

CAMConnect Annual Members Meeting
December 7, 2007

Present: Bill Whitlow, Rutgers Univ.; Gary Divens, Camden County College; Marilyn Feingold, Camden County College; Bernadette West, UMDNJ-SPH; Joan Gray, Virtua Health-Camden; Jean Mouch, Medical Mission Sisters; Sue Brennan, Resident & Fairview Main Street; Joe Myers, Cooper's Ferry; Derek Ziegler, CAMConnect; Lauren Hill, Resident & ELC-CI; Daniel Walderrama, Welcome NJ; Joye Rozier, CAMcare Health Corp.; Sean Brown, Resident; Felix Moulrier, Resident; Barbara Coscarello, Resident & Consultant; Helene Pierson, Heart of Camden; A.D. Lingo, Camden Municipal Government; Carol Wolff, Camden AHEC; Brigid Belko, Big Brothers Big Sisters; Monica Lesmerises, Cooper University Hospital; Liza Nolan, CCDA; Ray Lamboy, LAEDA; Jeff Brenner, Cooper Family Medicine

Excused:

Welcome & Introductions:

The meeting commenced with a welcome by Bill, followed by introductions of members led by Bill, who stated that CAMConnect is his favorite organization in all of Camden.

Acknowledgements & Appreciation:

Derek offered thanks to members for their participation, to Cooper Hospital for hosting CAMConnect and fiscal support, to Jeff for leading the efforts to find a stable institutional home for CAMConnect for past five years, to new department chair at Cooper - Family Medicine for continued support, to Bill for coordinating the facilities arrangement for our Annual Meetings and Data Fairs, and to Sean for helping to pull it all together.

Review of CAMConnect's Activities in 2007:

Derek highlighted specific activities:

- Contractual Projects
 - Cooper's Ferry – City Budget Report
 - Save Our Waterfront – survey design
 - Camden County Cancer Coalition
 - Heart of Camden – mapping for redevelopment plans
 - City of Camden – GIS training
 - Reminded members to utilize and promote CAMConnect for project evaluation

- Summer 2007 Camden Facts was completed with new data items and updates to existing data; plans to create reports for each census track in the city

Introduction of 2008 Board:

Sean stated that although the election process was implemented a little later than usual, a few new people were nominated and voted onto the Board. The election results are as follows:

Bill Whitlow, Chair
Joye Rozier, Vice Chair
Bernadette West, Secretary
Joe Myers, Treasurer
Jeff Brenner, Fiscal Agent
Tyshammie Cooper, Outreach
Jennifer Ping, Data
Jean Mouch, Fund Development
Sean Brown, Governance & Membership
Hilary Colbert, Member
G. Lynn Brown, Member
Martha Chavis, Member
Carrie Sargeant, Member
Manuel Delgado, Member
Carol Wolff, Member
Stella Horton, Member
Tom Jones, Member
Lauren Hill, Member
Ray Lamboy, Member
Plyshette Wiggins, Member

Barbara inquired about our conflict of interest policy, indicating that we must review and ensure we are in compliance when contracting with Board members. Jean indicated that all members should receive a copy of CAMConnect Bylaws

Plans for 2008:

Derek discussed CAMConnect's data products, indicating that a list of all reports hosted on CAMConnect website was available; examples of reports include Camden Board of Education monthly meetings and crime data.

Bill stated if members had public documents regarding Camden (citywide or neighborhood) or if there's something they would like posted to please contact Derek.

Jean asked members to consider sharing data and reports that were not as successful as hoped, but revealed lots of lessons learned that would be beneficial to others.

Derek discussed CAMConnect Fund Develop & Strategic Guidelines for 2008; CAMConnect chose to focus on increasing technical assistance by adding one staff person to assist with database development and survey analysis; the position would be funded through a grant proposal; this additional staff position would allow Derek to concentrate more on research analysis, relationship building, and community outreach activities

Barbara asked what if the proposal is not funded, staffing implications. Derek indicated that CAMConnect will continue to work under current levels, smaller fee for service contracts, seek other funding opportunities, directly or in partnership, and engage interns.

Tony mentioned potential opportunity via Camden Empowerment Zone targeting non-profits; he would like to be involved in exploring this opportunity.

Jean and Bernadette indicated that NJ Institute for Elimination of Health Disparities may be an additional possibility, contact person is Diane Brown.

Sean stated that earlier this year large funders visited Camden; urged neighborhood collaboration; a survey to assess residents' views regarding safety and other issues is being proposed, CAMConnect has the ability to administer and evaluate survey and therefore should be partner with local survey projects.

Helene indicated that Governor Corzine has a housing task force, there are multiple and duplicative studies, and a lack of execution; CAMConnect could be advanced as organization for funders to determine if study and been conducted.

Tony discussed local 2010 Census project seeking participation to project as reviewers of census data to ensure more households are counted. There are discrepancies in Census data, we need to ensure Camden families are adequately counted; many funding decisions are based on Census data.

Website activity has slowly increased; November 2007 over 175 unique visits per day, compared to 100 such visits during November 2006, activity during some months spiked due to specific developments, such as when the most dangerous city data was released. Derek will focus on improving website, improving search capabilities, and provide more frequent data updates, not longer documents, just more quick facts, released more often.

Derek indicated that we could expect the members' survey within months. Derek and Bill invited members to please share their concerns, comments, and suggestions regarding CAMConnect's direction at any time.

Camden Facts 2008 Report provided today a DRAFT, members review and comments requested until February 2008. This document is the most requested, current edition is five years old. David Gonzalez, summer intern worked diligently over the summer to update data. After DRAFT document is screened by members, it will be released to public; members are requested to examine areas of the report based their background and expertise. Derek will contact specific members and stakeholders regarding particular neighborhood-level data. Derek asked members to let him know if they have good neighborhood pictures to be included in report.

Jean suggested contacted Save Our Waterfront regarding data pyramid, Joe will assist in getting SOW presentation materials to Derek.

Meeting adjourned.