

**Minutes of the
Lassen-Plumas-Sierra Community Action Agency**

Lassen County, Social Services Building, Lassen Room

Thursday, April 18, 2024 – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

I. Roll Call

Chairperson, Odessie Welch, called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

Present: Directors, Vicki Barney, Gary Bridges, Carla Barclay, Sharon Dryden, Barbara Longo, Jessica Norman, Dwight Pierson, Connie Stovall, David Teeter.

Also present: Executive Director, Roger Diefendorf, Finance Director, Cindy Ramsey, Loyaltan Senior Center Nutrition Coordinator, Carol Torimino, Director of Fort Sage Family Resource Center, Trish Wemken, Proposed Candidate Plumas County Community Seat, Deborah Whiting and Board Secretary, Tricia Elliott

Absent: Directors Lynda Alberico, Robin Chapin, Greg Hagwood, Dan Henson and Bill Powers.

Quorum met.

II. Additions, Corrections or Deletions from the Agenda

Chairperson, Odessie Welch requested to add 700 forms after II Additions, Corrections or Deletions from the Agenda, add Sierra County Vacancy-Public Seat to VII, add Lassen County Vacancy-Low Income Seat to VII.A, add Plumas County Vacancy-Community Seat to VII.B.

Director Longo motioned to add 700 forms after II Additions, Corrections or Deletions from the Agenda, add Sierra County Vacancy-Public Seat to VII, add Lassen County Vacancy-Low Income Seat to VII.A, add Plumas County Vacancy-Community Seat to VII.B. Director Bridges second the motion. Approved.

III. 700 Forms

Chairperson, Welch reminded the Board to complete and hand in their 700 forms to Ms. Elliott.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Director Bridges motioned to approve the April 18, 2024 Agenda with the additions. Director Barney second the motion. Approved.

V. Approval of Minutes-December 12, 2023

Director Teeter motioned to approve the December 12, 2023 Minutes. Director Bridges second the motion. Approved.

VI. Fort Sage Family Resource Center Presentation

Director of Fort Sage Family Resource Center (FSFRC), Trish Wemken, presented that Fort Sage Family Resource Center's mission is to provide a helping hand, sympathetic ear and a sense of belonging to every member in the community. One of the corner stones of FSFRC's work is the food pantry program. Currently, FSFRC has served 636 families and has touched the lives of 1,594 individuals from Doyle, Herlong, Milford, Janesville and Susanville. Through this initiative FSFRC addresses food insecurity and ensures that their neighbors have access to the nourishment that they need to thrive. Without this service many in the community would go without food or face hard decisions of paying a bill or go without eating. FSFRC roll of providing food is vital for the prosperity of those they serve. FSFRC offers access to essential social services. The team assists individuals in accessing the support they need whether it is navigating government assistance programs, filling out paperwork or connecting with other resources. FSFRC helps individuals complete and submit their documents. They also offer email and facsimile. In addition, to the core services FSFRC is committed to fostering community engagement and socialization. Activities such as BINGO night provides opportunities for neighbors to get together, build connections and enjoy each other's company. In the near future, FSFRC will introduce children's art workshops, community dinners, craft fairs, farmer's markets and walking groups, Also in the near future, FSFRC is getting a new and bigger building built. This new facility will enable FSFRC to distribute food more efficiently and provide a more convenient space for the community to access FSFRC's services. In addition to enhancing the food distribution capabilities, it will allow FSFRC to offer a wider range of programs and activities to support the wellbeing of their neighbors. FSFRC is more than a service provider. They are a beacon of hope, compassion and support to everyone in their community. Together they strive to uplift and empower every member of the community ensuring no one is left behind. Ms. Wemken thanked the LPSCAA Board for their past and present support because without it FSFRC would not be able to have the impact that they do.

Finance Director, Cindy Ramsey, inquired if FSFRC had connected with Nikki Hansen of the Heat Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). Ms. Wemken stated the FSFRC does work with Ms. Hansen in getting individuals services through the HEAP program.

Director Teeter noted that FSFRC is up-to-date on invoicing.

Director Longo requested more information regarding the new building. Ms. Wemken stated the Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN) is funding the building. She had to bring FBNN two different quotes from two different contractors. They have found the contractor that they like. They need a little bit more money before they can break ground, but FBNN thinks they have found the money needed. Director Longo inquired if the building will have any conference rooms or small meeting rooms for counseling. Ms. Wemken stated the new building will be a 40' X 50' stick built building. It will be divided to have the refrigerators, freezers and food storage in one part, and the other part will be where they distribute the food and have activities. FSFRC will still have the existing building for private meetings.

VII. FolkPatterns Program Presentation for Loyalton Senior Center.

Loyalton Senior Center Nutrition Coordinator, Carol Torimino, presented and inquired if the Board had had a chance to review the attachments that explained the FolkPatterns program. The Loyalton Senior Center (LSC) is requesting funding for garden boxes and FolkPatterns. CalFresh has approached the LSC, and has provided LSC with gardening tools, seeds and seedlings for the senior garden. CalFresh will not cover the costs for gardening boxes. The estimated cost for the boxes is \$558.66. The senior garden is small, but the seniors enjoy working in the garden. The lettuce and vegetables that they have grown have gone into the program meals. They have grown pumpkins and have made pumpkin pies. The seniors are allowed to go into the garden and pick what they want to take home.

