

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Supporting and Advocating for County)	R E S O L U T I O N
Linkage to the Workforce Development)	97-10
System)	

WHEREAS significant federal, state and local changes are proposed for the planning and delivery of workforce development and training; and

WHEREAS the Oregon Workforce Quality Act sunsets at the end of the 1995-1997 biennium; and

WHEREAS state and local stakeholders support efforts to plan for the future of Oregon's workforce; and

WHEREAS the Governor proposes, based on a recommendation from the Workforce Quality Council, that appointment of local workforce boards be by county commissioners (and in Portland with the mayor); and

WHEREAS Multnomah County has become more involved in workforce training and development as a long term solution to problems of family self-sufficiency. The Board of Commissioners adopted a Strategic Investment Program (SIP) policy supporting property tax abatements to companies who target a portion of their employment hiring to the unemployed and under-employed. The County is involved in building the social services capacity of areas with high numbers of residents in or at risk of poverty and is collaborating in developing one-stop career centers to address the needs of the unemployed and under-employed; and

WHEREAS as a provider and funder of social and correctional services, Multnomah County is a key workforce stakeholder and has a substantial stake in workforce development and training. Multnomah County provides and funds a broad array of social services to the unemployed and under-employed which are currently not effectively integrated into the workforce system; and

WHEREAS a recent Multnomah County Community Action Program report states that the number of people at 100 percent of the federal poverty level increased in Multnomah County from 1980 to 1994 by 2 percent. Women, families headed by women, and racial/ethnic minorities are more likely to be living in poverty; and

WHEREAS the new federal welfare legislation may increase the numbers of people needing County services; and

WHEREAS the Welfare Reform efforts under the Oregon Option have adopted an aggressive "Labor Attachment" Model to move welfare recipients and potential welfare recipients into jobs as quickly as possible, which would benefit from linkage with social services; and

WHEREAS the best route out of poverty or low wage jobs is a living wage.

For the unemployed and under-employed, workforce training and placement is key to securing living wage employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS employment increases the likelihood of successful parole and probation for ex-offenders; and

WHEREAS the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners recognizes the critical link between the social service and workforce development systems. When successfully linked, social service and workforce development systems provide a continuum of services that promote economic self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS linking workforce and social service systems will assist the County in reaching its Benchmarks for supporting children and families and assuring public safety; and

WHEREAS the Strategic Investment Program will be a model structure for the County to build on, and it is an integral part of developing the County's workforce policy development and system; and

WHEREAS businesses, social service providers and communities benefit from a successful connection between social services and workforce development. Employers gain a qualified workforce. Social service providers are able to help clients become more economically self-sufficient and less reliant on public resources; and

WHEREAS it is the desire of the Board of County Commissioners to work collaboratively with our partners, including but not limited to, City of Portland, Mount Hood Community College, Portland Community College, Private Industry Council, Washington County, Clackamas County, and the State of Oregon; now therefore

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners supports and will advocate for a workforce system that links with the social service and corrections systems with the educational and workforce training systems; and

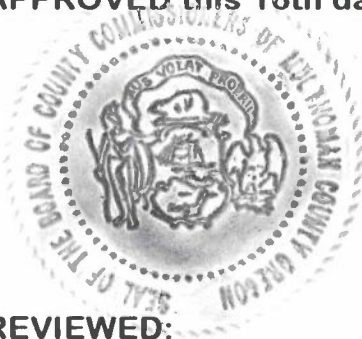
IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners finds that a successful workforce development system includes the following characteristics:

- . Community representation on local workforce boards and on relevant and decision making state level boards or task forces. Communities gain control by being able to work with representatives from various agencies and programs rather than having policies centrally implemented. Community-based models allow those closest to the clients to assess their needs and design corresponding programs.**
- . Focus on stakeholders' needs not program needs. Stakeholders include job seekers, their families and employers.**
- . Funding decisions based on a clear understanding of the gap between existing programs and the needs identified by stakeholders and on strategies to implement promising practices.**

State and local workforce efforts linked with the needs of special populations including but not limited to ex-offenders, people with disabilities and people with other special needs that make it difficult for them to obtain or hold jobs.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that a Multnomah County Workforce Policy Development task force is created to better understand the challenges and opportunities within the County social service and corrections systems for enhancing the link to the workforce development system. The task force is charged with drafting a set of policy and program administrative recommendations in an action plan to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for review and approval no later than May 15, 1997. The plan will focus on four County service areas: the Department of Juvenile and Adult Community Justice, the Health Department, the Community and Family Services' Community Action Program, and the Strategic Investment Program. The County Chair will appoint staff involved with workforce issues and other advisors.

APPROVED this 16th day of January, 1997.

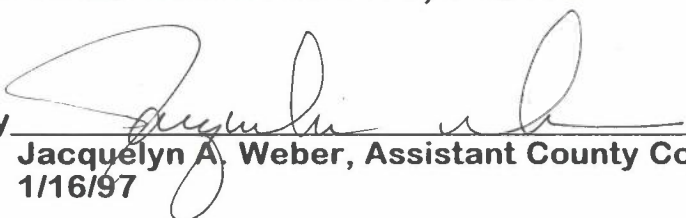


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON


Beverly Stein, Chair

REVIEWED:

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FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 
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1/16/97