



**CAMConnect – Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2005**

In Attendance: Jeffrey Brenner, Hilary Colbert, Lauren Hill, Chuck Steinmetz, Bill Whitlow, Derek Ziegler.

Minutes: Chuck Steinmetz called the meeting to order. *Motion for approval of the May Executive Committee Minutes* (Hill, with 2nd (Brenner) was passed.

Member Meeting Recap:

The “*Fact Checker*” role that was discussed at the last meeting for CAMConnect to play at the ARCC Mayoral Forum never materialized. However, a transcript from the mayoral forum did get posted on the CAMConnect web-site.

At the *Abbott Indicators Report release* there were a number of representatives from the District Parents Center who were very interested in some of our data. CAMConnect will pursue a relationship with the District Parents Center/Parents Advisory Council. The event received good coverage from the Courier-Post. Some of the hot topics that came out of the discussion at the forum included how violence gets measured, ranking of “bad” teachers and phasing out of SRA.

Tax Report: Jeff Brenner suggested using different colors that represent an easily recognizable status or ranking (ex: red, yellow, and green). Derek mentioned his interest in taking a course in color presentations if he hears of one; Chuck mentioned that he has a web-site on this and will forward that information to Derek.

Grant Opportunities: Discussion ensued on what types of grants CAMConnect should pursue including the empowerment of parents at particular schools. Coopers Poynt has an area for parents during the day; Brimm also has some opportunities for the involvement of parents on site in their children’s schooling.

Acting Executive Director Update: (see handout)

Annie E. Casey Foundation: Derek reported that he will be following up with Annie E. Casey Foundation (“AECF”) regarding “match funds” and what that entails. For example, are member dues, funds that we would have spent for a VISTA Volunteer, even the PDAs that Bill Whitlow obtained that we will be using for the summer survey considered “match” funding. This is important because of the stipulation in our funding

from AECF which says they will match any funds we obtain or are donated in-kind. Derek will also follow up with AECF to determine what the “products” are for us to produce for AECF during this funding period.

Summer Health Surveys: Derek reported that the plan is for the work under this \$15,000 pledge from University of Medicine and Dentistry of NJ (“UMDNJ”) to be completed by July 31, 2005. The STARR Program at Rutgers is going to work out some summer interns for us to accomplish this work.

New Members: Camden Churches Organized for People (“CCOP”) has asked CAMConnect to do a recovery effort survey with their congregation and write up the results for \$2,000 - \$2,500. CCOP has expressed an interest in membership to CAMConnect. Lauren Hill spoke with Dwight Wilson with the City about his taking on the role of City representative with CAMConnect.

Weed & Seed: It was noted that Site 3 of the Weed and Seed project area was not funded by the federal government. Their feeling was that there was too much overlap with the Weed and Seed and Camden Neighborhood Renaissance boards. Weed and Seed may decide to go after their own 501-c-3 status.

Marketing: A draft of CAMConnect’s marketing materials should be completed in a few days. Hope Works is going to set up a registration form on-line for potential CAMConnect members to use.

Web-site: Derek noted that the CAMConnect web-site is receiving from 70 to 75 unique visitors per day; this is up from 30 to 35 daily visitors at this same time last year. The most downloaded documents are the various Camden Facts reports and the various City redevelopment plans. Derek noted that the City is uploading materials more quickly to our web-site than they were before.

Relocation Packet: These informational packets were handed out at the May 11th ARCC meeting. An e-mail from Jeff to Derek, Jerry and Jean was discussed regarding a Community Benefit Agreement with ARCC to start a resource center on the web-site. CAMConnect’s role would be information provider and potentially, content monitor. It was suggested that we provide information to ARCC this time free to show our engagement in the product then potentially have them fund us to do follow up and monitoring for the years that redevelopment is going on in the City. Derek is going to attend the June 29th meeting with the Camden Redevelopment Agency, Cherokee development group, and various residents’ groups. Derek asked if another board member would be able to attend. A **motion to adopt the information sharing role** was made (Brenner, 2nd Hill) and passed. Chuck reported that he will research other cities to see what types of outcomes they have had after revitalization efforts.

Health Report: Ian is completing data cleaning of the information received from the various City health institutions. He plans to complete the data cleaning by June 30th. Doing a public announcement for the report was discussed, also discussed was how we

charge for the reports. A plan is needed to roll out the plan including what location to use for the presentation (Rutgers?) and how to engage the health institutions in seeing the need for having the reports done on a regular basis and why they should fund this work.

Budget and Taxes Report: The May 18th roundtable went well. Many issues were raised including the need for the State to continue to financially support the City. The budget for the City increases while the tax base remains flat. The Rand Institute suggests doing some indicators around municipal finance which could be a potential project for Rand, MDRC and CAMConnect.

Executive Director Job Description: Derek is going to do a re-draft of the Executive Director Job Description including some performance measures after his return from his honeymoon. Hilary and other Executive Committee members were asked to look for old copies in their records.

Fund Development Strategies: Discussion about how to tackle fund development took place. Do we focus on one or two areas to get funded such as Health, Abbotts Indicators/Education, budget, etc? It was recommended that after the VISTA Volunteer is in place that they be tasked with researching what local agencies would be interested in our data.

Fall Work Plan: Included in the work plan for the fall are:

- Health Surveys
- Grant writing / fund development
- NNIP – Derek wants to report on our health data and report at the meeting
- Health report – breakfast rollout meeting is suggested
- Update on the budget reports

Next Meetings: July 7th, 10 a.m. – noon - Executive Committee

July 21st, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. – Board Meeting at Catholic Charities

September 1st, 10:00 a.m. – noon – Executive Committee
(to include health report representation)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Hilary Colbert.