Present: Lynne Punnett, Misty Shulters, Todd Ritzler, Jackie Bradley, Laura Schultz-Pipis, Rachel Emery, Clint Brugger, Beth Wood

Jackie Bradley called the meeting to order at 9:05

I. Data Review: The group reviewed and discussed the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) report for Lenawee County. The same was done for the DHHS Annual Program Information report. In Lenawee 31% of homes are ALICE households as compared to the state average of 25%, and 12% are poverty households as compared to the States average of 15%. It was noted that Lenawee County has a working poor problem more than a poverty problem. With that in mind, it was discussed that the focus for the coalition needs to not only look at those in poverty, but also those working lower waged jobs who struggle to make ends meet.

Beginning on July 1, FAP recipients will be required to work or complete community service to continue to receive benefits. Recipients will have three months to get assistance from MIWorks and if still unemployed, their benefits will be restricted. FAP numbers may drop as a result. Those recipients that work 30 hours a week or whom are disabled are exempt from participating in MIWorks programs. Data extracted from the DHHS Annual Program Information report indicates that 11-12% of Lenawee County residents receive FAP, similar to the percentage of those in poverty.

II. Treasurer’s Report: the report was not given as the treasurer was absent from the meeting. It was decided to send the report electronically with the meeting minutes.

III. Activities/Goals
A. Mini IDA report: the Mini IDA committee reported that last month’s request was approved. The approval for the stipend was for auto repair.
B. VITA report: CAA reported that they have completed more than 1500 individual/family’s taxes this year. The Lenawee Department on Aging reported that their numbers have nearly doubled over last year due in part to the wonderful volunteers as well as the drop-off option available this year. The LDA is no longer taking appointments nor drop-offs. CAA will continue to take appointments on Tuesday’s only.
C. Getting Ahead report: CAA reported that they failed to secure the grant for this program during the last grant cycle. The coalition suggested looking into getting businesses to sponsor classes with reserved spots for that company’s employees. It was reported that a full class takes approximately $5000 to fund. The group
suggested that if a business was interested in sponsoring a class that ½ of the seats would be reserved for their employees.

D. **Rent Smart report**: The next workshop is scheduled for May 30. There are 5 vouchers available. The coalition will review next time if it continues.

E. **Show Me the Money**: nothing to report.

F. **Money Smart Week**: nothing to report.

G. **Landlord Group report**: The group did not meet in March due to the Easter holiday. Brian Nozfinger, CPA, will be the guest speaker at the next group meeting. He will be reviewing taxes for homeowners. The group will also discuss lead remediation as state funding has recently opened up.

H. **BRN report**: Currently meetings with other communities that are using BRN’s are scheduled to learn and begin implementing the program in Lenawee. A review of their findings will be discussed at a future meeting.

I. **America Saves**: Misty volunteered to research the program and report back to the coalition.

IV. **Group Activity**: Members participated in an exercise of listing all of the activities reported on in section III and then grouping them according to likeness. Time was then spent naming each of the groups. The idea behind the exercise was to develop a framework for future work including goal setting and data collection.

**Building Awareness of Financial Resources**
- Show Me the Money
- Money Smart
- America Saves

**Building Financial Resilience**
- Getting Ahead
- BRN
- Pathway to Hope
- Mini IDA
- VITA

**Building Landlord/Tenant Relations and Resources**
- Rent Smart
- Landlord Group

V. **Legislative Issues**

A. **Adrian Blight Committee**: Adrian has recently formed a Blight Committee. Their focus is on ordinances, penalties, and code enforcement. Lynne will be participating on the committee. She stated her fear is penalties coming to those that cannot afford to fix the home. She plans to voice concern regarding this and look for ways for the committee to provide resources to these people. A
suggestion was to inquire with the Economic Development Commission to see if fund matching may be available.

B. **Senate Bill 110**: This bill will develop legislation that allows municipalities to voluntarily work together to have rent control. *Support for this bill is recommended.*

C. **Driver Responsibility Fees**: Beginning October 1 driver responsibility fees will be removed. Prior to that date an individual can have it removed by participating in MIWorks Workforce Development for 10 hours. MIWorks can then sign a waiver to have them removed. That program begins on April 20.

D. **Handout**: Jackie graciously developed a handout that explains other ballot initiatives. The handout is attached.

VI. **CORE report**: A brief report regarding the CORE meeting was given. It began with an explanation of One Lenawee and then moved to how ‘community services’ may be a subgroup. Discussion at CORE was in regards to where the ‘community services’ group will reside and how goals will be made and measured. A brief discussion regarding the CORE’s discussion of trauma informed community was reported expressing the need for movement toward ways to incorporate trauma sensitivity into the work we do daily and the need for a local trainer.