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

Date: Friday, 3/13/2020  Location: Michigan Works! Human Services Building
Time: 9:00 – 10:30 am  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