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MEMO

To: CAMConnect Board
From: Derek Ziegler
Date: April 20, 2006
Re: Executive Director Update

FUND DEVELOPMENT / PROPOSALS

Casey – We received the first portion of our 2005-06 funds for \$30,000. I submitted an interim report at the end of January. The remaining \$20,000 of this grant is a match for funds raised by CAMConnect. At this point, receiving this match may be difficult, because Casey is now demanding that we show “funds committed,” which they have defined as new contributions from foundations and memberships. Fee for service contracts are not able to be counted toward this match, which is different from our initial understanding of the matching funds. We will keep working to raise the necessary funds for the match, and we will also draft a letter to Casey asking for additional explanation and guidance.

Members – Volunteers of America – Delaware Valley, Virtua Health, Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Camden & Gloucester Counties, Planned Parenthood of Southern New Jersey, Heart of Camden, and the Camden Community Development Association have all joined as new members in 2006. We’ve also received several renewals from existing members and continue to pursue these. I received little feedback from Board members when I prompted them to identify potential members, but we are proceeding in targeting new members through use of resources such as the Purple Book. We are mailing out letters and brochures, and Sean is following up to arrange meetings with interested organizations. Please continue to encourage non-members to join.

Foundations – I drafted two letters of interest that can be sent to foundations. The first is a general letter extolling the virtues of CAMConnect and the need for additional funds to support our ongoing projects. The second letter is more focused on the development of the health database and a possible health census / profile for the City of Camden. The intent is to have templates that can be easily adapted to meet the requirements of the different potential funders.

After researching the interests of various foundations, I intend to submit letters of interest to the following as a starting point: Annenberg Foundation, Ford Foundation, Campbell Soup Foundation, Kellogg Foundation, PSE&G, Fund for New Jersey, and RWJ Foundation. Any contacts that Board members may have with these organizations would be appreciated.

Reentry Mapping Network – This program is focused on the mapping of issues pertaining to prisoner re-entry and is coordinated by NNIP. One-year funding of \$25,000 is available for successful applicants. Letters of interest are due May 1. CAMConnect needs to identify possible projects and partners for this effort. One possible focus is the health of released prisoners.

NNIP – The next conference is May 17-19 in Dallas. Hilary and I will both be unable to attend.

PROJECT UPDATES

Camden Center for Youth Development / CCYSC – Work is continuing on this two-year contract.

Cramer Hill CDC Surveys – We are working with the CDC on a survey of about 300 residents and business owners related to desired community benefits in any redevelopment that takes place. We designed a database for the surveys to be entered and prepared an analysis report.

Mapping: Various – We worked with Volunteers of America – Delaware Valley, Heart of Camden, and the Camden Community Development Association on mapping projects related to parcels they have been exploring for development.

Public Documents – We've obtained and posted the following: notice of contamination in Camden water supply; Board of Education audit summary; and various redevelopment plans. We welcome ideas from Board members on materials to post.

Abbott Indicators – Education Law Center has funding from the William Penn Foundation for additional work in Camden. There will likely be some funding for CAMConnect to prepare an updated version of the Abbott Indicators Report, including the most recent data and to supervise a consultant to more fully engage Camden residents around public education.

Health Report - Data files have been cross-checked and cleaned, and summary analysis on 2003 data from all three hospitals has been prepared. We also have received 2004 data from Cooper and Virtua which we will begin cleaning. Jeff Brenner has prepared a database to synthesize the data. We still need to refine issues of access and use of the data. Jeff and I presented this data, along with the health report card survey results from last summer, at the March Healthy Futures meeting, where a representative of the Office of Minority Health attended.

Camden Police Department Data – Sean has persistently pushed the Police Department to provide us with copies of the maps they are preparing for their CompStat program, and we received a number of maps for January and February 2006. These maps are now posted on our website at <http://www.camconnect.org/resources/CrimeMaps.html>. The Police have promised to give us monthly updates of this data.

CRA – Mapping Discussion – I met with Josh Warner from the CRA to discuss their current mapping resources and the state of GIS resources in the City. We identified the challenge of having common (and updated) base maps for Camden. There are several different parcel maps in use throughout the City, as well as different street files, etc. Josh and I are trying to organize a meeting with all of the GIS entities in the City / County to discuss data sharing and procedures for maintaining updated GIS files.

Online Opinion Leader Survey – The Executive Committee agreed at its February meeting to revise the report and post the report on the Members Section of the website. I am in the process of expanding the survey writeup and revising the format so it can be used by Members as a discussion piece.

Kids Count Summary – We have received funding from CCYSC to complete a summary brochure of the Camden Kids Count report.

SCHEDULE

April Board Meeting – Thursday, April 20th (10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Catholic Charities)

May Executive Committee Meeting – Thursday, May 4

May Members Meeting – To be determined

July Board Meeting – Thursday, July 20 (10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Catholic Charities)