



## July 29, 2009 Executive Director Update, August 6<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting

### Meetings & Contacts

- I met with Gwendy Harris to give her more background on myself, CamConnect, and talk about possible Rand collaboration. Currently the Center has no on staff GIS capacity, though that status may change.
- I met with G. Lynn Brown of Planned Parenthood to introduce myself and discuss possible projects. Planned Parenthood feels largely data self-sufficient relying on its own administrative records. She did express a desire to see more local HIV/AIDS data made available. She also offered the use of her conference room for meetings and trainings and suggested a potential school district contact.
- I met with City Tax Collector Sherri Garton as part of a CCDA/SNAAP delegation. Her office processes or produces tax delinquency data and foreclosure eligibility lists etc. Liza Nolan and I will be requesting data through OPRA to help measure and predict property abandonment. She also pointed us in the direction of two other departments that produce related relevant data. We're perusing additional meetings.

### Projects

- CCOP has my proposal in hand for analysis of their **Camden Recovery opinion survey** currently in the field. They have added several general recession impact questions and want to compare results to the 2005 data Derek had tabulated. I am waiting for feedback to proceed or make changes
- I have provided LEAP Academy charter school with a limited monthly flat fee contract for **ongoing data management** and analysis and am awaiting approval or modifications. During that waiting period I have begun working with them on a simple fee for service basis.
- Aaron continues to compile background material and pro forma text to streamline and improve our **grant application procedure**, including **board member biographical blurbs and photos** (also for the website). They are about 50% complete (still needed from Joe, Bill, Jean, and Gwendy among others).
- Aaron is adding an **interactive photo gallery with a map interface** to the website (CamEra anyone?) for geo-tagged Camden photos and CamConnect event photos. We are also testing an embedded **Google calendar** of public and CamConnect events.
- While Aaron continues to work on the document collection of the Datalogue, we have started **cataloging our data holdings** to allow for better customer service, maintenance, and identifications of strengths and weaknesses in the collection.

### New Data & Sources

- Mānthu Tekhnä of the City GIS unit provided some **GIS brownfield and facility data**. In return I am trying to locate Camden Internet and broadband subscriber data in support of a City infrastructure stimulus grant application.
- Sean Brown has obtained **school graduation rates** for the Camden public high schools that seem suspiciously high. He is checking them against other sources and confirming them with the district.

Because Sean's **wages** have still not been received from the Cooper Foundation he has had to reduce his hours of summer work to take summer classes so that he can supplement his income with a student loan. A backlog of 8 checks should be available on Monday.

- Through a friend, I have obtained New Jersey Teacher Association **special district level tabulations** of NJDOE survey data allowing for statewide comparison of Camden's per pupil funding, school budgeting, teacher administrator and staff salaries, teacher longevity from 1999 to 2007-8.
- The City Public Works department completed a **new vacancy/immanent hazard survey** of properties in and around 6 census tracts. Betsy Clifford of Lutheran Housing via our interaction at SNAAP meetings. Aaron **mapped** the data and started incorporating it into our **vacancy master list**. I put together a brief **presentation** on city property issues, posted it to the website, and just mailed out the link to our list. I intend to refine this as time allows to provide a common frame of reference for vacancy issues. Some of the numbers can also be incorporated into the tax base discussion of the budget report.
- Deborah Hirsch of the Courier Post shared some **Fire-fighter human resources data** related to an article that she is writing. She asked that the data be embargoed until her story is published.
- We have posted a copy of the recent COO report and will soon add a brief summary.

### Funding

- Aaron and I have written a draft **proposal and budget for a 2 year \$130,000 dollar grant** from the Nicholson Foundation of Newark following a well received pitch Jeff made to Executive Director Mark Hoover. The proposal requests funding for a full time research assistant position, a portion of my salary, database subscriptions, an additional workstation in our increasingly busy office, and some new higher powered GIS, database and statistical software, and the associated training.

The project would **track the flow of funding into Camden** using person and address-level records of social service delivery agencies where available or imputation from the smallest area geographic data where individual records cannot be obtained. Expanding on the methodology of the Camden Health Database, the new combined data set could be used to characterize service delivery and usage, areas of overlap, net costs per person or area, migration, client lifecycles, and many other metrics to improve outcomes, manage costs, support outreach, assess needs, and trace patterns.

- We are also developing proposals to fund a revival and update of a "Camden Matters"-type **news aggregation site and email list project**.
- The reconciliation of our internal **budget** with the Foundation transaction logs is as complete as I can make it given the available records. I have accounted for 86% of the undercount in the internal budget. About 66% was due to internally unrecorded investment income, the remainder of the known portion included 2 uncashed outgoing checks that were never credited back to our internal budget, some failures to record transactions internally and apparent confusion over the recording of salary reimbursements. Going forward I will be receiving monthly statements from the Foundation so that the budget can be reconciled more frequently. Data entry and setup is ongoing in the new accounting software. (Budget to follow early next week.)