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MEMO

To: CAMConnect Executive Committee
From: Derek Ziegler
Date: January 5, 2006
Re: Executive Director Update

FUND DEVELOPMENT / PROPOSALS

Casey – We have received the first portion of our 2005-06 funds for \$30,000. The Casey work plan was designed to be a transition into “sustainability” for CAMConnect, so we did not promise any specific products to them besides to continue to work on what we have been working on. The remaining \$20,000 of this grant is a match for funds raised by CAMConnect, which we should be able to achieve. This likely will be the last year we receive support from Casey.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Various - We were unsuccessful in our proposal to the RWJF Information Links program to expand our work with the hospital data analysis and to plan for a more robust database and relationship with the participating institutions. However, Jeff Brenner and Susan Liu from Cooper have received another grant from RWJF to develop the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers. \$20,000 of this grant will be dedicated to supporting CAMConnect’s creation of a database to synthesize this information.

Members – Now that we have converted most of our legacy stakeholders to “members” under our new arrangement, we will focus on adding new members. It is within the Executive Director’s performance objectives to increase the size of the membership to 60 within the next year (we currently have 30 members). We are currently putting together a database so that we can do a mailing to relevant organizations about the benefits of membership.

Other Foundations:

We will need to determine whether we want to pitch specific projects to funders or instead try to market the organization more generally. Jeff Brenner and I have discussed this to some degree and we agreed that pursuing several smaller grants and partnerships with other organizations would be more beneficial than seeking large grants. At this time, I think the hospital discharge data project is the most unique work we are doing and has the most potential to attract funding.

Here are some potential funding sources for CAMConnect. Any guidance from the Executive Committee (especially contact information) would be appreciated.

1. Fund for New Jersey
2. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – they have a number of program areas that appear as if they could be relevant.
3. William Penn Foundation
4. Ford Foundation

PROJECT UPDATES

Camden Center for Youth Development / CCYSC – This is a two-year contract for \$18,000 that began in September 2005. Work includes updating existing indicators used by CCYSC, developing a report card for Camden's youth, and other tasks. I am presenting to CCYSC's Advisory Board on Tuesday 1/10. The work for CCYSC will take approximately 10% of the ED's time over the next 2 years (less if a Data Manager is hired)

Online Opinion Leader Survey – This survey was done online in November and was targeted to opinion leaders in the City of Camden. The goal is to help inform the Camden agenda for the next Governor. We received 75 responses, with the largest group coming from the non-profit community. The CRA expressed concerns about the sample, methods, and implications of the survey, and we met with them and agreed that they would have until January 15 to prepare a response before this report was released.

Cramer Hill CDC Surveys – We are working with the CDC on a survey of about 500 residents and business owners related to desired community benefits in any redevelopment that takes place.

Take a Loved One for a Checkup Survey Analysis – Working with Cooper and AHEC, CAMConnect developed a PDA-based survey for this event, with surveys primarily collected at the Camden Farmers' Market. This survey focused on access to health care and health screenings, nutrition and exercise habits, and other health characteristics. We collected about 500 surveys from this effort. We have received payment for the development of the survey and creation of a PDA data entry form, but we will need additional funding to do further analysis.

Health Report - Data files have been cross-checked and cleaned, and summary analysis on 2003 data from all three hospitals. We also have received 2004 data from Cooper and Virtua which we will begin cleaning. Some findings were presented at the Data Open House on December 2. After further review of the data, it is evident that a much more sophisticated database (and a dedicated staff person) is necessary to handle the work.

Municipal Budget and Taxes Report - With the growing State budget deficit, extraordinary aid for Camden City will again be a challenging topic in 2006. We are still looking to push for the formation of a blue ribbon advisory panel to help address the dysfunctional relationship between the City and the State.

Abbott Indicators – We have been meeting with the Education Law Center to determine the next steps for this project. They have funding from the William Penn Foundation for additional work in Camden. Jerry Harris and I have agreed that we will need a consultant or dedicated organization to accomplish the ELC's objective of more fully engaging Camden residents around public education. There may also be some funding for CAMConnect to prepare an updated version of the Abbott Indicators Report, including the most recent data.

VISTA for 2005-2006 – Sean Brown started on November 21 for a term of one year, and has been working primarily on expanding CAMConnect's outreach efforts and getting our data products out to the community. For instance, he has attended several community meetings, including all of the Police District meetings. Sean is also working on some data entry / support tasks.

SCHEDULE

January Board Meeting – Thursday, January 26th (10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Catholic Charities)
February Executive Committee Meeting – Thursday, February 2