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MEMO

To: CAMConnect Executive Committee
From: Derek Ziegler
Date: October 6, 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. I met with CCYSC's data committee on September 19 and am meeting with Greg on October 7 to review a workplan for the next 3-6 months. 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 is expected to include 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 interviewed one candidate (a Camden resident) and received applications from several others. I am going to make a decision on how to move forward in the next few days.

New Members – Members are requested to renew their dues in the appropriate amount for 2005 if they haven't done so already. I am working on a job description to retain a "detailer" who can assist with setting up meetings and pitching CAMConnect to businesses, community groups, etc.

Renewed / Joined in September 2005:

- Camden Empowerment Zone (\$100)*
- Rutgers Center for Children and Childhood Studies (\$250)*

CONFERENCES / PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NJ Office of GIS: Metadata Training – This required, free training was for two days in Trenton and provided instruction on how to create metadata using ArcCatalog. I also was able to visit with our contact in the State who facilitated the transfer of our free GIS software.

Edward Tufte: Presenting Data and Information – I learned some interesting things about data display and design and received copies of three of Tufte's books, which I am reading now. I came away with some interesting thoughts on how to display and present our information (using four-page booklet summaries, etc.)

NNIP – Hilary and I attended the three-day NNIP meeting in Washington. The partnership continues to grow, and is up to 26 total members. The plan is for partners to have more formal channels for information and best practice sharing so we can better learn from each other. I was unsuccessful in my bid for membership on NNIP's Executive Committee. However, all partners will now be expected to participate on an NNIP committee (probably monthly conference calls, webchats, etc.). I would also direct attention to www.dataplace.org, which has local-level data and maps for housing and demographic information available.

CLEAR Circles – I attended my first CLEAR Circle meeting on October 3. This 8-person group of Executive Directors will meet monthly for the next year in Center City Philadelphia. I expect this group to give me some guidance and support as a new ED and possibly some fund development ideas as well.

PROJECT UPDATES

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 have 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.
- Initial findings: residents are generally positive about health care in Camden, with "A" being the most common grade on most questions (exception: ER wait time).

Health Report - Data files have been cross-checked and cleaned, and summary analysis on 2003 data from all three hospitals should finally begin in the next week. 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 will link 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.

WEBSITE UPDATES

I have posted the following documents in the past month (or will request them in the next week):

- ➔ Report on Missing Boys in East Camden (Cramer Hill) – Prosecutor’s report and Independent Citizens Report
- ➔ Cancer Incidence in East Camden area served by Puchack Well - NJDEP

SCHEDULE

October Executive Committee Meeting – Thursday, October 6, 2005, 10 a.m.
October Board Meeting – Thursday, October 27th (10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Catholic Charities)
Members Meeting / Data Open House – held in November / December, with 30 days notice

Board Elections

Need to clarify “member in good standing” for this year – paid members only?

Nominating forms distributed – October 7
Nominating forms returned to Governance Chair / ED – October 15
Ballot distributed – October 20
Ballots due – October 31