



**Mission: To increase the number of families and individuals who are financially stable**

**Date:** Friday, 1/10/2020  
**Time:** 9:00 – 10:30 am

**Location:** Lenawee Room  
Human Services Building  
1040 S. Winter St.  
Adrian, MI 49221

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Attendance: Clint Brugger, Christal Albigh, Britni Stornant, Julie Laughlin, Misty Shulters, Connie Carroll, Tami Farnum

I. Review Agenda & Minutes

- A. **Connie made a motion to accept the Agenda as presented, Julie supported. The motion carried.**  
**Julie made a motion to accept the previous meeting Minutes as presented. Misty supported. The motion carried.**

Activities:

A. Decriminalize Poverty

1. Expungement: **Misty will champion the numbers for the group** – information shared with regards to Lenawee County's Second Chance Fair that focused on expungement. Follow-up on the success of the expungement application to come as many of the hearings are scheduled for the spring.

2. Bail reform: no movement

B. End systems of "poverty taxes" – suggestion made to change "poverty taxes" to different wording as there is an actual poverty tax and the intent could be confused. Clint to take this on.

1. Discussion around identifying individuals that we work with who have been a victim of payday loans – get their story NOW to use later. Suggestion to run an ad in the paper and/or facebook page to request folks that have been victim of payday loans to come forward with their story. **Misty can put the wording together for the facebook page and add that in the next couple weeks.**

2. Develop a pitch for financial institutions to develop a micro-loan program – need the right people to help with this, i.e. financial institution group members – Tami made a suggestion that CP Federal Credit Union may be of help and is willing to make the connection

3. Julie to work on collecting 2019 attendance numbers to all financial stability and related classes to use as a baseline for measuring an increase in 2020

4. BRN employer knowledge is on-going

5. Julie to collect 2019 numbers for mini-IDA baseline

6. Tami to collect 2019 numbers for VITA baseline, specifically the total dollar's refunded

VITA discussion: Scheduling starts January 21<sup>st</sup> - volunteers are needed (greeters, tax preparers) – 2 different types of training tracks; New, returning

Myfreetaxes: no income limits this year! Michigan Works to offer a day – Tami to check when would be best – must have someone there to help with navigation of the computer and an actual tax prep volunteer

C. Increase awareness

1. Poverty simulator curriculum: available after the 15<sup>th</sup> of January  
Waiting to schedule a couple per year, geared towards professionals, not students, there is an online poverty simulator link that we can share on Facebook and with the group
2. Bridges out of Poverty: CAA is sponsoring two sessions for Lenawee County – Clint to let group know when they are scheduled
3. Facebook: added CAA Communications Manager as an admin with the intent that they will post all CAA financial stability events and information to the LFSC facebook page.
4. Professional Development: Misty to schedule a meeting in the near future with the activity group

D. Improve Representation

Need more financial institutions to join the group – Misty to send an email to those that attended the PD event from April and invite them to the next meeting. Connie to connect with Rachel to see if she had interest in continuing with the group and any suggestions to reach banks to inquire about representation.

E. Landlord

1. Rent smart: Julie to schedule at least one

No update on further items available

Collective Impact Update

Applying for a community wide 5 year grant (\$4.5million)– cognitive mapping work to help improve resiliency through pen-paper activities. If awarded, the goal would be to work with professionals to learn what to do for resiliency with a long-term goal of offering the activities to residents.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Misty Shulters