



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

Date: Friday, 3/13/2020
Time: 9:00 – 10:30 am

Location: Michigan Works!
Human Services Building
1040 S. Winter St.
Adrian, MI 49221

I. Welcome / Introductions

Attendance: Clint Brugger, Jackie Bradley, Lauren Brooks, Laura Schultz-Pipis, Todd Ritzler, De'Angelo Boone, Tami Farnum, Ashley Beevers

II. Review Agenda & Minutes

- A. **Laura made a motion to accept the Agenda with the addition of COVID-19 under "Other Issues" and previous meeting minutes as presented. De'Angelo supported. The motion carried.**

III. Treasurer's Report

- A. No report.

IV. Activities:

A. Decriminalize Poverty

1. Jackson County was planning to host a meeting to discuss a stalled bill related to expungements. **Clint will forward updates.**
2. Clint will inquire with the Michigan ACLU if they have any current initiatives regarding bail reform.

B. End systems of "poverty taxes"

1. End high-interest pay day loans
 - i. Testimony has been given re: a bill in the House addressing pay day loans. The bill has not been voted on yet.
 - ii. There are 4 Pay Day lenders in Adrian; are there any others in the county?
2. Establish a micro-loan program
 - i. A sub-committee was formed to look more into this. Members include Clint, Laura, and Todd.
3. Increase the number of participants for existing Financial Education programs
 - i. **Jackie will bring the spreadsheet that was created last year to the next meeting.**
 - ii. **Tami will work with De'Angelo to schedule a class in a neighborhood location, rather than the Human Services Building.**
 - iii. Drug Court has reached out to Community Action Agency to offer financial stability classes to their participants.
4. Mini IDA Committee
 - i. Community Action Agency is hoping to enroll a couple of new people in the mini IDAs, but there are no new applications at this time.

- 5. VITA
 - i. In 2019:
 - 1. VITA served 1310 households. Out of these the largest age demographic was 75+ and the largest income demographic was 201%+ of the Federal Poverty Line. **Tami will share the full data sheet.**
 - 2. There are only 4 preparers this year, yet they are currently ½ way to their goal.
 - 3. Some sites are closing due to COVID-19, a decision will be made soon regarding the Lenawee site.
- C. Increase awareness
 - 1. **Clint will work to schedule these events for the next meeting.**
- D. Improve Representation
 - 1. Welcome new participants De'Angelo and Ashley!
- E. Landlord / Tenant Relations
 - 1. Tri-County Housing Coalition – this group is hosting a landlord brunch on 4/17 from 8:30 – 11:30 am at the Gene Francis Banquet Hall in Jackson.
- F. Collective Impact Update
 - 1. The Core is working to form a “Trauma Task Force” to bring together a larger group of individuals and organizations who are currently working to address trauma and resilience.
- G. Other Issues
 - 1. COVID-19
 - i. We can use our Facebook page to get information out.
 - ii. Community Action Agency has some funds for utilities, individuals must apply for State Emergency Relief through DHHS first.
 - iii. Jackie will ask Karen to send an update through the Human Services Collaborative reminding all agencies to use 211 to get information out.
 - 2. 2020 Census
 - i. The website is now live to complete the Census. You do not need your code from the mailing. It takes approximately 10 minutes to complete.
 - 3. Tonight's Second Friday event is cancelled.
- H. Next Meeting: 4/10