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MEMO

To: CAMConnect Executive Committee
From: Derek Ziegler
Date: October 28, 2004
Re: Program Manager Update

WORKPLAN

Promised to Casey Foundation

Task 1: 2004 Reports

Quarter 1: Health Report

Cooper has hired Ian Hoffman, who worked on the initial injury report, for a fellowship to work on this data. We have been approved by Cooper and Virtua for the revised research protocol. We have a hearing at Our Lady of Lourdes in November. Once we get these approvals, it is a matter of working with the hospitals to get their datasets in the appropriate form.

Percent Complete: 15%

Quarter 2: Municipal Budget and Taxes Report

I am dissecting the City and school system budgets and developing some ideas for presentation and analysis. I would like to circulate the draft report I am preparing in the next few weeks to the Camden City Taxpayers' Association and others familiar with the budget process to obtain comments and feedback. This project has been hampered somewhat by computer issues – Excel on one of my computers has malfunctioned despite several attempts to restore it.

Percent Complete: 40%

Quarter 3: Employment Report

I am planning to contact the Camden Initiative Work Group of the Workforce Investment Board and the Human Resources departments of different Camden institutions to begin exploring their hiring of Camden residents.

Percent Complete: 10%

Quarter 4: Quality of Life Indicators Report

Hopeworks interviewed nearly 1,000 people throughout the City. I am working to identify the best methods of weighting the data and resolving quirks, but on the whole the data appears to be okay. The surveys were collected electronically, so analysis is very easy.

Percent Complete: 75%

Task 2: Public Documents

I would like to request additional assistance from the Executive Committee in identifying documents to post.

Task 3: Data Exchange

The Data Open House event has been scheduled for Friday, December 3, 2004 at Rutgers. We need to work on confirming the speakers and the format we wish to use. Right now, we are envisioning that the morning will consist of "poster presentations" or something similar on different data topics. For instance, there could be several brief presentations on health data, some on housing data, and so on. Participants in the event could migrate between the "stations" as they see fit. Possible invitees could include: CAMConnect, Hopeworks, Rand Institute, Education Law Center, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice (Prisoner Re-entry), Camden City Youth Services Commission, The Reinvestment Fund, St. Joseph's Carpenter Society, Metropolitan Philadelphia Indicators Partnership, City of Camden, etc. Other suggestions for participants are certainly welcome.

Task 4: Citizen Satisfaction Mechanisms

See information under Quarter 4 report, above.

Task 5: Expanding Funding Base

Need Executive Committee / Board discussion.

Other Activities

Marketing – With authorization and input from the Executive Committee, I issued an RFP for design services for a new brochure. This work will be paid for by Cooper and not out of CAMConnect funds. Only one out of five firms that received the RFP responded. After reviewing their work and interviewing their references, I chose to hire InnerRealm Design for this project. I had an initial meeting last Saturday and I am looking forward to seeing their work. A new brochure should be ready by the December data open house event.

NNIP Conference – The next meeting of the NNIP is in New Orleans from December 1-3. I would like to attend at least the first two days of this meeting. Hilary is unable to attend, so we need to determine if we want someone else from CAMConnect to go.

Abbott Indicators Project

A planning meeting for the Camden effort was held on Monday, August 23. About 20 people attended this meeting, including community groups, City Council members, Mayor Faison, and the School District. A review team for the Camden Indicators report was selected, as was a Camden project steering committee. The project schedule has been delayed somewhat by a decision to have the District review the data for accuracy before the document is distributed to the entire review team. Once the report is ready, the review committee will have two facilitated meetings to discuss and revise the report. Final report release date is unknown, but there will be a series of community meetings following sometime in 2005.

Camden City Kids Count – Press Conference and Report Release Today!

The Program Manager has collaborated with ACNJ to draft this report and fill in the data elements. The report features a number of maps and charts in addition to data tables. In the absence of the anticipated Empowerment Zone funding, ACNJ has authorized funding of \$5,000 for CAMConnect's partnership (and printing) in the effort. The Camden City Youth Services Commission has also pledged \$5,000 for possible outreach-related activities. Percent Complete: 100%

Camden Weed & Seed Evaluation

CAMConnect has created a database to enter survey results for 2002 and 2004. Over 300 surveys (with 30 questions apiece) have been entered for several of the Weed & Seed neighborhoods. Next steps are to finish data entry for 2004 and to develop some comparisons with 2002 data. A meeting with the Police will also be scheduled to review some crime data and build CAMConnect's relationship with the Department, with the eventual goal of sharing crime data and analysis. I also participated in several planning sessions for a South Camden Weed & Seed, and I provided CAMConnect data to be used in this evaluation.