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MEMO

To: CAMConnect Board
From: Derek Ziegler
Date: October 27, 2005
Re: Executive Director Update

FUND DEVELOPMENT / PROPOSALS

Camden Center for Youth Development / CCYSC – I signed a contract with Greg Allen to begin CAMConnect's role as the data manager for CCYSC, effective September 1, 2005. This is the work that was first discussed in March 2004 and is in the amount of \$18,000 for two years of work. Work includes updating existing indicators used by CCYSC, developing a report card for Camden's youth, and other tasks. The work for CCYSC will take approximately 10% of the ED's time over the next 2 years.

Casey – The Casey proposal was submitted on July 25. This is for \$50,000 for the next year, of which \$20,000 is a match grant. I included \$10,000 for membership development assistance (the remainder of the budget was for CAMConnect staff). We have received the first portion of these 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.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Information Links - We submitted a proposal to RWJF on September 7 to expand our work with the hospital data analysis and to plan for a more robust database and relationship with the participating institutions. We received letters of support from the City and County Health Departments. Our proposal was for \$75,000. We expect to hear the outcome in November.

VISTA for 2005-2006 – We have selected a Camden resident for this position. He will start on November 21 for a term of one year, and will work primarily on expanding CAMConnect's outreach efforts and getting our data products out to the community.

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)

PROJECT UPDATES

Online Opinion Leader Survey – The Executive Committee approved this survey at its last meeting. This survey will be done primarily online and is targeted to opinion leaders in the City of Camden. The goal is to help inform the Camden agenda for the next Governor. We have generated a list of about 250 opinion leaders. Letters will go out within the next week inviting these leaders to respond to the survey online. Paper versions will also be available upon request, and if people contact me with an interest in taking the survey I will try to accommodate them.

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 will collect about 300 surveys from this effort.

2005 Summer Surveys – partnership with Rutgers-Camden Center for Children and Childhood Studies

- We collected 500 health surveys, 500 violence surveys, and surveys of block conditions throughout Camden. We have also collected an inventory of corner stores and the availability of fresh food throughout the City, from which I generated some initial maps.
- Findings: residents are generally positive about health care in Camden, with "A" being the most common grade on most questions (exception: ER wait time). See the sheet in your packet for more details.

Health Report - Data files have been cross-checked and cleaned, and summary analysis on 2003 data from all three hospitals will be in the next month. We also have received 2004 data from Cooper and Virtua which we will begin cleaning.

Municipal Budget and Taxes Report - With ongoing concern over the Camden budget, we are going to push for the formation of a blue ribbon advisory panel to help address the dysfunctional relationship between the City and the State. Jerry Harris has talked with the COO and the Mayor, who seemed receptive to the idea. CAMConnect is also considering development of local indicators around municipal finance, working with MDRC and the Walter Rand Institute.

Abbott Indicators – The report is available via our website. We have received updated data (as well as school-level comparisons) from the Education Law Center, which we have linked to on our website as well (Go to Camden Reports > External Documents > Education). We are still trying to identify appropriate outreach channels for the report.

SCHEDULE

October Board Meeting – Thursday, October 27th (10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Catholic Charities)

November Executive Committee Meeting – Thursday, November 3

Members Meeting / Data Open House – tentative date, December 2, 2005 at Rutgers

Board Elections

Ballots due – November 4