FolkPatterns is a 15-week program for ten youth ages 8-9 years old that Ms. Torimino would like to start. It is a program of social heritage. It is a program that will help the youth study and explore local cultural traditions such as the communities history, cultural benefits, family rules and food ways through projects such as interviewing seniors about their lives as youths, sharing family food traditions and answering questions like why and when these foods were cooked and how they survived through the generations. Since Sierra County had cultural tradition of making cheese, Ms. Torimino would like the youth to explore this lost cultural heritage and the affects it had on the community. She would like to see all of the youth participate in making cheese. Seniors can share with the youth verbalism, food scavenging and identifying wild medicinal plants. The program would also include fishing and cooking the catch. The goal of the program is integration between the youth and seniors. The total cost of the program is \$6,195.13. She has the participation of the seniors, but has not reached out to the youth until she was sure of funding.

Director Longo remarked that when she read about FolkPatterns it made her remember of a program that her son participated in when he was eight years old. The youth got together and served lunch to the seniors, and then the youth sat down and ate with the seniors. At 29 years old, her son still talks about the stories that they told him regarding the theater that is no longer here, and how the ball park used to be different. We are losing this connection.

Ms. Torimino speaks with a lot of seniors and they are first-person history. One senior that grew up in Arizona talked about her father who carried a gun because they were still fighting the Apaches. It sounds like it was so long ago and yet this is something she experienced in her lifetime. She has always had the goal of younger people interviewing the seniors. There is a program called Camba where you can make books from the stories and pictures a senior has in their photo album, and this book can go into the Loyalton Museum. The memories will forever be held and remembered. It is capturing history and it will give the youth accomplishment.

Director Norman stated that Sierra Kids has an MOU with the Sierra County Office of Education with the EOP program and they have a lot of funding that they need to spend down. This could be a program that FolkPatterns could integrate and partner up with another program. Contact Pam Fillipini or Alicia Barney. They are on the LES website.

VIII. Lassen-Plumas-Sierra County Vacancies

Chairperson Welch stated Michelle Anderson who held the Sierra County Community Seat and Mary Wright who held the Sierra County Public Seat have resigned. Director Norman had a couple people in mind.

In Plumas County, Susan Plopper who held the Community Seat has resigned. Deborah Whiting who was present submitted her application to fill the Community Seat. Ms. Welch welcomed Ms. Whiting and invited her to the next meeting so the Board could vote on her application.

Ms. Elliott stated that Robin Chapin has not yet resigned, but indicated that she may need to resign. Elliott wanted to let the Lassen Board to be looking for a replacement. Director Longo stated she would reach out to her staff. Director Teeter also had someone from the Garden Advisory Committee who would also be interested.

IX. Programmatic Reports

A. LPSCAA Expenditure Report

Finance Director, Cindy Ramsey, presented the 2023 Expenditure Report. There are just a handful of invoices left to be submitted. Chester Elementary and PCIRC Mac Homeless Prevention stated they would be spend out. There is \$6.80 from Social Services Caring for Kids that will not be spent out, \$646.39 from Social Services Senior Services Plus Project that will not be spent out, \$4,440.00 from the Food Project that will not be spent out. In addition, there was a reconciliation from the past contracts and one of the invoices from the 2023 contract for \$1,748.10 was paid out of a different contract. There is \$5,093.19 from Plumas County to reallocate, and \$1,748.10 from Sierra County to reallocate.

Director Norman motioned for the Sierra County \$1,748.10 to be reallocated Loyaltan Senior Center for garden boxes and purchase tangible items for FolkPatterns. Director Barney second the motion. Approved.

Director Barclay motioned to reallocate the Plumas County \$5,093.19 to Plumas County Public Health Senior Nutrition Program. Chairperson Welch second the motion. Approved.

B. Finance Report

Finance Director, Cindy Ramsey, presented the Finance Report as of February 2024. The 2023 CAA Discretionary contract is spent out. The 2023 CAA contract has been extended to May 2024. The 2024 CAA contract has only two months' worth of data to reflect.

X. Board of Directors Announcements and Reports-None

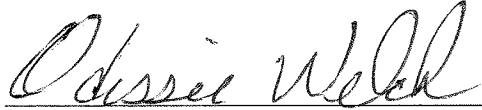
XI. Public Comment-None

XII. Next Meeting:

June 27, 2024, Plumas County, place to be determined.

XIII. Adjournment

By consensus the Board agreed to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 a.m. Director Bridges motioned to adjourn the meeting. Director Barclay second the motion. Approved.



Odessie Welch, LPSCAA Chairperson

Attest:



Tricia Elliott, LPSCAA Board Secretary