



CAMConnect  
E & R Building, Suite 142  
401 Haddon Avenue  
Camden, NJ 08103  
Phone (856) 968-9506  
Fax (856) 968-6216  
[www.camconnect.org](http://www.camconnect.org)

**Date:** April 3, 2008  
**Re:** Executive Director Update

## MEMBERS

Members – We have 52 members who have made a contribution since October 1, 2006. In addition to a focus on renewals for existing members, I will try to increase the membership to 75 by the end of 2008 (working in conjunction with the Governance & Membership Chair). All CAMConnect members are encouraged to continue to recruit new members. In the last month, we added Center for Family Services as a Large Organization member. Corporations will be a target for additional member outreach.

## CONFERENCES

MAC-URISA – The conference for this organization is in Mt. Laurel next week. This organization is a group of public agencies and nonprofits in the mid-Atlantic who use GIS in their work. I was recruited to be on a panel discussing GIS implementation in non-profits, scheduled for Wednesday, April 9, at 2 p.m. I would also like to attend the conference for at least part of the day on Tuesday and Wednesday next week.

**Request:** Authorize the Executive Director to attend this conference at the speaker rate of \$165.

NNIP Chattanooga – I am planning to attend the semiannual meeting in Chattanooga from April 15 through April 18. This conference was approved via e-mail by the Exec Committee. I was able to reserve cheap flights, and NNIP will cover my hotel costs, so the total cost of the trip will be well below the \$800 limit that I requested.

## PROPOSALS / REVENUE GENERATION

Camden Empowerment Zone – We submitted a proposal to the Camden Empowerment Zone in response to an RFP for website development assistance (up to \$1,000). This proposal is available on the Members Section of the website and focuses on a redesign of our site to better organize information. We have received confirmation of these funds and now need to develop an appropriate scope of services for a website designer.

New Staff to Enhance CAMConnect's Capacity – I circulated a draft of this proposal at our September Board meeting and also at the Members Meeting. This proposal is a further development of "Option 4," which was selected by the Board last May as the preferred strategic direction for CAMConnect. This proposal seeks funding to support another staff member for CAMConnect with technical expertise in database development. The next step is to begin circulating this proposal to foundations. William Penn will be our first target.

## ONGOING CONTRACTS

Education Law Center – I updated the handout I prepared last year summarizing key data on the school system. ELC will distribute this information at its Board of Education forum on Saturday, April 12. I am also working with ELC on ways of summarizing funding issues for the district and the extreme challenges faced in Camden's middle and high schools.

New Jersey Health Initiatives – The New Jersey Health Initiatives (NJHI) component of RWJF has requested some ongoing assistance with their grantee database and generating reports. I did some additional work in March to refine the reports, and this project has improved my knowledge of Access.

Health Data - CAMConnect is included in the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers renewal grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (New Jersey Health Initiatives) for 3 years at up to \$20,000 annually. We have updated data from all 3 hospitals through July 2007 and have begun further analysis of this patient-level dataset.

## OTHER INFORMATION

Updated Camden Facts City and neighborhood reports – The citywide report was released in advance of our Board meeting on February 29. After the meeting I made some modifications and updates to include 2007 housing sales and education data. Subsequently, I updated the website to include a page for the entire report, along with separate pages for each of the topic areas. So, for example, the Education section of the report has its own page with a link to the education section of the report, summaries of key points, and links to related information.

The next steps in this process are to reach out to media members with a press release and to distribute the report to paid members. Also, I will work on preparing neighborhood level reports in the next few months.

Subprime / foreclosure / housing data – Because of the salience of this issue, I have been investigating ways to increase our data holdings in this area. I've posted some analysis of housing sales on the Members Section. For subprime lending, I looked at Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data for 2005 and 2006 and begun determining which tracts had a higher rate of subprime lending. After talking with various sources in the City, County, and State governments, it doesn't appear as if there is reliable aggregated data on foreclosures and Sheriff's Sales. However, I've begun tracking the properties listed for Sheriff's Sales in Camden City and mapping them. The Reinvestment Fund (TRF) is preparing a more detailed analysis due out this month, so future work from CAMConnect will build off this work

Website updates - Average unique visits – August (150), September (124), October (136), November (178), December (132), January (147), February (133), March (156).

## SCHEDULE

### Exec Committee Meetings 2008

Monthly, first Thursday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
1/3, 2/7, 3/6, 4/3, 6/5, 7/3, 8/7, 10/2, 11/6

Camden EZ Conference – 6/10

### Board Meetings 2008

Friday, February 29  
**Thursday, May 8 – note date change**  
Thursday, September 4