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## April 9, 2009 Executive Director Update

### Meetings & Contacts

I am continuing to meet with members, potential clients, and data sources:

- Liza Nolan & CCDA is pursuing a grant from the Casey foundation for to help her members deal with one of their chief impediments to development and neighborhood stabilization: **abandoned properties**. She wants CAMConnect to provide the required mapping, data management and analysis. I will meet with the new CCDA abandoned property working group April 24<sup>th</sup>. Liza has also been providing information on **housing development**.
- Through Liza, I had a very positive meet with Sandy Johnson, the new CRA & Planning Director. She is looking to supplement her staffs' capacity with assistance from CAMConnect to jumpstart departmental performance and economic development benchmarking and support funding applications. In the short term she is looking for data on **mortgage delinquencies**. I would like to parley the city's stated inability to pay for our services into a formal and ongoing **data-sharing agreement**. We are due to talk by Friday about what data she can share and what maps she needs. I will be calling her today.
- I spoke with Professor Robyne Turner about the **DrillDown**. She would like CAMConnect to be the local custodian of the data. She is searching for funding and was in discussion with the Empowerment Zone as a possible funder. I would like to introduce the DrillDown to Director Johnson to gain her support in acquiring the necessary administrative data, but the project is still too preliminary to spend time raising anyone's expectations.
- Deborah Hirsch from the Courier Post interviewed me but decided not to write a story yet. She would like to write a long piece about abandoned and **vacant property**.
- Manthu Tekhna the city's GIS director and Josh Warner the GIS director for the CRA and I had our first data sharing meeting. Meetings will probably continue quarterly. Josh is also interested in **vacancy data** and confirmed that the County tax data on vacancy is only of limited value. Both the City and CRA are looking for data from the private telecoms and utility providers.
- I met with Monica Leibovitz (nee Lesmerises), Cooper's Community Development Director. She is interested primarily in **property data (including vacants)** and mapping and has been providing me with data about **development** around Cooper. She sits on a committee of the Camden "**eds & meds**" and was responsible for putting together a joint report on their economic impact. I suggested that the data be collected annually and become part of CAMConnect's annual Camden Facts, including **mapping employee residence and salary data**. I will be giving a brief presentation to the group on May 8<sup>th</sup> and suggesting that CAMConnect contract with the group to provide data services.

- I met with Evelyn Robles-Rodruigez who directs the CEED Cancer Screening project in support of a grant application to quantify and address barriers to breast cancer care in Camden County. We are in the process of gaining access to the detailed **patient and breast cancer screening data** from the project. As part of this effort, I am also putting together an estimate of the Camden undocumented population.
- I met with several of the AHEC staff. Like everyone, they need Camden-specific and smaller geography data of all types where often only larger area data exists. They are interested in designing **better survey instruments and data collection techniques** to track all of their programs, particularly their needle exchange pilot site, where data discrepancies could jeopardize the future of the program state-wide. They will be putting me in touch with their external program evaluator at UMDNJ. AHEC would also like to subcontract with CAMConnect to enhance the **community health and research curriculum** that they provide for UMDNJ osteopathic students.
- Today I will be talking with Sue Brennan, now at GCP, about collaborating on an annual report and other topics.
- On Monday, I will be meeting with Dianne Sterner, Executive Director of the Housing and Community Development Network of NJ (roughly Liza Nolan's state-wide counterpart). To discuss as yet unknown work they would like CAMConnect to perform.
- On Tuesday I am meeting with Andrew Leveccia, the Planning Director at the County Improvement Authority to see what needs to be done to have Camden start producing regular traffic counts again.

#### Other Data, Events & Projects

- I have started building the development tracking database.
- I made usability improvements to the patient care management database for the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers.
- Today or tomorrow I should be receiving maps from which I can add the Baldwin's Run streets to our electronic maps (The City has not mapped this yet) from the St. Joseph Carpenter Society.
- I spent a week cleaning and geocoding the Hospital Admissions Database. Of the 465 thousand patient visits, I and was able to map 93%. This not only allows for a leap in the sophistication of analysis possible with the database, but provides a basis for mapping all kinds of very messy (greater than 2 in 3 error rate) address datasets (see map).
- On Tuesday Michelle Schmidt from the Metropolitan Philadelphia Indicators Project (MPIP) at Temple gave a free training for CAMConnect members about their MetroPhilaMapper online mapping software training. If more members had shown up, MPIP could be significantly challenging our business model. The sophistication and ease of use of the MPIP software suggests the growing importance of Camden specific datasets, custom estimates and tabulations, local relationship building, and other user services in keeping CAMConnect relevant to users. MetroPhilaMapper does not lessen the need for us to warehouse data, but it could reduce web traffic and mapping requests. On the up-side, MPIP provides a great service and Michelle is providing me with access to her online geocoding software for our use.

- Web traffic is consistent around 850 visits, 77% new visitors over the past month. The neighborhood map is the most popular page. It should be updated. In general findability needs improvement

#### Administrative

I spent quite a bit of time over the past month attending to administrative and clerical tasks: figuring out undocumented procedures for obtaining data, trying to purchase a computer, research protocol review; software crashes; a broken hard drive, repair options, developing a new backup policy, researching data encryption; and completing human subjects research certification.