

CAMConnect Board Meeting
May 8, 2008
Location: Catholic Charities

Board Members Present: Jean Mouch, Helene Pierson, G. Lynn Brown, Sean Brown, Joe Myers, Jennifer Ping, Bill Whitlow, Hilary Colbert, Joye Rozier, Tom Jones, Ray Lamboy, Tyshammie L. Cooper, Kevin Hickey, Jose Adorno, Jeanette F. King, Derek Ziegler, Bernadette West

Board minutes from the February Board meeting have been delayed and will be distributed at the next Board meeting.

Executive Director's Report

Derek provided an updates on recent conferences he attended last month. He also noted that he and Bill Whitlow met with Dyanne Westerberg, Chair of Cooper/Family Medicine, provided her with an overview of CAMConnect, and feel it was a productive meeting. At the meeting there was a discussion concerning possible joint proposals for funding between the various universities that could potentially draw in support for CAMConnect. Tom Jones suggested that possible joint university proposals also be presented at a meeting of the Higher Education Planning Committee. Derek noted that in the last several months traffic on the website had been high (~ 200 visits a day) and attributes this to the posting of the new Camden Facts. His plan is to work on the updates for Neighborhood Reports this summer as well as changes to the website—being funded with support from the Camden Empowerment Zone. He hopes to be able to show a revised website at the September Board Meeting. Derek will be giving a presentation at the upcoming June 10th Funders Conference.

Budget Review

Copies of the 2008 CAMConnect Budget were handed out and reviewed by board members. Discussion focused on Derek noted that without additional support from sources such as Cooper/Family Medicine, the organization will run a deficit—which cannot be sustained in future years. There was a discussion of the possible role of Interns—and Jean Mouch reiterated the value of again pursuing VISTA volunteers to assist the organization. She noted that the office is housed at CPAC and reviewed the process for securing interns. Bill Whitlow noted that the bottom line is additional funding sources must be identified and encouraged members to consider opportunities within their own organizations for using the services provided by CAMConnect. There was a discussion of possible foundation support. Annie Casey funding was seen as no longer available in the future. Several proposals are out to foundations which if funded would allow hiring additional staff for CAMConnect. The member survey will ask members to identify possible sources of financial support. In particular, members with suggestions for possible sources of corporate support should provide this information to Derek—keeping in mind that CAMConnect can do survey work, develop maps and do workshops for interested parties.

Jose Adorno suggested possible areas to explore for funding related to ex-offender/ re-entry contracts being funded within Camden.

Sean presented several proposals developed to change membership fees for CAMConnect. Members discussed the various options and made several suggestions:

- eliminate focus on number of employees in an organization
- make it clear that the focus is on an organization's operating budget;
- delineate benefits received at each level
- make basic information available and charge for more advanced data requests
- make fee schedule simple
- Adjust fee schedule so that category (c) expands from \$500k--2.5 million rather than \$1 million.

Members in attendance from Rutgers and UMDNJ noted some of the challenges in securing memberships for the larger university versus departmental or library memberships. There was a discussion about possibly restricting the printing of some material off of the website. Bill however noted that the mission of CAMConnect is to make data available to the community. Unfortunately in today's world, this costs more to do, hence the need for increases in the fee structure. Members agreed that some increase in the fee schedule is needed so Sean Brown and other sub-committee members will reshape the proposal and bring this to the Executive Committee.

Derek provided preliminary findings from member surveys received thus far and encouraged those who did not respond yet to do so.

Derek provided members with copies of flyers for Camden Facts 2008 and asked that they please post them to encourage membership.

There was a discussion of communication strategies. Members agreed weekly updates were good to receive from CAMConnect. A proposal was made and passed to authorize the Executive Director to use his discretion in posting information from members only via the listserve to members. Derek noted it was important to limit notices to members only and to provide an "opt out" option. There was a follow-up discussion on Camden Matters. Members noted the value of this service in the past.

Tyshammie Cooper reminded people about the upcoming Funders Conference—June 10th. She distributed flyers for this event. Jean Mouch handed out brochures for the Camden Cancer Coalition