



May 28, 2009

## Executive Director Update for the June 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting

### Meetings & Contacts

- The meeting and presentation at the Eds & Meds group went well. They have **requested a proposal** before their next quarterly meeting, for CAMConnect's ongoing services to perform data collection, mapping, analysis, and potentially report design on an annual schedule for their various types of impact data.
- I attended another CCDA abandoned property working group (now called **SNAAP: Stabilizing Neighborhoods by Addressing Abandoned Properties**). I am still working on the abandoned properties list which has grown quite large, including the data from several planning studies, CDCs, the state police, and public works. The work takes on even more relevance (but still no revenue) now that the city is applying for HUDs Neighborhood Stabilization Program II (NSPII) funding. Census Tracts are qualified to receive funds by virtue of 2 scores, one for foreclosure rate, another for vacant property. Foreclosure is more heavily weighted, and Camden's long term vacancy and slow real estate market reduce its foreclosure rate. There is precedent and procedure for challenging scores in north Jersey, and demonstrating higher than recorded vacancy is Camden's best chance to mount a challenge.
- CCDA also had a meeting at which CRA/Planning Director Sandy Johnson presented her geographic priorities for development (CBD, North Camden, Gateway, Cooper/Lanning, Cramer Hill, to no one's surprise) she remains refreshingly candid. The City will not block but will not fund projects in other areas until their participation in targeted projects in at least one of these neighborhoods is complete. She again solicited CAMConnect's participation, this time in the **NSPII application working group** (no meeting date set). I tentatively agreed to participate, but advised her of the limited time I could offer.
- By Tuesday June 2<sup>nd</sup> I will have met with Dr. Santiago to discuss possible participation in LEAP's application for an NIH **stimulus grant** to research health disparities around obesity.
- On Friday June 5<sup>th</sup>, I'll be meeting with Dave Foster of GCP to discuss a **jointly produced annual report** that would either be Camden Facts, or, more likely, would exist in addition to Camden Facts, since GCP is unlikely to have interest in publishing all of the same data Facts usually includes. The substance of the report could still be re-used in other CAMConnect reports. He has suggested that we could charge for the report, but still make the raw data available on our website.
- I am attempting to (re)schedule a meeting with LEAP superintendant Dr. Deanna Burney for the week of the 8<sup>th</sup> to develop the proposal for a **performance analysis database**.

### Projects

- The Community Development Network of NJ received my proposal for the design of their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary report, but has **delayed their timeline** for internal reasons. They want to negotiate the project tasks to reduce their cost. Having now seen several of their past publications, I believe they are looking for something much simpler than what I proposed.
- Sean Brown started his summer employment with CAMConnect on Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup>. He will be **updating reports**, starting with the Know Your City 2 page compendium, requesting the required new data, assisting with the **GIS data cleaning** mentioned at the previous meeting if time permits, assisting with **member outreach and board meeting planning**.

He is also documenting some past data contact of which I was not aware. Sean is already off to a running start.

- Aaron Truchil will begin his internship Monday, working on **GIS data cleaning, integration of the most recent patient data**, descriptive and **inferential analysis of the patient database** (after completing the required training and approvals).
- **Computer maintenance** continues. A second computer was infected by a virus. It took about a day in total to remove the virus, repair the PC, and install antivirus and anti-spyware software on that and other unprotected machines.

#### Funding

- As of today, LEAP Academy charter school has not yet paid for the completed **student mapping and analysis**, but I am promised a check when we next meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- I purchased a subscription to the **GrantStation grants database**, but have not yet been granted approval or access. The provider (TechSoup) is still processing our application and explanation of non-profit status.
- I have a contact in the **Philadelphia Eagles** organization, John Schorah, who believes that their charitable wing may be interested in funding a CAMConnect project. I have yet to get in touch with him directly.
- I researched the options for **NSPII direct funding to CAMConnect** for technical assistance to applicants and awardees. Because of CAMConnect's size and local scope, the organization could only qualify indirectly as a subcontractor of a qualified entity. I will try to determine if The Reinvestment Fund is applying for this money, and whether they could make use of CAMConnect's services in that way.
- We received funds from **Cooper** for the Cancer project and membership renewals from **United Way** and **UMDNJ Urban & Community Development**

#### New Data & Sources

- Attempts to obtain **cancer screening data** from the state for use in the Avon grant in support of the CEED programs proceeds slowly through the Health & Senior Services IRB. We should be able to obtain data without SSN and Address.
- I have attempted and Sean is continuing to seek new **crime data** from the Police Department.
- Sean obtained updated state, county, and city participation numbers for **TANF and the Food Stamps program**
- The **patient data** for the second half of 2008 has been received from Lourdes and Virtua, but Cooper is no longer allowing CAMConnect direct data access, so that data may take some time to collect.
- I have the contact information for Pat Kenney, the school board data manager. I hope to obtain 2007-8 and possibly 2008-9 enrollment and drop-out data not yet available from the state DOE.
- Census produced a **database rating how likely all Census tracts are to be undercounted** in the 2010 census. Attached is my analysis for Camden. I will release this to the membership and the press as soon as I find out from the local Census office if they can provide more appropriate general contact information. I have already sent it to Sandy Johnson.
- A trial subscription to RealtyTrac's full **foreclosure and sales** dataset proved to be unreliable and of little use.
- With some effort I was able to produce an electronic copy of the **2009 budget**. I will post a copy on the website.