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MEMO

To: CAMConnect Executive Committee
From: Derek Ziegler
Date: March 10, 2005
Re: Program Manager Update

UPDATES

Fund Development 2005 – Roger Williams has replaced Cindy Guy as our contact at Casey, and Jeff has been in contact with him. At this point, further funding from Casey is not imminent – we will need to put in a new proposal to them, so we should not count on funding until summer 2005 at the earliest. It may be worth exploring other relationships with foundations such as Ford. **The issue of Executive Committee members having conflicts with other fund development responsibilities was identified last year and is apparent again this year. It may be time to explore the conversion of the Program Manager into an Executive Director with more fund development responsibilities who relies more on consultants to develop data products.**

Police Relationship – From my conversations with the Camden Police Department, it is apparent that they need some technical assistance with GIS and data analysis. I am in the process of developing an MOU that will outline a scenario where CAMConnect provides a limited amount of technical assistance to the Police (5-10 hours per month) in exchange for access to Compstat meetings and fresh crime data. I think Captain Hall of the Police Department will be open to such a relationship, and given the centrality of crime as an issue in Camden, I think this is an important relationship to pursue.

Public Documents – I have been in contact with Jeffrey Neu, who is a Rutgers law student. We have had preliminary discussions about purchasing a scanner for him and some fellow students to use in scanning public documents and reports (probably about 10 hours per week). There are a number of public documents available that I do not have the time to pursue, and I think this arrangement could be a good way to augment our capacity to post lots of information.

New Computers – I am in the process of purchasing a new computer and software, and will provide updates on the costs involved.

New Members – CAMConnect received checks from the following new and renewing members in the past month. Other members are requested to renew their dues in the appropriate amount for 2005.

→ Medical Mission Sisters - \$100

PROJECTS

Camden City Kids Count – Requests continue to come in for the 2004 report. The Camden City Youth Services Commission has pledged \$5,000 for a four-page glossy summary of the report. I have been in contact with Market Street Printing and a Camden-based graphic designer per the recommendation of Greg Allen. I would like to have this summary done by the end of March.

Camden Weed & Seed Evaluation / Police Relationship - CAMConnect has retained Dina Stonberg to assist with this evaluation, which needs to be completed in the next few weeks. Dina has worked with Jean and Hilary on the cancer study, and she is interviewing key participants in the Weed & Seed program. Unfortunately, the Police have been unable to provide data for each Weed & Seed focus area and site using their new CompStat system because of data glitches, so some of the analysis we were hoping to do will not be possible.

Marketing Packet Development - We are close to completing the draft brochure, which I put on hold at the end of last year. I met with the graphic designers on 2/8/05, and they have revised the background photo and tightened the look. I need to provide additional input to them on the order of the text, the maps to be included, etc.

I have also charged our graphic designers with developing a larger marketing packet. This packet will include a color CAMConnect folder, project sheets describing our work and past reports, and a postcard for people who wish to request additional information.

Relocation Packet – ARCC will be holding a Town Hall meeting on relocation sometime this spring. CAMConnect could play an important role in this meeting as a data provider and source of baseline information. At a minimum, I would like to post all of the recent redevelopment plans online. I am also exploring the creation of a summary booklet of relocation / redevelopment in Camden for distribution at the Town Hall meeting. This booklet would include a map of each redevelopment area, a rough timeline, the number of households / families potentially affected, some basic demographics, and other similar information. **I am considering asking Sarah Carley (currently working on the CAMConnect employment report) to assist with this task.**

WORKPLAN

Promised to Casey Foundation

Task 1: 2004 Reports

****All reports were completed and shipped to Casey on December 31, 2004** These reports are all posted on the Member section of the CAMConnect website.**

Quarter 1: Health Report

This report became an update of the previous report on Injuries using Cooper ER data from 2001-2003. This report is ready for distribution as it stands now and has been posted on the general website, but I think we should hold off on wider publicity / outreach until we have incorporated data from the other hospitals (this is imminent.) We are waiting on data from Our Lady of Lourdes before moving forward with further analysis.

Quarter 2: Municipal Budget and Taxes Report

I spent a considerable amount of time looking through the municipal budget and pulling out key information. I would like to release this report as soon as possible because the later in the year it gets, the more this will be seen as trying to influence the election. I have circulated the report to Jerry Harris, Catherine Brenner (Walter Rand Institute professor), and Anthony Perno of Cooper's Ferry for review. I now need to meet with Richard Wright from the City to resolve remaining issues.

Quarter 3: Employment Report

In January, the Exec Committee authorized up to \$5,000 to hire consultants to help finish reports. Per Jeff Brenner's recommendation, I have retained Sarah Carley to assist with completion of the employment report. Sarah is working from home part-time to identify missing information in the report. We met with Tom Billett from the Workforce Investment Board on 2/8/05, who endorsed the general tone and information portrayed in the report. One or two other reviewers would be welcome. **I would like to release this report in the next month with a press release** (not a press conference). This will be the next product that goes out the door.

Quarter 4: Quality of Life Survey

I summarized the survey data we received and included the problems with the data collection in the introduction. I would recommend keeping this available to members only because of the issues with the data. Jeff and I met with Dan Hart of Rutgers on 2/17/05 to further discuss this report. We have had initial discussions with Hopeworks about conducting a follow up survey this summer (and possibly a health survey as well). There are no funds allocated to this, however.

Task 2: Public Documents

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

- ➔ Proposed Camden Police Department contract
- ➔ Walter Rand Institute reports, including non-profit study conducted for United Way as well as commentary on the management reorganization study.
- ➔ City redevelopment plans for Central Waterfront, Bergen Square, Downtown, Waterfront South, Centerville, and Parkside

Task 3: Data Exchange

Data Open House was held 12/3/04 with over 90 attendees.

Task 4: Citizen Satisfaction Mechanisms

See information under Quarter 4 report, above.

Task 5: Expanding Funding Base

For 2005, I would recommend exploring relationships with local foundations, such as Wachovia Regional Foundation, William Penn Foundation, and others.

Other Activities

Abbott Indicators Project – Draft reports for Camden were distributed to members of the review committee who have signed a confidentiality agreement. The review committee had a meeting to discuss and revise the report on 1/21/05, in which the EdLaw Center and Camden City School District staff attended. Written comments were due on 2/5/05. Final report release date is scheduled for the week after the School Board elections (late April). Jerry and I are trying to position CAMConnect to receive additional funding in coming years to update the data contained in the report.