



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

**Date:** Friday, 5/8/2020  
**Time:** 9:00 – 10:30 am

**Location:** Zoom  
<https://zoom.us/j/82022379669>  
Phone: 1 (312) 626-6799  
Meeting ID: 802 2237 9669

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## Meeting Minutes

### I. Welcome / Introductions

Present: Lynne Punnett, Christal Albig, Clint Brugger, Misty Shulters, Connie Carroll, Mike Smith, Tami Farnum, Sue Hammersmith, Todd Ritzler, Jackie Bradley

### II. Review Agenda & Minutes

**Connie made a motion to accept the previous meeting Minutes as presented; Lynne supported. The motion carried.**

### III. COVID-19

#### a. Current Needs

People with multi-state unemployment claims have been struggling (e.g. Folks who live in Lenawee but work in Ohio). They can have a longer wait to receive their benefits.

#### b. Future Needs

We have not seen uptick in requests for utilities yet, but expect to see them when the state of emergency ends and people start receiving shut off notices.

The Step Forward program has mortgage assistance. Julie from Community Action Agency (CAA) is familiar with the guidelines that lenders must abide by and can provide counseling to individuals. This should be the first step for people who need mortgage assistance.

Housing Help should be first call for rental assistance.

### IV. Community Service Block Grant (CSBG)

CAA's CSBG proposal was approved for approximately \$300,000. These funds must be spent by 9/30/2021. CAA will be requiring that applicants request State Emergency Relief (SER) first from MDHHS and be denied. If there is a backlog that creates a delay in service, CAA has discretion on this point. The income cap for eligibility is 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Assistance is available now. Requests for Rent/Mortgage should be taken to Housing Help first, because their income restriction is lower. Income is considered for last 30 days.

V. VITA

Once the Stay-at-Home order ends, volunteers will do drop off taxes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-11:30 by appointment only, in order to allow everyone to abide by social distancing and other guidelines. There will be floor markers to facilitate 6 foot distancing.

CAA is still facilitating self-completion on myfreetaxes.com

VI. Communication

a. LFSC Facebook

Clint will confirm that CAA's marketing manager has access to the LFSC Facebook page.

Activity has increased recently.

CAA is doing a virtual budget class – this would be good to post. These classes will be happening more frequently. They are also doing Homebuyer Ed and Foreclosure Avoidance classes in the near future. These will be pushed directly to Misty and the LFSC for cross- promotion.

VII. Collective Impact Core

At the last Core meeting, it was requested that everyone ask their sub-group: What do people need as agencies start to re-open?

CAA has a trauma-informed agency committee. There are many emotions among staff. They look forward to anything that the Core is able to come up with to help support.

The Lenawee Community Foundation (LCF) is putting together re-open kits for local nonprofits that will include some physical resources (masks, hand sanitizer, thermometers, etc.). This is greatly appreciated.

VIII. Other Issues / Service Updates

There is approximately \$88,000 available to Lenawee County through the Emergency Food and Shelter Program Phase 37. This is administered through the United Way of Monroe/Lenawee Counties (UWMLC) and Connie has applications. Applications due to Connie by 5/18. Applications should be submitted for each program request. Before applying, organizations should go on the Emergency Food and Shelter website and review manual; there are very strict requirements regarding documentation and eligible costs.

WABJ announced recently that they raised \$16,000 for food. Sue has requested a list of where these funds will go, so that UWMLC and LCF can account for them when considering where there is a highest need for additional funds.

Huntington has received a lot of feedback from nonprofits that there are potential scams and fraud going on right now. They are putting together a webinar on how to spot this and what to do.

Habitat has hired a new Executive Director, Wendy Knox, and she will start June 1st. Lynne will overlap a bit to help the transition.

IX. Next Meeting: 6/12