



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

Date: Friday, 12/11/2020
Time: 9:00 – 10:30 am

Location: Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84448067751?pwd=M3daczloeVgxWDdQVDFGdlE3SGk4QT09>

Phone: 1 (301) 715 8592
Meeting ID: 844 4806 7751
Password: 461266

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome / Introductions

In Attendance: Madeline DeMarco, Clint Brugger, Connie Carroll, Angela Turner, Tami Farnum, Julie Laughlin, Liz Fuss, Kesha Hamilton, Christal Albig, Amanda Crosby, Frank Nagle, Todd Ritzler

II. Review Agenda & Minutes

Motion to approve the Agenda and previous meeting minutes moved by Tami, supported by Todd, and approved by consensus.

III. Treasurer's Report

No changes. Our final balance is \$5,671.43.

IV. Activities –

A. Advocate for and Organize around the decriminalization of poverty in Lenawee County

1. Expungement Fairs

On Hold due to COVID

The Governor did sign into law automatic expungements for misdemeanors and some felonies. This is a big victory for our goal of decriminalizing poverty!

2. Homelessness & the City of Adrian's New Park Ordinance

We are hoping to schedule a meeting with the Human Relations Commission and the Continuum of Care in January to further discuss this item.

3. Bail Reform

On Hold due to COVID

B. End systems perpetuating “poverty taxes” in Lenawee County and build financial resilience among community members.

1. Blight Action Committee

Todd has researched what other communities have done to decrease blight. He found that there are many public acts and statutes that allow for the remediation of blight. This strategy would require a bit of community coordination. Additionally, there is grant funding available for remediating blight, as well as associated tax incentives.

2. End high-interest pay day loans

Connie extended an invitation to Senator Zorn to participate in our group. In their conversations, he indicated that he is not in favor of pay day loans. He also seemed agreeable to attending one of our meetings, or at least send one of his representatives. We agree that we should have a strong ask for him before that happens. This will probably include a combination of our previously identified legislative topics.

Over the next month, Clint and De'Angelo will discuss what our agenda for that meeting should be. We will discuss that agenda at the January meeting, and then invite Senator Zorn to the February meeting. This item will be moved to the top of our agenda for next month.

3. Establish a local micro-loan program

On Hold due to COVID

4. Increase the number of participants for existing Financial Education Programs

Participation in virtual classes has been lower than it typically is for in-person classes. Marketing and public awareness of these classes is part of the explanation for this. Ads for the classes used to get shared through Lenawee Essential Needs Council's Facebook page. **Clint will reach out and see if CAA's new communication manager can get Admin status for the page and share posts that way. Please make sure that you and your organization like and share the LENC Facebook page! Clint will also bring up this marketing piece at the next Core meeting as a collective impact priority.**

We also discussed the Lenawee Health Network's Google Drive as a potential model for our coalition. Frank noted that getting people to engage with those documents is a challenge. Other suggestions for improving community awareness included doing more radio spots with Doug and creating a referral process.

Upcoming Classes (refer people to Julie for registration):

Rent for Success: Sunday, January 3rd from 1:00-3:00pm

Homebuyer's Education: Saturday, January 16th from 9:00am-1:00pm

5 Week Financial Education Classes: Begins on Tuesday, January 19th from 5:00-7:00pm

Todd had a conversation with Huntington's community development representative about expanding some of their education classes into Lenawee County for 2021. The representative agreed to join our January meeting and discuss this topic further.

Madeline will send her next meeting's invite.

5. Mini IDA Committee

Since our last meeting Julie has given out 11 applications. We should have updates about their status next month and agreed that any immediate needs will be voted on via email.

6. VITA

VITA will occur at the same location as last year, 3 days a week. Their volunteer recruiting campaign has been helpful for recruiting people, and some of their previous volunteers have agreed to return. Flagstar Bank is also going to encourage their staff to volunteer in exchange for CRA credit! Training orientations will occur on December 15th and 21st, and the rest of training will begin in January. Thank you to everyone who helped recruit volunteers!

Show Me The Money Day: The deadline for this event has been extended until June 30th, 2021. This gives us more time to plan and allows for things to potentially be held outside. Planning will begin at the end of January/beginning of February and will be added as an agenda item.

C. Increase awareness of financial resources among professionals and the general public in Lenawee County Support and/or partner with the LISD to host Poverty Simulations (2 per year)

1. Support and/or partner with the LISD to host Poverty Simulations

On Hold due to COVID

2. Sponsor Bridges Out of Poverty for Lenawee County (2 per year)

Clint is coordinating things with the Non-Profit Network to schedule these trainings. The goal is for the training to occur in late January. Start spreading the word about this offering and thinking about how to market the event!

We agreed that we will aim high in terms of our projected number of participants. This training will be geared towards community partners more community members, so think about who at your own organization would benefit from this training. Initial interested groups include:

- Lenawee Community Mental Health Authority
- Childcare Network
- Goodwill
- 211 operators

3. Host professional development seminars (2 per year)

On Hold due to COVID

D. Improve representation at the LFSC meetings from diverse sectors

Everyone: Bring a friend to next month's meeting!

Misty Shulters was promoted to the Deputy Director position at MI Works, Southeast. She has identified her replacement for this group. She will try to join us as much as she can, but her replacement will be a constant presence in this group.

Our ultimate goal should be involving at least one community resident in our committee who has lived experience with financial instability.

E. Build landlord/tenant relations and resources

1. Rent For Success

Recent classes have only lasted an hour. Julie is brainstorming additional topics to include in the class to fill the full two hours. This includes the possibility of including guest speakers. A \$50 stipend is still available to attendees as an incentive for participating. We will maintain this offer for now and revisit its sustainability if we get a rush of people wanting to participate in the classes. We also agreed that since the stipend funds came from Lenawee County, the stipends will only be offered to Lenawee County residents. **Clint will reach out to Hillsdale and Jackson Counties to see if they would be interested and able to offer a similar incentive to their residents.**

We have 15 more stipends available to give out.

2. Landlord Group

Clint and Tami will be at the January Landlord meeting to promote Rent for Success.

3. Legislative Issues

1. Tax Credit for Supporting Affordable Housing

No updates.

2. Federal Housing Bills

No updates.

3. Inviting Senator Zorn to the LFSC

See *End High Interest Pay Day Loans*

V. Collective Impact Core

Continued conversations around the actions we believe are needed to create a more resilient, trauma-informed community. If you have anything you would like to contribute to this conversation, please let either Madeline or Jackie Bradley know.

Kathryn Szewczuk will be conducting one-on-one conversations with members of the Core to learn more about what they think the Core's role in our community should be.

VI. Other Issues

VII. Next Meeting: 1/8/2021