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MEMO

To: CAMConnect Executive Committee
From: Derek Ziegler
Date: June 2, 2005
Re: Acting Executive Director Update

UPDATES

Fund Development 2005 – I need to complete the proposal to Casey for an additional 12 months of funding (\$30,000 baseline plus \$20,000 match). I am going to use the letter I wrote in April 2005 as the basis of this proposal. Casey appears to be comfortable with us working significantly on fund development over the next year, so I do not intend to promise any specific products to them.

2005 Summer Surveys –

- Two street intercept surveys, each with about 500 respondents, will be completed, primarily during the month of July
- Survey One will be a health report card asking the respondents to rank different elements of care at different institutions such as accessibility, affordability, quality of service, wait times, etc. UMDNJ Institute for Elimination of Health Disparities has agreed in principle to provide \$15,000 for this survey.
- Survey Two will be an updated version of the social capital survey that we collaborated with Hopeworks on last summer.
- Cooper / UMDNJ will fund supervisory graduate student interns
- The STARR program at Rutgers will hire Camden youth who will team with the Cooper interns
- Rutgers Science Preparation Alliance (Bill Whitlow) has agreed to work with us to provide PDA's for the survey teams
- CAMConnect will work with Rutgers Center for Children and Childhood Studies on data analysis and summary reports

New Members – Members are requested to renew their dues in the appropriate amount for 2005 if they haven't done so already. I will send invoices in the next week to all existing members. After I return in late June, I will work on a job description to retain a "detailer" who can assist with setting up meetings and pitching CAMConnect to businesses, community groups, etc.

I also met with and received a proposal from the Thompson Group International (based in Hamilton) for fund and donor development. While they had some interesting ideas, their baseline monthly fee is \$2,000-\$4,400 for a period of 6 months. After review of the services they would offer for this price, I would like to hold off for the time being on moving in this direction.

PROJECTS

Abbott Indicators – The report was released on May 26, 2005 and is available via our website. We had a good discussion, although with very small turnout, at our Members Meeting. The Board of Education, the Camden Education Association, and the District Parent Advisory Council are all working with us (in some form or another) on this report. The District will have a Town Hall event sometime this summer to allow for further discussion. CAMConnect is well-positioned to: a) convene and facilitate neighborhood level discussions on the report and its implications and b) update the report in years to come. Partnership with the District Parent Advisory Council looks especially promising and will need additional discussion. I am trying to think of ways to structure a grant proposal for CAMConnect to provide technical assistance to this group (including public document requests, data presentations, help with analysis, etc.)

Camden Weed & Seed Evaluation - Jean and Derek completed Phase 1 of this evaluation and presented the findings at the Renaissance Board meeting in May. Minor changes need to be made to the report. Jean and Derek will talk with Carol Dann to determine work required for Phase 2.

Marketing Packet Development - The brochure has been approved for printing and copies are being printed.

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 held a leadership meeting on relocation on May 11, which will be followed by a town hall on June 21. At the May 11 meeting, CAMConnect distributed 100 copies of a summary booklet of relocation / redevelopment in Camden, including City-authorized redevelopment as well as school construction. This booklet includes (or will include) a map of each redevelopment area, a rough timeline, the number of households / families potentially affected, some basic demographics, and other similar information. Sarah Carley (who worked on the CAMConnect employment report) is assisting with this task.

CAMConnect will also participate in a one-day ARCC-sponsored discussion of the Cramer Hill project with a focus on community benefit agreements (see attached e-mail from Jeff Brenner). We need to determine the scale of our involvement if funding does not become available.

WORKPLAN

****Earlier versions of 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.**

Health Report

We have 2003 ER and inpatient data from all three hospitals and are developing a street address matching file to eliminate much of the need for geocoding. Ian is getting close to being able to analyze the data (much work is involved in cleaning the dataset)

Municipal Budget and Taxes Report

After obtaining the proposed 2005 Camden Municipal budget and updating our report accordingly, CAMConnect and ARCC sponsored a roundtable discussion on May 18 at Catholic Charities. Jerry Harris worked with me to assemble a great group, including municipal finance experts, academics, and people from MDRC and Bloustein (working with the Ford Foundation). Possible outcomes from this meeting include the formation of a blue ribbon advisory panel to help address the dysfunctional relationship between the City and the State and development of local indicators around municipal finance, working with MDRC and the Walter Rand Institute.

Employment Report

Sarah Carley has contributed some analysis of unemployment insurance data as well as information about Camden workers who are not in the labor market. MDRC has also shared their findings about employment in Camden. I hope to release this report in the next week.

Quality of Life Survey

See discussion under 2005 summer surveys, above.

Public Documents

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

- ➔ FY 2001 and 2002 audits for the City of Camden.
- ➔ City redevelopment plan and needs study for Lanning Square
- ➔ NJDOE Collaborative Assessment and Planning for Achievement (CAPA) reports for specific Camden schools
- ➔ Agreement between Cherokee and Pennsauken Township (highlights Community Benefit Agreements)

Data Exchange / Members Meeting

The Spring Members Meeting was held on Thursday, May 26 to coincide with the release of the Camden Abbott Indicators report. Attendance was very light – fewer than 10 CAMConnect members attended.

Possible explanations for light attendance include the fact that the venue and format weren't established until a week before the meeting because of our desire to integrate our event with the Camden School District. This short notice meant that no paper notification or outside publicity was done.

Expanding Funding Base

We need to explore funding opportunities as they become available, and also need to consider whether we want an ad hoc approach to grantwriting. Our approach to funders has been to continue to prepare good products and make them aware of what we are doing before submitting proposals later this year.