

LEWISTON ME

City of Lewiston Press Statement
April 20, 2021

CONTACTS:

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Lewiston Mayor Mark Cayer is announcing the establishment of a **Mayoral Ad Hoc Committee on Reducing Poverty** seeking ways, through community involvement and partnerships, to enhance the quality of life for our residents. Poverty has a direct impact on community well-being, economic development, and crime. Every year between Lewiston Public Schools and the City of Lewiston, millions upon millions of dollars are spent to reduce the symptoms of poverty. ***“Everyone in this community, whether a CEO making six figures or a family barely getting by, brings value to our community, and we are seeking a collaborative effort to reduce poverty. Building a community that allows every member to thrive is what improves our well-being,”*** states Mayor Cayer.

The official Mayoral Order, which includes a list of Committee members, is below.

The Committee’s purpose is to:

- Continue the work of the Lewiston Public Schools Sub-committee on Poverty;
- Develop and nurture partnerships with other agencies and organizations, including non-profit agencies with knowledge or experience in addressing poverty;
- Enhance the community’s ability to address key issues relating to poverty;
- Develop recommendations to the City Council and School Committee designed to maintain a common purpose, alignment of interest, and coordination of efforts between the City, Schools, and community partners as the issues of poverty are addressed; and
- Make recommendations to City and School elected officials and staff on policies, practices, and procedural changes that will ensure measurable reductions in poverty in Lewiston.

The City and Lewiston Public Schools will work shoulder to shoulder to find common goals amidst community non-profits so that funding competition is reduced, as well as highlight the phenomenal work that non-profits do on a daily basis. The work will be measurable so that we identify best practices for our community. Mayor Cayer also states that the reduction of poverty goes hand in hand with economic development. ***“We want current and new businesses to invest in Lewiston, and a high poverty rate does not attract the kind of investment this community deserves.”***

School Superintendent Jake Langlais adds, ***“I support the Poverty Ad Hoc Committee work that will alleviate the impact poverty has on some in our community. City and school services as well as those closest to the challenges are essential as this collaborative work***

to reduce the stressors of poverty continues to move forward. Mayor Cayer has shown leadership in this effort, and I am happy to be a part of it.

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April 20, 2021

Mayoral Order, Establishing a City of Lewiston Mayoral Ad Hoc Committee on Reducing Poverty

The Mayoral Ad Hoc Committee on Poverty is hereby created for the purpose of:

- Continuing the work of the Lewiston Public Schools Sub-committee on Poverty;
- Developing and nurturing partnerships with other agencies and organizations, including non-profit agencies with knowledge or experience in addressing poverty;
- Enhancing the community's ability to address key issues relating to poverty;
- Developing recommendations to the City Council and School Committee designed to maintain a common purpose, alignment of interest, and coordination of efforts between the City, Schools, and community partners as the issues of poverty are addressed; and
- Making recommendations to City and School elected officials and staff on policies, practices, and procedural changes that will ensure measurable reductions in poverty in Lewiston.

Specific Duties

The Committee shall:

1. Review the Lewiston Poverty Committee Report and accept it and its recommendations as a guide for the work of the Committee;
2. Identify and create three working groups to advise and make recommendations to the full Committee on how best to coordinate efforts to advance the recommendations of the Lewiston Poverty Committee. Each of these groups will address one of the Indicators of Progress outlined in that report, namely:
 - **Group 1** - reducing the number of children in Lewiston living in poverty, including finding ways to establish medical and dental homes for the underserved;
 - **Group 2** - improving kindergarten readiness;
 - **Group 3** - improving third-grade reading levels.

Generally, these working groups should operate within the framework of the co-creation model that was supported by a majority of the members of the Lewiston Poverty Committee; however, the Ad Hoc Committee may evaluate or adopt any model approach to address a problem area that is recommended by an individual working group.

