



# COMMUNITY FORECLOSURE COALITION

JACKSON, LENAWE & HILLSDALE

## **Foreclosure: From Crisis to Opportunity!**

[www.jlhcf.org](http://www.jlhcf.org)

Friday, March 12, 2010 8:30am - Noon

### **Program Agenda**

#### ***Welcome & Thanks (9:00-9:10am)***

**Marsha Kreucher, Chief Executive Officer-Community Action Agency**

#### ***Purpose & Overview (9:10-9:15am)***

**Neeta Delaney, Director - Community Foreclosure Coalition**

The Crisis, the Response & Progress to Date

#### ***Washington Foreclosure Update (9:15-9:20am)***

**Renell Weathers, District Representative-Congressman Mark Schauer's Office**

Congressman Schauer has been closely following the impact of the foreclosure crisis and will offer an update regarding the challenges and opportunities for our communities.

#### ***Advocating for Tools & Resources to Respond to the Foreclosure Crisis (9:20-9:35am)***

**Lisa Nuszowski, Co-Director - Michigan Foreclosure Task Force**

Nuszowski will provide an overview of the work, accomplishments and current priorities of the Michigan Foreclosure Task Force. She will also talk about the essential role of the Tri-County Coalition in these efforts at the local, state and national level.

#### ***Michigan's 90-Day Pre-Foreclosure Law: What is it? How is it working? (9:35-9:50am)***

**Lorray Brown, Managing Attorney - Michigan Poverty Law Program & Director, Michigan Foreclosure Prevention Project**

July 5, 2009, a new Michigan law took effect designed to ensure homeowners a 90-day pre-foreclosure period in which to work with their lender to avoid foreclosure. Brown will explain what the law means to borrowers and to lenders, how it is working and what we can do collectively to increase its effectiveness.

#### ***State of the Regional Housing Market (9:50-10:00am)***

**Ron Ellison, President & CEO - American Title Company, Jackson**

Ellison will provide us with an overview of the regional housing market with an analysis of the factors that have led to the current situation and what he sees going forward. He will focus on the relationship between foreclosed homes, housing prices, sales trends, etc.

#### ***Tri-County Picture & Progress (10:00-10:10am)***

**Neeta Delaney, Director - Community Foreclosure Coalition**

Delaney will provide an overview of the coalition and its impact of its prevention efforts to date.

***Turning a Crisis into an Opportunity – Strategies & Case Studies (10:00-10:30am)***

**James Smiertka – General Counsel, Primas Civitas Foundation**

Smiertka will share both strategies and examples of using a crisis like the current foreclosure situation as a catalyst for developing the structures and relationships required for regional advancement. Smiertka will also provide an overview of how the Prima Civitas Foundation can serve as a resource in this process.

***Break (10:30-10:40am)***

Panel Presentations-Learning from Others  
**(10:40-11:15am)**

***Detroit Vacant Property Campaign & Neighborhood Toolbox: An Innovative Approach to Neighborhood Stabilization***

**Heidi Mucherie, Executive Director - Community Legal Resources/Detroit Vacant Property Campaign**

Mucherie will share the genesis of the DVPC and toolbox, lessons learned and insights into how something similar might work in neighborhoods in the Jackson, Lenawee & Hillsdale region.

***Land Banks: Tools for Wise Reuse of Foreclosed Properties***

**Eric Schertzing - Ingham County Treasurer/Land Bank Director**

Schertzing will provide an overview of how land banks can provide an important vehicle for strategic reuse of foreclosed properties. He will talk about the pros and cons of land banks handling both tax and mortgage foreclosed properties as well as what to take into consideration when exploring the creation of a land bank.

***Urban Agriculture: One of Many Sustainable Reuses of Foreclosed Property***

**Mike Hamm - Mott Chair, MSU Department of Sustainable Urban Agriculture**

Hamm will share a number of exciting projects from around the state that make the case that sustainable urban agriculture should be explored as a possible reuse of foreclosed properties – a reuse that can benefit the economy, the environment and the quality of a community's life for years to come.

***Q & A/Group Discussion (11:15-11:50am)***

1. What do you see as the 3 most burning issues we need to address in the coming year?
2. What ideas, lessons, etc. did you hear today that are most relevant to us?
3. What partners and resources will we need at the table?
4. What are you willing to contribute? (Leadership, committee work, other resources, etc.)

***Coalition-Building: Walking the Walk! (11:50-12:00pm)***

**Neeta Delaney, Director - Community Foreclosure Coalition**

Delaney will lay out plans for formalizing the coalition's structure to take on the work of 1) stabilizing areas significantly impacted by foreclosures and 2) strategically reusing foreclosed properties.

