



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

Date: Friday, 5/14/2021
Time: 9:00 – 10:30 am

Location: Zoom
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84448067751?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84448067751?pwd=M3daczloeVgxWDdQVDFGdIE3SGk4QT09)
[pwd=M3daczloeVgxWDdQVDFGdIE3SGk4QT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84448067751?pwd=M3daczloeVgxWDdQVDFGdIE3SGk4QT09)

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

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome / Introductions

In Attendance: Madeline DeMarco (LCMHA), Ashley Vandebusch (MIWorks), Tami Farnum (CAA), Amy Sweinhagen (CAA), Todd Ritzler (Huntington), Liz Fuss (Great Start to Quality), Kelly Castleberry (Share the Warmth), Jennifer VenEtten (CAA), Kathy DeCatur (LCDA), Emma Salazar (Share the Warmth), Christal Albright (Goodwill), Misty Shulters (MWSE)

II. Review Agenda & Minutes

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

III. Treasurer's Report

Rent for success and mini-IDA's were processed since last meeting.

We have a total of \$7,523.07 in the bank currently. \$4,623.17 is available to us due to currently allocations.

IV. Activities –

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

1. Expungement Fairs

Fairs On Hold due to COVID

Clean Slate Pilot program has rolled out across the state in Michigan Works offices.

MWSE has an online intake that can be accessed at www.mwse.org/expungement -

funds are available to assist individuals with the process and cost of an expungement

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

No updates.

3. Bail Reform

No updates.

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

1. Blight Action Committee

New community development director being hired soon for the City. Hoping this person can provide additional guidance and information on blight.

2. End high-interest pay day loans

No updates

3. Establish a local micro-loan program

On Hold due to COVID

4. Increase the number of participants for existing Financial Education

a. Collaborating with Huntington Bank

Huntington has a webinar on 5/19 to share information on how best to partner to provide financial awareness information to shared customers.

Tami reported that during recent focus groups, feedback received is leading to a new name for the classes and market classes individually. Updates to flyers will be coming soon. Goal is to increase attendance and interest by marketing them separately.

Discussed options for social media: organizations push the information on their social media, Lenawee Essential Needs Council facebook page is another option. Talked about drawing more interest from youth aged individuals.

5. Mini IDA Committee

No updates.

6. VITA

Still have a couple openings for Monday. May 17th is the deadline to file if you owe. If you are receiving a refund, they can assist until September 30th. Those interested can call the scheduling line, 517-247-2099.

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

These trainings are technically targeted at adults who are not currently experiencing poverty. It can also be helpful for youth to go through the trainings. The LISD has purchased the Poverty Simulations kit and they are willing to share those resources. Trainings require volunteers and a significant amount of space.

This could be a great goal to incorporate the youth-specific trainings mentioned above.

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

Review the list below (feedback and ideas out of March 18th training) and highlight the priorities our group should have – will discuss as a group in June

- Increase collaboration between agencies
- Coordinate services
- Streamline the process for applying for services, especially across agencies
- Break down the bureaucracy
- Educate selves/others on barriers
- Advocate for changes in regulations and policies
- Bail reform
- Supporting organizations that take chances on people with criminal records
- Increase access to mental health care, especially for those in the middle who are currently falling through a gap.
- Increase the number of care providers in the community
- Increase access to healthy food and the number of people wanting to use it
- Better understand the traditional roles of churches for people of color and work with them to strengthen the community
- Expand public transportation. Is there a role for churches here?

3. Host professional development seminars (2 per year)

On Hold due to COVID

D. Improve representation at the LFSC meetings from diverse sectors

Please bring a friend to next month's meeting!

E. Build landlord/tenant relations and resources

1. Rent For Success

Was going well, but this most recent month there were no registrations. Placing the class on hold at this time – look to offer again soon.

CERA Program – no eviction notice required, funds to pay rent that is due and future months (1-2 months), utility help, internet assistance (\$300 stipend). Portal is being worked on, application can be done online, paper apps are accepted but can delay the process. MSHDA is fine tuning the backend for the online application. Contact #: 517-264-0782

2. Landlord Group

No update

V. Collective Impact Core

No update

VI. Other Issues

Child Care Network shared their contact information, 567-218-3896

VII. Next Meeting: 6/11/2021