



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

**Date:** Friday, 7/9/2021  
**Time:** 9:00 – 10:30 am

**Location:** Zoom  
<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), Clint Brugger (CAA), Jackie Bradley (LCMHA), Liz Fuss (Childcare Network), Frank Nagle (ProMedica), Amy Sweinhagen (CAA), Misty Shulters (MWSE)

### **II. Review Agenda & Minutes**

Motion to approve the Agenda and previous meeting minutes moved by Liz Fuss, supported by Jackie Bradley, and approved by consensus.

### **III. Collective Impact Core**

We are planning on introducing short learning segments at each meeting around our common agenda of decreasing trauma and increasing resiliency in Lenawee County. This will begin next month.

### **IV. Treasurer's Report**

Our current bank balance is \$7,223.07.

**Tami will send the treasurer's report to Madeline.**

### **V. Activities –**

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

##### **1. Clean Slate Program**

We are trying to promote this program among our networks to increase participation. Ashley spoke with the MWSE communications staff about creating a social media toolkit. Legal Services is currently overwhelmed with applications for this program (over 400!), so there's hesitation to promote this event until demand levels off. MWSE is finding that many applicants aren't interested in expungement to facilitate employment, but are more interested in clearing their record. MWSE is able to assist folks outside of

the income eligibility restrictions, so encourage folks to apply through them. MWSE is also hoping to offer an expungement resource fair in the fall.

**Everyone keep sharing this program with your networks and direct applicants to the [MWSE website](#).**

## 2. Lenawee County Criminal Justice Committee

Clint has reached out to Rebecca Borton for more information about this committee and is waiting to hear back. Another contact indicated that this would be a great starting point for us to begin building relationships and advocating with the County Commission. There is space at the end of meetings for public comment where we could share our thoughts. Clint is planning to attend the August meeting.

LFSC sent a letter to the City Commission regarding the Adrian Inn's public nuisance hearing. About  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the letter was read during the public comment section. Our message is important for City Commissioners to hear. Clint plans to attend these meetings regularly moving forward so that we can stay in the loop and be part of planning processes. The Adrian Inn continues to operate for now.

## 3. Bail Reform

Clint brought up this priority with the Criminal Justice Committee who expressed interest in it.

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

## 1. Blight Action Committee

It's important for us to start being proactive about these issues, especially considering the recent decision around the Adrian Inn.

**Tim volunteered to be part of this group and will research alternative solutions to bring to the August meeting.**

## 2. End high-interest pay day loans

[House Bill 4515](#) has been introduced. This is supposed to create a database to help identify folks that have loans in process to prevent pay day loan centers from entering into a second loan agreement with them. If they do, both the employee who created the loan and their employing agency will face fines and/or criminal charges.

Amy brought up challenges folks are having with the unemployment system. Folks can call MWSE to schedule an appointment to use an unemployment hotline phone (specifically ask to use the unemployment phone when folks call MWSE to make an

appointment). If they do, MWSE staff can help coach folks through the right questions to ask and offer support as they work through the system. MWSE is doing a “Soft-launch” of walk-in traffic on July 19<sup>th</sup>. The closest Unemployment Office’s problem resolution office is in Lansing, and they are also starting to take-on appointments.

3. Establish a local micro-loan program

\*On Hold due to COVID\*

4. Increase the number of participants for existing Financial Education

Kelly Castleberry is implementing a new system at Share the Warmth where goals get established for guests upon intake. This could involve financial education classes and CAA bringing classes to Share the Warmth. Some shelters in Jackson are implementing a similar model. There’s a lot of potential to partner with a variety of organizations to offer a menu of services that would address people’s needs holistically.

**Ashley and Todd will have a conversation about their agencies partnering to offer financial education classes.**

5. Mini IDA Committee

No mini IDAs are currently in progress. CAA is planning to resume the Getting Ahead classes again soon.

6. VITA

VITA is winding down. They are still able to meet with folks to help with their taxes. This is especially important for folks hoping to benefit from the child tax credit. There’s a lot of scams going around right now, so please direct folks to CAA for a secure option!

Show Me the Money Day has been cancelled for 2021.

**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)

2 of CAA’s staff have successfully gone through the train the trainer training. Now we can offer Bridges in-house! Start thinking about offering an in-person training in the future. To help train the new trainers, CAA could be willing to do some trainings for organizations on site.

3. Host professional development seminars (2 per year)

\*On Hold due to COVID\*

**D. Improve representation at the LFSC meetings from diverse sectors**

Not our most successful month... So...

**Please bring a friend to next month's meeting – Residents count!**

**E. Build landlord/tenant relations and resources**

1. Rent For Success

No updates.

2. Landlord Group

No updates.

**VI. Other Issues**

No updates.

**VII. Next Meeting: 8/13/2021**