



**CAMConnect – Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2005**

In Attendance: Jeffrey Brenner, Hilary Colbert, Jerome Harris, Lauren Hill, Jean Mouch, Chuck Steinmetz, Carol Wolff, and Derek Ziegler/Executive Director. Guests: Sean Brown, future VISTA Volunteer, and Ryan Sylvester from Rutgers Gleaner.

1. **Minutes:** Jean Mouch called the meeting to order. *Motion by Hill, second Steinmetz, for approval of the October 6, 2005 Executive Committee Minutes* passed unanimously.
2. **Board Meeting Recap:** Discussion about the October 27th Board meeting occurred with several follow up items identified including:

Outreach Needs: will include CAMConnect linking with neighborhoods and/or community centers with computer rooms or centers to share our data and resources with them.

City representation: The City has not yet paid their \$500 membership dues. Lauren Hill reached out to Dwight Wilson but has not gotten a response about his willingness to serve as a City representative. Rev. Tony Evans is interested but whether he can commit the time is of question. Jerry Harris will follow up on getting the dues from the City.

Delegation: A policy needs to be developed about delegates/other representatives at Board and Executive Committee meetings. At question: are delegates okay to send to meetings?

3. **Executive Director Update:** Since the Board meeting was in such close timing to this meeting, Derek Ziegler reviewed his written update from the October 27th Board meeting. Other highlights include:

New Staff: Sean Brown was introduced. Sean is a Camden resident who has done some work with CAMConnect in the past. He will be attending the VISTA training this month and then coming on board to CAMConnect as a VISTA Volunteer on November 21st.

Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day: Derek is going to do some poster boards from the survey work done in conjunction with AHEC and Cooper for display at the Camden Family Day celebration on November 19th at Rutgers Camden. The event is from 9:00 – 4:00. Derek will also have one page handouts summarizing some of CAMConnect's reports. Board members are encouraged to attend the event; Derek will let us know if he needs assistance on that day.

Camden Presentation: Derek will have information set out at the Rutgers Gordon Theatre on November 18th in conjunction with Prof. Howard Gillette's presentation on Camden's history. Derek will send out a link with information about this event.

CAMConnect Advocacy Role: The question was asked whether CAMConnect can advocate for more Camden City BRFSS data. In the most recent Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance (BRFSS) survey done by the County, there were six "distressed" municipalities that were over sampled, Camden being one of them. Data from these six "distressed" areas were then reported on as a group and not individually broken out. CAMConnect would like the opportunity to do some reporting on the Camden City specific data. It was decided that a letter to the appropriate State, County and/or County Freeholder would be drafted requesting this raw data.

- 4. Data Open House / Member Meeting:** Derek reviewed a proposed agenda for the Data Open House. It was agreed that the meeting begin at 8:00 a.m. rather than 8:30 to allow time to have breakfast and accomplish some business. Exhibits will be open at 9:30 a.m. Other suggested participants/data for the Open House include the Camden County BRFSS data and South Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance (SJEJA) presenting some of their environmental data. Carol will follow up with SJEJA. Derek noted that this year he would like for participants to have a one page summary of their data for people to take home and which he can also post on the CAMConnect website.

Suggested ways of marketing for the event included:

- Flyers handed out (draft flyer reviewed but needs to be in a larger font and include some of the other presenters)
- Flyer posted on the CAMConnect website
- Camden Matters advertising the event
- Courier Post – including ads in the Spanish section circular
- Rutgers Gleaner ad (Ryan Sylvester can assist in a reduced rate for this)
- Get flyers out to the high schools through the Board of Education
- Camden County College (Sean Brown will speak with them)
- S.J. Environmental Justice Alliance (Carol will get their mailing list)
- Channel 19 (Rev. Evans will be contacted to see if he will mention this on his "Camden on the Move" talk show)

Derek also suggested that a one to two page evaluation of the Data Open House be prepared so that we can get an idea of how the public perceives the event, data and presenters.

- 5. Opinion Leaders Survey:** Derek has about 300 names so far of leaders to survey. About half of those are residents but he needs more businesses and organization names. Members were again asked to forward lists they have to Derek. Jean will supply the Community Linkages list and Hilary will get some lists from CPAC of businesses and agencies. Other lists that were identified that may be beneficial are the Chamber of Commerce mailing list and list that Tony Lingo uses for grants management.

The survey questions are being finalized and then will be put on Survey Monkey. Derek will ensure anonymity of those who complete the survey. People will be notified by letter about the survey. There will be links to CAMConnect's website and a link posted on Camden Matters for people to use in completing the survey. There will be an identifying question on whether the respondent is a Camden City resident. It is anticipated that the survey will be up after the election next week with a goal of having 100 surveys completed by November 23rd. Results from the survey can be used as a status report for the new governor's transition team.

6. **Most Dangerous City Update and Discussion:** Derek noted that Camden will again be given the top ranking by Morgan-Quitno Press as the "Most Dangerous City" of over 75,000 based on projections. In large part this is due to the murder and robbery rate statistics. The updated Morgan-Quitno report is due to be released on November 21, 2005. Derek reviewed a two page fact sheet/summary of data compiled from 2003-2004 data. The fact sheet will be shared with the City police and Prosecutor's office (Bill Shralow) for their input. Jerry will reach out to the Chief of Police and Deputy Chief Pargas to let the Chief know that Derek will be calling him to see if updated information is available. It was suggested that this report be expanded to 4 pages to include a letter from the Prosecutor's office explaining the data and to allow use of a larger font and data from Philadelphia and Chester if possible since they are neighboring cities with similar demographics and issues. A note should be added about the formula used to calculate the rates. The fact sheet could be used at the Data Open House and put on our website once reviewed. We should also have a press release regarding the data that recognizes CAMConnect as an expert on Camden City data.

Ryan Sylvester from The Gleaner newspaper at Rutgers Camden is attending today's meeting to gain a better knowledge of CAMConnect and who we are and what it is we do. Ryan is going to be writing a report using the crime data once the data is finalized.

7. **Calendar for End of 2005 and Beyond:** Since there is a Member Meeting in December, it was decided that there would be no Executive Committee meeting in December. Instead, we will plan to have an extended Board meeting in January 2006 that will include 1) a strategic planning update, 2) orientation for new Board and Executive Committee members, and 3) provide a 12 month calendar of meetings for 2006
8. **Other Business:** the Health Report Card was reviewed by some Board members and is being revised based on some of their comments.

The Camden WIB is putting together their version of "the Purple Book" that Camden Neighborhood Renaissance does. Derek will try to get a copy of the Renaissance Purple Book on our website.

Next Meeting: Fall Member Meeting – December 2, 2005
8:00 a.m. – 12 noon at Rutgers Camden Campus Center

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.
Minutes submitted by Hilary Colbert.