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MEMO

To: CAMConnect Board
From: Derek Ziegler
Date: July 21, 2005
Re: Acting Executive Director Update

UPDATES

CCOP Survey Analysis – CCOP has agreed to join CAMConnect as a member and has retained us to provide technical assistance on a survey they are doing on the Recovery period (approximately \$2,000 contract). I have assisted in development of a survey instrument and designed a form for data entry that CCOP staff used to enter approximately 750 surveys. I am now analyzing the data for inclusion in a report that CCOP will present at a community action on July 18. My intent is to keep the report to a very dry presentation of the data without much interpretation. I recognize that CCOP will spin the results a certain way and will check with them beforehand to make sure their spin is not inconsistent with the data.

2005 Summer Surveys – partnership with Rutgers-Camden

- Two street intercept surveys, each with about 500 respondents, will be completed, primarily during the month of July. We are also working with Rutgers on “systematic social observation” of blocks throughout Camden, similar to what was done by researchers in Chicago. Included in these observations will be documentation and mapping of food options available to Camden residents (e.g. fresh produce)
- 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, which will be split between Rutgers-Camden and CAMConnect.
- Survey Two will be an updated version of the social capital survey that we collaborated with Hopeworks on last summer. Focus will be on neighborhood violence in this survey.
- Cooper / UMDNJ is funding supervisory college student research associates. Rutgers has also hired some supervisory personnel.
- Rutgers has hired Camden youth (participants in the STARR program) who will team with the Cooper interns
- Rutgers Science Preparation Alliance (Bill Whitlow) has worked with us to provide PDA's for the survey teams
- CAMConnect is working with Rutgers Center for Children and Childhood Studies on data analysis and summary reports
- Surveyors have been trained in survey techniques and PDA use. They have been videotaped doing practice versions of the surveys and have administered a brief pilot survey on Friday, July 1. Surveys began on July 12, 2005. We have about 200 health surveys and 200 violence surveys thus far.

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 June 2005:

- Cooper's Ferry Development Association (\$500)*
- CPAC (\$100)*
- Jeff Muckensturn (student - \$25)*

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. I drove our program officer (Roger Williams) to the train station from one of the ARCC events and he is okay with this direction.

VISTA for 2005-2006 – CAMConnect attended a VISTA overview at CPAC on 6/24. We have outlined a preliminary job description, but now need to follow up on the application process. I am intending to go to a mandatory VISTA supervisor training in Wilmington, DE during the end of August, and hopefully we will have a VISTA person on-staff shortly thereafter.

New GIS software – We received ArcGIS 9.1 via the State of New Jersey's non-profit access to technology program. The retail value of this software plus technical assistance is valued at over \$3,000, but costs to CAMConnect through the State program were \$425. The new software allows for much better representation of data and geocoding of addresses without having to use a web-based service (useful for the hospital datasets). The State has scheduled an assessment of CAMConnect's facilities for Wednesday, July 13 at 9:15 a.m.

PROJECTS

Abbott Indicators – The report was released on May 26, 2005 and is available via our website. The District hosted a Town Hall event on the evening of July 20 to allow for further discussion. We are working with the District Parent Advisory Council and hope to work with the member organizations of Renaissance, CCYSC, and others on neighborhood-level engagement efforts. Jerry and I, along with the Education Law Center, met with William Penn on July 19 to discuss ongoing outreach efforts and CAMConnect's role in data updates. The details of our proposal to William Penn are still under discussion.

Marketing Packet Development - 2,500 copies of the brochure have been printed and are ready for distribution.

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.

Cramer Hill background data – CAMConnect has obtained and posted copies of Cherokee's agreement with Pennsauken Township. This agreement could provide a model for Camden in terms of community benefit arrangements that Cherokee is willing to offer. ARCC has contacted CAMConnect about serving as a background data source for a possible session and exchange of ideas between the City, Cramer Hill residents, and Cherokee to take place sometime this summer.

PREVIOUS 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 Hoffman has spent many hours on this and has now begun to analyze the data. At the June Executive Committee meeting, we talked about having an event related to this data at the beginning of September, which will require some further discussion and planning.

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. 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.

The City of Camden and the Camden Redevelopment Agency raised some concerns with one of the statements in the report that was based on outdated information.

I believe that we took the necessary steps to validate the data and information in this report. I recommend that we revisit the Data Committee Protocol and present an amended version to the Board in several weeks time to reflect the current organization structure of CAMConnect. I will draft a revised version and distribute it next week. I also recommend that when discussion proposed government actions that we exercise caution and allow for considerable flexibility in how decisions are implemented.

Employment Report

I hope to complete this report as soon as the summer survey work is operating smoothly.

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 (received).
- ➔ City redevelopment plan and needs study for Lanning Square (not yet requested)
- ➔ Agreement between Cherokee and Pennsauken Township (highlights Community Benefit Agreements) – (received)

Data Exchange / Members Meeting

We need to plan for the release of the hospital data, findings from the summer surveys, the formal release of the budget report, and ongoing outreach pertaining to the Abbott Indicators report.

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. We also have discussed approaching funders and asking them to share their data about Camden.