

**Lenawee Financial Stability Coalition**  
**January 12, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Beth Mehan-Wood, Nathan Salazar, Lynne Punnett, Misty Schulters, Jenna Furman, Burt Fenby, Jackie Bradley, Tammy Farnum, Todd Ritzler

Burt Fenby called meeting to order at 9:04 am.

**United Way Update:**

United Way has met with some community stakeholders about potentially setting up an Employer Resource Network (ERN) in Lenawee County.

An ERN is a group of businesses that create a small pot of money from which they can offer low-interest loans to their employees and provide supportive services such as budgeting and case management.

ERNs have been having a lot of success in western Michigan. Also, Livingston County has one and Jackson County is working to start one.

Michigan Works! has been very involved in these throughout the state. Also at the state level, they have been looking at the possibility of grants to support the seed money so businesses don't have to put up as much. Misty provided a presentation on ERNs given at the Michigan Works Annual Conference (attached).

What has been the proposed metrics for success? It is important to be able to show Return on Investment for employers – the value of retaining an employee.

In other counties, financial institutions also become involved and began developing products intended for this population. Example: a pre-loaded debit card that acted as a micro-loan to start repairing credit.

Since many of the resources for an ERN are members of LFSC, what can we do collaboratively to support it? Misty will get an update on where things are at and report back.

**Mini IDA Committee**

No new IDA applications.

**VITA**

CAA will start taking appointments on Monday 1/29; appointments will be made through 211.

Department on Aging will NOT use 211 for appointment scheduling and will start scheduling the first week in February. Department on Aging will have 4 mobile sites this year: Tecumseh Library, Hudson Senior Center, Maple Village, and Riverview Terrace.

Michigan Works Southeast will be hosting drop-in tax education on Friday 1/19 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. They are also scheduling appointments for tax preparation on Friday 1/26 and 2/2 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Starting in February, Michigan Works will allow people to come in and use their computers to file on their own.

### **Getting Ahead**

19 people are graduating from Getting Ahead on Friday 1/26 at 6:00 PM at the Adrian District Library.

The “R” Rules class graduated in December.

### **Pathways to Hope**

No update

### **Rent Smart**

The next Rent Smart class will be on Tuesday 2/27 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM at the Adrian District Library. There are 9 people signed up. Many of these have landlords who attend the Landlord Group; hopefully this means that the landlords see/will see the value of the class.

Housing Help would like to have the option of referring people seeking housing to the class and have the voucher held until housing is confirmed.

Lynne made a motion that individuals who cannot identify a current landlord but who are approved by Housing Help may be eligible to attend the Rent Smart class and receive the \$50 voucher once a landlord is confirmed. This motion does not affect the total amount set aside for Rent Smart vouchers.

Nate supported the motion. Motion carried.

### **Show Me The Money / Project Connect**

The SMTM Grant has come in; Terry and Julie are organizing the financial literacy classrooms

Project Connect is Wednesday 1/31 from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Fairgrounds.

### **Money Smart Week**

The first statewide planning meeting is coming up this month. Money Smart Week occurs in April.

Nate will follow up with Terry and Laura about beginning preparations locally.

### **Lenawee County Landlord Group**

Group always meets the last Friday of the month. On 1/26, Representative Bronna Kahle and Senator Dale Zorn are attending as guest speakers. Landlords were asked to prepare and send questions.

Eventually, we will want their feedback re: Rent Smart.

### **Articles for Lenawee Great Start**

No update. Contact Lisa Eack for more.

### **Core and Community Collaborative Meetings**

Madison and Adrian school districts will be piloting a “Handle with Care” program in which law enforcement will provide a “Handle with Care” notice to the school if a youth or their family is involved in certain types of contact.

### **Data Collection**

2017 data is due. Please submit to Jackie ASAP.

The 2018 questions are very similar to ones being asked for the proposed Continuum of Care dashboard. Is it a possibility / Would it make sense for us combine with that, so our organizations don't have to do it twice?

We will invite Brittany Stover from Housing Help to come speak to us about the Dashboard to see how we can relate to it.

There is also always this question of how to ensure valid and unduplicated data: i.e., if one person gets assistance from both Goodwill and Community Action Agency, they will be counted twice. There is no good way around this without collecting identifying information and comparing data.

### **Goals and Planning for 2018**

Many of the Collective Impact groups have been undergoing an updated planning process. The Collaborative has been around for several years now and we want to make sure that we are all still moving forward. April Demers from CMH has been facilitating many of these processes and has volunteered to come to the February meeting to facilitate a planning session for us.

A proposed goal to consider for the future is to engage local employers. Should this be through the ERN or are there other options? If local employers are not paying a living wage, then our programs can move some people out of poverty, but other people will always be moving into it.

The Lead Remediation Grant wasn't received. This was a collaborative effort with Habitat, CAA, and LISD. They had a conference call with representatives from the state to go through which areas of the application were strong / weak. Collaboration was cited as a strength. There will be another RFP coming out around March and these organizations will apply for that one.

### **Emerging Issues / Projects**

Habitat is doing their Pasties fundraiser; apparently the breakfast ones are excellent. Lynne has order forms.

Walk for Warmth is Friday 2/9. Registration will start at 12:45 pm, the Walk will start at 1:30 pm; meet at Blue Flame room.

Burt's Retirement party will be Thursday 1/25 from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM at LISD.

### **Membership Review**

Dave Brevoort, Laura Negron-Terrones, Lupe Hamden, and Sunshine Plato can all be removed.

Jackie will follow up with some people we haven't seen recently: Sean Armstrong, Lillian Warren, Derek Henning, Melody Fanslau, Nancy Bishop, Lisa Eack.

Tami Farnum from CAA will be attending moving forward.

### **Future Meeting Plans / Agenda Items**

Next meeting will be Friday 2/9 from 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM in the Lenawee Room. This will be a planning meeting facilitated by April Demers.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jackie Bradley  
LCMHA