



**Collaborative Project with  
GEARS, Steps to Success and Adult & Family Services  
Progress Report: May, 2000**

**Family Coaching:**

<b>Activity Description</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
<b>Number of Family Referrals</b>	<b>*2</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Number of Families Referred Who Became Involved with GEARS</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Number of Individuals within those Families</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Number of Individual Assessments</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Number of Families Engaged in On-Going Coaching</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>

*Lower referral numbers reflect that coaching slots have been filled.*

**Number of Open Cases on May 1<sup>st</sup>: 10**  
**Number of Open Cases on June 1<sup>st</sup>: 9**  
**Number of Cases Closed during April: 2**

<b>Referrals by AFS Branch</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
<b>Outer Southeast</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Southeast</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>East</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

**Case Example:**

Sandra (not her real name) was referred to GEARS by both her AFS caseworker and a Steps to Success employment specialist. Sandra is 46 years old and cares for her husband who is disabled. Together Sandra and her husband have two children: Cheyenne, 14 and Stan, 8.

After meeting with Sandra for an assessment, GEARS staff and the case manager met to adjust the EDP to accurately address Sandra's needs and goals. From the assessment it was discovered that Sandra had not worked outside her home for 13 years, suffered from depression and was recently informed that the courts were requiring her to complete community service. In addition Sandra's daughter would frequently leave home for days at a time and her son was having difficulty maintaining in a regular classroom due to behavioral problems.

Rather than focusing on employment related activities, Sandra and her casemanager requested that the GEARS coach support Sandra in pursuing mental health counseling, completing community service, and researching ways that she could stabilize her children.

Sandra has attended every scheduled appointment with her GEARS coach. Sandra has started community service in her neighborhood, met with her son's school where she initiated an evaluation with the school district, scheduled a mental health assessment for her son at a community mental health center and gathered resources for her teenage daughter. Currently Sandra and her coach are working towards the goal of finding the family permanent housing. Sandra is confident that once her family has stabilized, she will be able to succeed in employment goals.

## GEARS Connection Sites at AFS:

Activity Description	May	Cumulative
Number of Participants at OSE*	31	91
Number of Participants at SE**	32	32
Total participants this month at both branches	63	123
Hours on-site in the lobby at OSE	27	63
Hours on-site in the lobby at SE	20	20
Total participants this month at both branches	47	83
***Number of participants who are TANF recipients	16	21
***Number of participants who are food stamp recipients	22	54
***Number of participants who currently receive no benefits (applying or opted to not answer the question regarding involvement)	25	51

\*The OSE GEARS Connection site began operating on March 20. We are available in the OSE AFS branch on Monday and Friday mornings (8 to 11 AM).

\*\*The SE GEARS Connection site began operating on May 16. We are available there on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons (1 to 5 PM).

\*\*\* Individuals were encouraged, but not *required* to describe AFS involvement in order to receive GEARS assistance.

Families utilizing the GEARS Connection site have identified a variety of resource and service needs for themselves. The most commonly requested areas for assistance (in May) included:

***\*\*Assistance in finding and securing housing was the most prevalent request at both sites.***

### **Outer Southeast Branch:**

Assistance with employment and food were the two most common requests after housing.

### **Southeast Branch:**

Assistance with clothing and food were the two most common requests after housing. Participants also frequently asked for assistance in seeking educational opportunities.

**To accommodate requests, Spanish-speaking GEARS staff are available on Friday mornings (OSE AFS) and Thursday afternoons (SE AFS)**



**Collaborative Project with  
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Progress Report: April, 2000**

**Family Coaching:**

<b>Activity Description</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
<b>Number of Family Referrals</b>	7	21
<b>Number of Families Referred Who Became Involved with GEARS</b>	*3	*12
<b>Number of Individuals within those Families</b>	12	46
<b>Number of Individual Assessments</b>	3	13
<b>Number of Families Engaged in On-Going Coaching</b>	10	12

*\* 4 referrals were received during the last week of April. Their assessments are scheduled for the first week of May.*

**Number of Open Cases on April 1<sup>st</sup>: 8**

**Number of Open Cases on May 1<sup>st</sup>: 10**

**Number of Cases Closed during April: 1**

<b>Referrals by AFS Branch</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
<b>Outer Southeast</b>	3	12
<b>Southeast</b>	4	7
<b>East</b>	0	2

**Case Example:**

Sam is a 34 year-old, single father of two boys (ages 10 & 12). Their family has a long history of homelessness. Sam suffers from degenerative arthritis and a back injury. Both conditions seriously limit his employment opportunities.

