi will issue an RFP for youth services in the spring of 2007. The contracts for adult services will not up for renewal until 2008.

Workforce Connections and Gresham Employment Office: the relocation of Workforce Connections has gone smoothly. The new One Stop Resource Center is at capacity most of the time. New incentive funds have been received due to 100% performance on job placement. Some funds will be used for certified workforce development training for staff. They are working in partnership with Reynolds School District and introducing students to I-Match and the One Stop resource center. Kay will conduct a tour of the new offices and resource center following the board meeting.

Other Project reports

Rockwood Weed and Seed – Their new VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) center is set up. They are seeking ideas to use the computer lab after tax season for training or other services.

SSP – Senior Safety Pin Project – Marian and Karen – The project was featured in an Oregonian article on October 26th. 48 seniors have been recruited into the project and a wait list is now in place as there will be some attrition in the program and we may be able to take in additional folks at some point in time. The student experience has been positive – they are dedicated to the outcome of helping participants maintain independent living. McCann's Medical Supply is offering a 20% discount for people in the SSP project. The project team will be seeking new funds to continue the project past July when United Way funding sunsets.

SCSEP – (Senior Community Service Experience Project) Collaboration with Easter Seals – Catherine Todd. All participants are being re-certified as part of the process to transfer services from AARP to Easter Seals Oregon. New participants are being accepted into the project. To qualify, they must be over the age of 55 and meet the income requirement of below 125% of the federal poverty rate. Participants are paid minimum wage from project funding for a maximum of 20 hours a week. Host sites provide supervision and meaningful work experience that will help participants become employed. At this time, new host sites are not needed – that may change as new participants come into the project.

MIPO – Inventor project –Kedma Ough – The project is moving along nicely. A patent attorney and licensing agent are on board to provide support to inventors in the project. Kedma is developing partnerships with Hillsboro High School and their fabrication center as well as many other organizations including the Oregon Entrepreneurs Forum. The Inventors Alliance webSeminar series will begin in January. A business plan competition is planned and the US Patent Office is sending a person to Portland in April to assist with a regional training and trade show. Persons are needed to serve on a new Advisory Council for MIPO. If interested contact Kedma.

DBA – Differently-Abled Business Association –Kedma – This project is getting great news coverage with feature stories in the Oregonian, the Skanner, and EQUITY, a national publication for the disabled. A monthly newsletter is distributed that describes training and other participant resources and opportunities. Over 100 people attended the October Grand Opening event. Mayor Tom Potter did the ribbon cutting and expressed his support for the project. Kedma made a presentation to the State Rehab Council and is doing outreach to the Veterans Administration and the Commission for the Blind.

OECDD MVIP – Market Vendor Incubator Project – Joan Pasco – over 80 market vendor businesses have participated in training to date. The OECDD is conducting a participant survey in December. Six more market-training sessions are scheduled for 2007. Funds for this project come from the OECDD Targeted Service Provider program. A new RFP for these funds for the 2007-2009 biennium will be released this spring. We will discuss funding options for these funds at the January board retreat. Possible projects to be submitted in the competitive process include DBA and MIPO.

CEO/JOLI project with Easter Seals – Joan Pasco: This project is winding down. It was scheduled to end in February 2006, but was awarded a no-cost extension to Feb. 2007. The extension was provided to give the 56 participating businesses more time to tap into the revolving loan fund to support their businesses. **The project was featured in the Dept. of Health and Human Services, Office of Community Service Newsletter as the “Project Success Story of the Month” for November.**

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, Portland Habilitation Services, and **Human Solutions** – 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.

Carry-over Business:

JDN Jobs Network status – Memorandum of Agreement with ECOS – Connie and Laura shared their commitment to bring the JDN under the ECOS corporate umbrella. A one-year MOU between the JDN and ECOS was approved by the board. The JDN will be able to apply for grant funding using the ECOS 501 c3 status and ECOS will be the fiscal agent for any funds they raise to support their mission which is to support and sustain a Professional Network that develops employment opportunities and builds connections within the communities it serves.

United Way Fund Drive – Marian and Joan – An appeal was again made for board members to support the fall campaign. However, most board members work in organizations that have their own campaigns and have already donated. **ECOS was able to provide \$325 for the 2006-2007 campaign.**

DHS – Support strategies for people losing TANF benefits – discussion – Over 1200 individuals will reach their lifetime maximum for TANF benefits in July 2008. The board discussed possible resources to help with the transition from benefits to self-sustainability. This is an issue that will be discussed in depth at the January board retreat. The Portland DHS offices are working through a re-engineering of how they deliver services to clients with most changes occurring in how case management is administered.

New Business

Meyer Memorial Trust and Murdock Charitable Trust grant applications: Applications to provide continues and/or additional support for the SSP, DBA and MIPO projects are being developed. Joan will request an email vote from the board to approve applications when they are ready to be submitted. (The ECOS by-laws require board approval for grant applications over \$10,000).

Portland area LensCrafters Optical Centers are providing free eye exams and one pair of glasses for low-income persons on December 5th. Each store has a different approach, but all stores require referral from a 501 c3 organization that will make the appointments for the individual and verify that they are indeed low-income with vision needs.

A third **Homeless Connection** event will be held on January 23rd in the Coliseum. Agencies are welcome to be there to provide direct services to the homeless population. This event will be geared to singles. Other events have been family oriented.

Human Solutions has about 50 spots left in their training series to prepare people for work in social service agencies. Contact Tosca Rawls for more information.

ECOS Board Meeting schedule:

Finance and Management Team: Monday, December 18th - 11:30 Thai Orchid

Board Meetings:

No meeting in December – HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

January – annual board retreat – Springdale – Jan. 31st.