3. The working group addressing the effort to reduce the number of children in Lewiston living in poverty shall also be responsible for developing a holistic service approach to families of Lewiston Public School students living in poverty. Such services must be provided in an equitable and culturally sensitive way and may include the use of family navigators as a potential method through which such a program might be implemented.
4. Establish a fourth working group to advise and make recommendations to the full Committee on how best to enhance ongoing coordinated efforts at improving graduation rates.
5. Establish a fifth working group assigned the task of identifying the funding sources for this effort, including an equitable funding model to support the work. Such funding could potentially include, but not limited to, fee for services, non-profit agencies, corporate funding, foundation grants, and federal and state funding. This working group will also identify an organization to act as a fiscal agent for this effort.
6. Identify key target dates for completing the work and implementing recommendations, recognizing that such dates may require adjustment as the effort advances.
7. Make such other recommendations the Committee finds appropriate to fulfill its purpose.
8. Design and recommend, if deemed appropriate, the formation of a community-based committee to act as an ongoing advisory committee on efforts to address poverty at the conclusion of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Composition and Appointment

The Committee shall be composed of up to twelve voting members appointed by the Mayor from among the following: city and school elected officials; city and school administration; representatives of non-profit organizations; and representatives of such other groups or organizations that may bring specialized knowledge or services to the work.

The Mayor and the Chief Administrative Officer of the Lewiston Public Schools shall serve as ex-officio non-voting members and will provide support and assistance to the Committee and its work. The ex-officio members, using staff support from the City and School Department, shall be responsible for coordinating the meeting schedule with the members, setting the agendas, and ensuring that notices of meetings are publicly posted.

Indicators of Progress Working Groups

The working groups will include at least one representative of the Mayoral Ad Hoc Committee and will be led by the individuals designated below. The total number of members of each working group may vary; however, each working group shall generally have a balance of one-third City and School elected officials or key staff; one-third community members who have personal lived experience with poverty; and one-third representatives of community organizations engaged in addressing issues within the working groups' purview. All members of a working group will be required to commit to: 1) acknowledging a shared responsibility and accountability for addressing

the group's issue and (2) improving the community's status on the group's assigned Indicator of Progress. The representative(s) of the Mayoral Ad Hoc Committee will be responsible for providing periodic status reports to the full Ad Hoc Committee that will outline both the group's progress and identified barriers.

The Indicators of Progress working groups will be led by:

Reduce Poverty – Group 1

Shawn Yardley, Fowsia Musse & Heidi McCarthy

Kindergarten Readiness & Third Grade Reading – Groups 2 & 3

Monica Miller, Betsy Norcross-Plourde & Amanda Winslow

Graduation Rates – Group 4

William Grant, Julia Sleeper & Joseph Philippon

Funding – Group 5

Mayor Cayer, Bobbi Avery & Monique Roy

The leaders of each group will present a slate of recommended members and a proposed model to be adopted to the Mayoral Ad Hoc Committee, which will be responsible for affirming the model and to confirm that the proposed slate of members meets the guidelines noted above and to ratify the appointments.

Committee Chair

The Mayor shall Co-Chair the Committee with a Co-Chair selected by the voting members from among the voting members of the Committee.

Meetings

The Committee shall establish the times and places of its meetings. Meetings shall be open to the public, and notice of such meetings shall be posted by the City Clerk. The Committee may invite such others as may be knowledgeable about subjects under discussion to provide information for its consideration and to participate as a member of one or more of the working groups established by the Committee.

Staff Support

The City Administrator and the Superintendent shall be responsible for designating one staff support member to support the work of the committee.

Term

The Committee shall be appointed no later than May 1, 2021 and shall conclude its term with a final report outlining its recommendations and the work completed no later than November 1, 2021

unless otherwise extended by the Mayor. If extended, the Mayor shall appoint members to the Committee, which may include re-appointing individuals who have previously served.

Committee Members

Ex-officio

Mayor Mark Cayer, City of Lewiston

Bobbi Avery, Lewiston Public Schools Chief Administrative Officer

- 1. Denis D'Auteuil, City Administrator*
- 2. Jake Langlais, Superintendent of Schools*
- 3. Karen Paquette, Assistant Superintendent - Lewiston Public Schools*
- 4. ██████████, Central Maine Medical Center (Pending)*
- 5. Elizabeth Keene, St. Mary's Regional Medical Center, VP of Mission*
- 6. Joleen Bedard, United Way of Androscoggin County, Executive Director*
- 7. Tonya Bailey-Curry, Bates College, Counseling and Psychological Services*
- 8. Megan Parks, Chair, Lewiston School Committee*
- 9. Fatuma Hussein, Immigrant Resource Center of Maine, Executive Director*
- 10. Alicia Rea – School Committee/City Council Representative*
- 11. Representative Kristen Cloutier, Bates College & Maine State Representative*
- 12. Representative Jonathan Connor, Maine State Representative*