

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

301 N. Main Street, Adrian, MI 49221

p: 517-264-4508 | f: 517-264-4512

lenawee.mi.us



MEMBERS

Dawn Bales, Nancy Jenkins-Arno, Jim Goetz

MEETING LOCATION

Via ZOOM

MINUTES: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 - 1:30 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Bales, Jenkins-Arno, Goetz, and Stimpson

Also Present: Clint Brugger (Community Action Agency), Ashley Vandebusch, Martha Hall, Cari Rebottaro, Martin Marshall, Kim Murphy, and Becky Borton

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Jenkins-Arno, seconded by Goetz, to approve the May 11, 2021, minutes. Motion carried.

- II. Community Action Agency:** Clint Brugger introduced himself and provided a slide show of services provided by Community Action Agency. He stressed that the CAA really takes a local approach to identifying the causes and conditions of poverty, to improve self-sufficiency through programming, advocacy and leadership.

Housing Counseling: Advice on buying a home, renting, default, foreclosure avoidance, credit issues or reverse mortgages. Homeowner counseling available to assist with budgeting, home repair options and referrals to organizations that can assist.

Foreclosure Prevention Counseling: Helping homeowners understand what options are available based on their individual situation or needs. Counselors' help homeowners develop a plan of action to resolve their housing crisis and connect them with helpful community resources.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families: Help homeless or near homeless Veterans, both individuals and families, get access to housing and services.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance: Free Federal, state and city income tax preparation services through the IRS sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. The VITA program is only available during the tax season.

Lead Hazard Control Program: Community Action Agency was awarded a grant from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to expand residential lead hazard control services to eligible households with Medicaid enrolled children in Lenawee. Funding is provided through the Michigan Medicaid Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The grant allows CAA to provide services including lead inspections, lead risk assessments, and abatement of identified lead dust, lead-based paint, lead contaminated soil, and lead in water hazards. There have been 22 projects completed

since the program started and expect to double the number by the end of 2022. This is available for home owners or apartment dwellings.

Weatherization: Free home energy conservation services to low income home owners and renters in Jackson, Lenawee and Hillsdale counties. This is for eligible weatherization, not home repairs.

Emergency Services: Assistance for relocation, home ownership services, limited heat and utilities, and referrals for household contents or needs. These donated funds that are unrestricted.

Emergency Services Covid Related Assistance: CARES Act funds to assist individuals and families who are 200% Federal Poverty Guidelines and have been affected financially because of COVID. This may include rent/mortgage, utilities, connectivity, transportation, and funeral expenses.

COVID Emergency Rental Assistance: MSHDA has federal funds available to help tenants facing pandemic-related hardships avoid eviction while also ensuring landlords can recoup owed rent through the COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) program and will cover both rent and utilities. Either the landlord or the tenant can apply for support. Lenawee County was awarded approximately \$3 million.

Financial Literacy/Education: Budgeting basics, rent for success, home-buyers education, etc.

Getting Ahead: Works to provide a way to examine the impact that poverty has on individuals, families, and communities. The goal is to provide a learning environment and experience where adults can examine their lives, investigate new information critical to addressing poverty issues, assess personal and other resources, and discover how to help solve community problems.

Migrant Outreach Services: Community Action Agency in Lenawee County provides programs to empower migrant workers who seasonally tend farms in the area and may need information regarding health care, immunizations, literacy and translations.

Women Infants & Children (WIC): Saves families money so they can purchase other groceries. Provides moral support for women/families in transition through one-on-one contacts and our friendly WIC staff. Registered Dietitians at WIC provide individualized high-risk nutrition counseling for participants with special medical conditions or nutrition-related health issues. Peer counselors at WIC offer mother to mother breastfeeding education, support, and help for mothers and babies.

III. Department Highlights

Department on Aging: LDA Director, Cari Rebottaro, provided updates

June is National Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness month. The Walk to End Alzheimer's will be held October 3rd. Consider joining the [LDA Believer's Team!](#)

Partnered with R2 to bring True Alta, a self-care app for caregivers.

Alzheimer's support groups continue to meet on a regular basis.

Spring Cleaning Event: June 10th from 12:30-2:00 p.m. all free items; medical assistance equipment. Project Fresh.

IV. Updates/Other Business

Elder Abuse Awareness Day: June 15th is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

National Nursing Assistant Week: This is National nursing assistant week; a time to recognize and honor nursing assistants for their important role and commitment to providing high quality and safe patient care.

Human Services Collaborative: Commissioner Jenkins-Arno asked about the land acknowledgement statement in the collaborative minutes.

County Newsletter: The Building and Grounds & Parks were both highlighted in the newsletter.

DHHS and MiWorks are both coming back to work.

Clean Slate opportunities flyer was available for review.

Every Door is the Right Door: Human Services organizations sharing details about their agency.

V. Plan Objectives

Wellness: The ERace Stigma 5K is set to be held in September and employees will be encouraged to participate again this year. Their participation fee will be covered by the county.

Financial Wellness: Nothing new to report.

VI. Updates / Other Business

Next Month: Lisa Eack, Great Start Collaborative

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Goetz, seconded by Jenkins-Arno, to adjourn the meeting at 2:27 p.m. Motion carried.