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## MEMO

**To:** CAMConnect Executive Committee  
**From:** Derek Ziegler  
**Date:** August 4, 2005  
**Re:** Executive Director Update

### FUND DEVELOPMENT / PROPOSALS

Verizon Foundation – I submitted a proposal to the Verizon Foundation for \$7,500 for the purchase of new technology (laptop and LCD projector) for neighborhood outreach. I will not hear back from them until later in the fall.

Cramer Hill CDC – The CDC is including CAMConnect on a proposal it is submitting for relationship building in Cramer Hill. CAMConnect's role would be to develop a community survey instrument and analyze the data, and otherwise contribute as needed. CAMConnect has requested an amount not to exceed \$2,500 for this project.

Catholic Charities – Catholic Charities is including CAMConnect on a proposal to evaluate the effectiveness of a job opportunities for low-income individuals grant. This grant will be for three years. CAMConnect would receive \$5,800 annually for three years. I will work with Kevin Connor at Catholic Charities to ensure that the work proposed is reasonable for that amount. The proposed evaluation strategy would be similar to what we used for Weed & Seed, with the Executive Director as the coordinator and with Jean Mouch as a consultant.

Camden Center for Youth Development / CCYSC – Greg Allen has provided me with a draft "Grant Agreement" to begin CAMConnect's role as the data manager for CCYSC. The contract appears to be consistent with the MOU that we submitted previously. This is the work that was first discussed in March 2004 and is in the amount of \$18,000 for two years of work.

***Request:*** *Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute the Grant Agreement with CCYD / CCYSC, provided it is consistent with the MOU previously signed in June 2004 and that the expectations of the agreement are reasonable and achievable.*

Casey – The Casey proposal was submitted on July 25. This is for \$50,000 for the next year, of which \$20,000 is a match grant. I included \$10,000 for membership development assistance (the remainder of the budget was for CAMConnect staff). Casey indicated they had received the proposal and requested a few changes, which I made. I will follow up in the next few weeks if I don't hear from them. The Casey work plan was designed to be a transition into "sustainability" for CAMConnect, so we did not promise any specific products to them besides to continue to work on what we have been working on.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation / MAPP - I will be participating in several web conferences for the RWJF "Information Links" program, which is funding for public health agencies seeking to use

patient-level data to improve health outcomes. After these conferences, it should be clearer whether CAMConnect's current work on patient data is applicable to this program. I have spoken to Mitchell Berger from Camden County Health Department about this. Also, Mitchell has indicated that CAMConnect could have a role in the County MAPP process that is beginning, which I will investigate further before committing.

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.

Center for Children and Childhood Studies – The CCCS has indicated that it has \$3,000 - \$5,000 available for associates to work on projects related to children. I am going to talk with them and submit a proposal for CAMConnect to receive these funds to update the Kids Count report. Proposals are due September 1 and replies will be received by October 1. The work must be completed by May 2006.

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 July 2005:***

- CCOP (\$100)
- Camden AHEC (\$100)

## **PROJECT UPDATES**

CCOP Survey Analysis – I posted the final report from this project at <http://www.camconnect.org/resources/CCOPSurvey.htm> with a number of disclaimers. Camden Matters linked to this report on August 2, and we received a lot of web traffic because of this link. Based on my conversations with CCOP, it does not appear as if they had any knowledge of surveys being distributed with an inflammatory cover sheet.

2005 Summer Surveys – partnership with Rutgers-Camden Center for Children and Childhood Studies

- We have collected 560 health surveys, 400 violence surveys, and surveys of block conditions throughout Camden. We have also collected an inventory of corner stores and the availability of fresh food throughout the City. Our last week of data collection is this week, and then the interns will begin to analyze the data in more detail during the remainder of this month.
- Initial findings: residents are generally positive about health care in Camden, with "A" being the most common grade on most questions (exception: ER wait time).

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. We have talked about having a breakfast meeting event in early to mid September, which will require some further discussion and planning.

Municipal Budget and Taxes Report - With ongoing concern over the Camden budget, we are going to push for the formation of a blue ribbon advisory panel to help address the dysfunctional relationship between the City and the State. Jerry Harris has talked with the COO and the Mayor, who seemed receptive to the idea. CAMConnect is also considering development of local indicators around municipal finance, working with MDRC and the Walter Rand Institute.

On a related note, there was an inaccurate item in a *Courier-Post* editorial from July 30 that wrongly suggested that the Cramer Hill redevelopment would ensure that Camden was no longer dependent on State aid. From my analysis, this is woefully inaccurate and misleading. I have thought about writing a letter to the editor explaining the complete picture. Is this an appropriate role for CAMConnect to be playing?

Abbott Indicators – The report is available via our website. The District hosted a Town Hall event on the evening of July 20 which drew a small audience and which was marked by uneven response from the teacher’s union and the District. As Outreach Chair, Jerry would like to request that CAMConnect members schedule a meeting where this report can be discussed with their constituents. Jerry also asked that the CAMConnect Data Committee meet to discuss next steps in this process.

New GIS software – The State initial assessment of CAMConnect’s facilities on July 13 went very well. We will need to produce some interim reports and maps but nothing too onerous. I am also going to attend a metadata training in Trenton on September 23-24.

#### Employment Report

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

### **WEBSITE UPDATES**

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

- Report on Missing Boys in East Camden (Cramer Hill)

### **SCHEDULE**

September Executive Committee Meeting – Thursday, September 1, 2005, 10 a.m.

September Health Data Breakfast – TBD

October Board Meeting – Thursday, October 20 or 27<sup>th</sup> (TBD)

#### Board Elections

Need to clarify “member in good standing” for this year – paid members only?

Nominating forms distributed – October 1

Nominating forms returned to Governance Chair / ED – October 15

Ballot distributed – October 20

Ballots due – October 31

Member meeting – held in November, with 30 days notice