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MEMO

To: CAMConnect Executive Committee
From: Derek Ziegler
Date: March 11, 2004
Re: Program Manager Update

ITEM FOR APPROVAL: Website Policy Formulations

The PDF file posted on the Members Section of the website has the latest versions of these policies, revised after the Executive Committee' discussion at the February meeting.

INBOX

2004 Reports

Abbott Indicators Project

In the past month, Jerry and I met with Randy Primas and the Executive Director of the Education Law Center (David Sciarra) on this project. Superintendent Knox has agreed to cooperate with our research efforts. Because of funding constraints, CAMConnect will not be involved directly in the primary data collection efforts (staff interviews, etc.) but will instead have a role in preparing the final report and facilitating the outreach effort. I also attended a meeting in Newark of the project's advisory committee and was introduced as the Camden local partner. See the files posted in the Member Section of the CAMConnect website for more information about this project.

Camden City Kids Count

We have submitted some additional documentation to the Empowerment Zone to receive \$5,000 via their open solicitation program. Eloisa is revising the master list of indicators so that David Gonzalez (CAMConnect intern) and I can get started on finding the data and preparing the report. We hope to do some sort of presentation of this study at the May Stakeholders meeting.

Health Report

Cooper requires a new research protocol to obtain data on primary care sensitive conditions, which I submitted this week. Jean and Hilary are working to get permission from Lourdes and Virtua to get their data. In the meantime, I expect to receive 2003 ER data from Cooper on injury discharges, which will be compared with the data from earlier years.

Municipal Budget and Taxes Report

I've obtained the 2003 audit of municipal finances through the state Open Public Records Act (OPRA) process. This should yield some good information as we move forward to further analyze the city's budget and tax structure. I need to conduct further investigation on the City's payment in lieu of taxes program, especially for waterfront areas.

Employment Report

I have begun to review Census data as well as information from the New Jersey Department of Labor to determine what is readily available and what will require further digging to make this report sufficiently comprehensive.

Quality of Life Indicators Report

I have held discussions with Hopeworks about the best methods of conducting a comprehensive quality of life survey. Conversations are also pending with Camden Neighborhood Renaissance so that previous survey efforts are used to inform any new studies.

Public Documents

Following our last meeting, I obtained the following documents from the State via the OPRA process and posted them to the website:

- Camden School District Audit 2003 – contains budget and independent audit information
- Transforming Camden Schools – produced by the School District; outlines objectives for 03-04
- Status Intervention Team Update (11/03) – state report that critiques School District management
- 2002 School Intervention Report
- 2003 Municipal Audit (not yet posted)

OUTBOX

Newsletters

Hopeworks has developed an e-mail template, and I've received training on the software. Expect the first e-newsletter to go out by the end of March.

I will also work on the next paper version of the newsletter, which I expect will feature the following (other suggestions are welcome):

- User's guide to new website
- News items about Casey funding and Empowerment Zone grant
- Summary of 2004 work program
- Cooper ER data from 2001-03
- Other data features such as the Journey to Work charts I distributed in January
- Conference updates (NNIP, Reno)

Outreach

- ➔ I provided a map and assault data for Dr. Brenner's presentation at a Concerned Black Clergy public forum on public safety
- ➔ I met with Erik Schwartz from the Courier Post, who is basically their data guy. He was interested by what we are doing, and I promised to keep him informed on our future work.
- ➔ I gave a brief presentation on CAMConnect to the Camden Community Orientation Course directed by ACNJ.