



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

Date: Friday, 8/13/2021
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, Clint Brugger, Connie Carroll, Liz Fuss, Jackie Bradley, Jennifer VanEtten, Collin Keehn, Todd Ritzler, Amy Sweinhagen, Frank Nagle, Tami Farnum

II. Review Agenda & Minutes

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

III. Collective Impact Core

We will be sharing concepts each month around our common agenda of trauma and resiliency. This month's concept is the impact of trauma on adult behavior:

Repeated exposure to traumatic events, especially in childhood, can impact the way the brain develops.

Adults whose brains have developed through trauma may spend more time responding from a place of either hyper- (anxious, angry, overwhelmed) or hypo- (spacy, numb, depressed) arousal.

Trauma can also impact the neural pathways involved in:

- Memory function
- Problem solving
- Decision making

Neural pathways have the ability to change over the lifespan, so the impacts of trauma can be “re-wired” through intervention.

Please watch this video to learn more about trauma and the brain:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLF_SEy6sdc

IV. Treasurer's Report

Tami will send the latest numbers to Madeline.

V. Activities –

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

1. Clean Slate Program

Please continue sharing information about this program with your networks! The Clean Slate Program is a program through Michigan Works! Southeast where folks can work with a staff member to get their criminal record expunged. This can make it easier for folks to find employment and housing.

2. Lenawee County Criminal Justice Committee

Clint will continue working to get on the agenda of these meetings.

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

No updates.

Madeline will reach out to Tim Ruple about this action step to see if any support is needed.

2. End high-interest pay day loans

Collin will remind Connie to reach out to Dale Zorn for updates about the State legislation that has been introduced around to this topic.

3. Establish a local micro-loan program

On Hold due to COVID

4. Increase the number of participants for existing Financial Education

The latest Homebuyers Education class had 22 participants. The next one is coming up on August 21st from 9:00am-1:00pm. 17 folks are registered so far.

The Financial Education class hasn't been super well attended this summer.

Jennifer is hoping to work with MWSE to create a schedule of potentially in-person classes for the fall.

Getting Ahead is being planned with Prairie Elementary School. There is still space for folks to register for this class. Remember that there's a \$300 stipend for completing this class!

Share the Warmth is also interested in providing some of these classes for their residents.

Todd and Ashley are still working to schedule a time to meet. It would make sense for Jennifer to be involved in this meeting as well.

Todd, Ashley, and Jennifer will meet to coordinate the variety of financial education programs available to community members.

5. Mini IDA Committee

No new mini IDAs are currently in progress. A previous participant made an approved withdrawal for rent. This participant is wondering if they can go back into the program for transportation assistance.

Tami and Jennifer will meet with the client and assess their situation before making a decision.

If folks are able to save \$1,000, CAA can match up to \$3,000 (for a total of \$4,000) that can be used for things like a down payment. To be eligible, participants need to be involved in the program for at least 6 months and contribute at least \$20/month. There will also be some new funding rounds beginning in October that can be used for home down payments.

There is a proposal working its way through the federal government to bring regular IDAs back. We will continue to update on this situation as more information becomes available.

6. VITA

VITA is partnering with Consumer's Energy to promote that there is still time to apply for the home heating credit. Folks can access these appointments on Tuesdays at CAA. Otherwise, the season is starting to wind down. The program will operate until the end of September.

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)

CAA has their own trainers! The workbooks need to be ordered in order to offer this training. They will be ordered once the newest edition is released in October.

3. Host professional development seminars (2 per year)

On Hold due to COVID

D. Improve representation at the LFSC meetings from diverse sectors

It would be great to get DHHS involved, food bank representation, etc.

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

A. Mobility Manager –

1. Please encourage folks to call (517) 257-9845 if they are in need of transportation. Misty Pope, the Mobility Manager, does not provide transportation services, but can help connect folks to existing resources in Lenawee County.

B. ARPA Funding -

1. County Commissioners will soon decide how to spend \$19.4 million of American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds and they are seeking resident input to determine priorities. Please take the time to complete this very important survey. The survey asks us to prioritize various categories ranging from funding for parks/recreation, to housing, to substance abuse programs. Please also share this link to help get as many responses as possible!

C. UWMLC –

1. Has a grant to promote vaccinations! If you have a creative idea to encourage folks vaccinated, please contact Laura Schultz Pipis (lipis@uwmlc.org). These funds can be used for things like offering incentives for folks who get vaccinated.

D. LHN –

1. The final 2020 Lenawee Community Health Assessment has been received! There's a lot of data in the report about the financial status of our residents.

Frank will share the report with us.

VII. Next Meeting: 9/10/2021