This family now has housing, but the boys have stayed in the transitional school for homeless children rather than becoming engaged in their community school. Their casemanager specifically asked us to assist Sam in establishing personal organization skills because he had a history of missing appointments.

Sam has made it to each appointment with his GEARS coach. He has a calendar to track his appointments and has acquired a pager so that AFS and others can contact him. (The family has no phone). His coach is helping him to select a healthcare provider through the Oregon Health Plan so that he can return to taking medication for his Attention Deficit Disorder. He and his coach have planned a meeting so that he can learn how to utilize the public buses. With help, he has registered his boys for summer camp and plans to attend the open house at their neighborhood school.

## GEARS Connection Site at the Outer Southeast branch of AFS:

Activity Description	April	Cumulative
Number of Participants	35	59
Hours on-site in the lobby	24	36
**Number of participants who are TANF recipients	3	5
**Number of participants who are food stamp recipients	17	32
**Number of participants who currently receive no benefits (applying) (or opted to not answer the question regarding involvement)	18	26
<p>* The GEARS Connection site began operating on March 20. We are available in the OSE AFS branch on Monday and Friday mornings (8 to 11 AM).</p> <p>** Individuals were encouraged, but not <i>required</i> to describe AFS involvement in order to receive GEARS assistance.</p>		

**Families utilizing the GEARS Connection site have identified a variety of resource and service needs for themselves. The six most commonly requested areas for assistance (in April) included:**

- \*Finding Employment – 20 requests
- \*Housing & Utilities – 20 requests
- Education & Schools – 14 requests
- Clothing – 14 requests
- Food & Nutrition – 10 requests
- Health & Medical – 8 requests

\* Employment and Housing have been the most frequently requested areas of assistance for the last two months.

Other identified areas of need included childcare, transportation, money management skills, legal assistance, and recreational and social opportunities.

**To accommodate requests, Spanish-speaking GEARS staff are available on Friday mornings.**



**Collaborative Project with  
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Progress Report: March, 2000**

**Family Coaching:**

<b>Activity Description</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
Number of Family Referrals	7	14
Number of Families Referred Who Became Involved with GEARS	5	9
Number of Individuals within those Families	20	34
Number of Individual Assessments	5	10
Number of Families Engaged in On-Going Coaching	8	9

Number of Open Cases on March 1<sup>st</sup>: 4  
 Number of Open Cases on April 1<sup>st</sup>: 8  
 Number of Cases Closed during March: 1

<b>Referrals by AFS Branch</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
Outer Southeast	5	9
Southeast	1	3
East	1	2

**Case Example:**

Tammy (not her real name) and her two school-aged children were referred to GEARS in March. Her partner of 15 years and the father of her children was recently sent to the Oregon State Hospital after he was convicted of shooting and killing his brother. This was the third murder to occur within Tammy's family.

Tammy didn't complete her freshman year of high school and has a felony theft conviction on her record. She identifies these as barriers to employment. Tammy's casemanager recognized that the family is in need of mental health services. Her casemanager also asked that Tammy receive assistance in developing supports for the children.

During her assessment with a GEARS social worker, Tammy developed steps to help her succeed in her EDP. She has been very responsible in keeping appointments and has met with her family coach twice. They meet at Lane Middle School where Tammy is now pursuing her GED. She has an appointment with Better People on April 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss her felony history and has succeeded in finding free recreational activities for her kids. Aside from GEARS involvement, she has kept her mental health appointments.

Tammy is requesting an anger management class, is interested in parenting classes, and is motivated to find improved housing for her family. These goals are in addition to her EDP requirements.

## GEARS Connection Site at the Outer Southeast branch of AFS:

Activity Description	*March	Cumulative
Number of Participants	25	25
Hours on-site in the lobby	12	12
**Number of participants who are TANF recipients	2	2
**Number of participants who are food stamp recipients	15	15
**Number of participants who currently receive no benefits (applying)	8	8

\* The GEARS Connection site began operating on March 20. We are available in the OSE AFS branch on Monday and Friday mornings (8 to 11 AM).

\*\* Individuals were encouraged, but not *required* to describe AFS involvement in order to receive GEARS assistance.

**Families utilizing the GEARS Connection site have identified a variety of resource and service needs for themselves. The five most commonly requested areas for assistance included:**

- Finding Employment – 13 requests
- Housing & Utilities – 13 requests
- Food & Nutrition – 8 requests
- Health & Medical – 8 requests
- Transportation – 8 requests

Other identified areas of need included childcare, clothing, money management skills, legal assistance, and recreational and social opportunities.

**To accommodate requests, we increased the number of hours that our Spanish-speaking staff was outstationed at the branch. Service will be available in English and Spanish during our normal operating hours.**