

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

**Sierra County, Assembly of God Church
Thursday, May 22, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

I. Roll Call

Chairperson Odessie Welch, called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.
Present: Directors: Carla Barclay, Vicki Barney, Sharon Dryden, Jessica Norman, Mark Nortrup and David Teeter were present.

Also present: Executive Director Roger Diefendorf and Finance Director Cindy Ramsey.

Online by Microsoft Teams: Directors: -- None.

Absent: Director(s): Lynda Alberico, Gary Bridges, Candy Corcoran, Mimi Hall, Dan Henson, Bill Powers and Deborah Whiting

Quorum met.

II. Additions, Corrections or Deletions from the Agenda

Chairperson Welch inquired if there were any additions, corrections or deletions to or from the agenda.

Executive Director Diefendorf requested to delete agenda item IV Sierra County Vacancy – Community Seat and table it to the June 26, 2025, Regular meeting.

Director Norman motioned to accept the agenda with the deletion. Director Teeter second the motion. No opposition. Approved.

III. Approval of Agenda

Director Dryden motioned to approve the May 22, 2025, Agenda with the amendment. Director Barney second the motion. No opposition. Approved.

IV. Approval of the 2026-2027 Community Action Plan

Director Dryden motioned to approve the 2026-2027 Community Action Plan. Director Teeter second the motion. No opposition. Approved.

Executive Director Diefendorf, reported the Community Action Plan (CAP) is required every two years. The 2026-2027 CAP has been prepared. This year there was a new requirement that the CAP had to be reviewed by a certified ROMA trainer. LPSCAA had an arrangement with the Butte County Community Action Agency to review the CAP. When it came time to review the Plan, Diefendorf was informed that the director's certification had expired and the other person that was certified had left the Agency two weeks prior. A consultant who was ROMA certified was utilized to review the CAP. The consultant fee was \$1,500 to review the CAP. She made a few recommendations that were incorporated into the CAP.

Director Nortrup inquired if there would be continued funding for LPSCAA. Diefendorf stated at this time it is unknown what is going to happen in Washington with respect to the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funding. Initially, the Trump Administration wanted to eliminate CSBG as well as many other programs. There has been legislation introduced to Congress to continue and to provide funding for CSBG. The House of Representatives passed the Bill, and now it needs to go to the Senate. Diefendorf gave a speculative opinion that there will be continued funding for CSBG based on the fact that so many of these programs that the administration has looked to cut have seen reversals in Federal courts, and when you look at the push back on the Medicaid cuts he felt they are similar, but not as strong of push back with respect to the elimination of CSBG because that affects the low-income population.

Director Dryden referred to the question on page 5 of the CAP pertaining to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and disaster preparedness have changed slightly under Response and Community Awareness as the biggest understatement. It has not changed slightly. It has changed completely. She felt this template was probably printed before the rules were released. The rules now state: "If you have received any Federal funding on DEI you will lose funding." Dryden sits on other boards; The Sacramento County Counsel said, "If you receive Federal funding that includes DEI, the DEI language needed to be removed." The Strategic Plan had to be revised, and any language that had to do with DEI had to be removed because they will withhold Federal funding. We do not consider DEI when we are looking at applications for funding. It doesn't change anything about what LPSCAA is doing or how LPSCAA serves our communities. What LPSCAA is doing is providing services to raise people out of poverty, and that applies to every single demographic regardless of how the poor is identified. What needs to be said is LPSCAA does not have DEI programs.

Executive Director Diefendorf stated the CAP does not commit the Agency to DEI. In addition, the language that Director Dryden is referring to about came from CSD's template. It is not something that we have the ability to alter in any way. Nothing in the Plan that was written does not address the issue either way.

Director Teeter stated that this is a trap because of the different ideologies of the State and the Feds. The Local Area Revitalization Project (LARP) found the same thing with a USDA grant. The language of the grant was built for DEI. It has sustained itself so far, but you cannot change the language once it is done. He agreed with Dryden that there is a danger in that you cannot change the language to mess up what is already done. It is something that we should strongly consider in the next Plan. Teeter took note that Executive Director Diefendorf took DEI into account. He also liked Director Dryden's answer that the spirit of LPSCAA helps anyone who is low-income. The answer is LPSCAA is interested in individuals and outcomes.

Director Dryden's response to Director Teeter was she refused to be a guppy between the State and the Feds. By eliminating it does not change what we did, and she was not willing to risk losing funding over some philosophical ideological language.

Director Nortrup pointed out that the language stated the wording in the template said DEI *and/or* Disaster Plan so if there is no other mention of DEI in the CAP it is okay.

Director Dryden pointed out that the answer to DEI is on page 35 of the CAP. She thanked Diefendorf for the answer he provided in #2 so LPSCAA will not not lose any funding.

V. Reallocation of Lassen County 2025 Awards

Executive Director Diefendorf reported that the Westwood Family Resource Center and Fort Sage Family Resource Center in Lassen County were unable to accept the awards that Lassen County allocated to them for various reasons. Therefore, Lassen County worked with Juanita Williams of Salvation Army to continue to provide services to Westwood and Herlong that were previously provided by the resource centers.

Director Teeter informed the Board that Salvation Army is headquartered in Susanville so that means they have to travel 50 miles to Herlong and 30 miles to Westwood. There were no loss of services for the emergency food bank in Herlong. Often they use the LPSCAA funds to purchase meat because meat is not the commodities list from Northern Nevada. There was a lot of help from the District Supervisor Jason Ingram for continued service of the food bank in Herlong. He is very connected to his people, and he is about solving problems.

Westwood is not doing quite as well as Herlong, but there has not been any loss of services.

Director Teeter motioned to reallocate the funds from Westwood Family (\$5,950) Resource Center and Fort Sage Family Resource Center (\$9,850) to Salvation Army to continue providing food bank services to Westwood and Herlong. Director Nortrup second the motion. No opposition. Approved.

VI. Board of Directors Announcements and Reports

Director Dryden received a text from Chuck Henson who is the proposed candidate for the Sierra County Community Seat apologizing that he could not attend today's meeting because he was called into court at the last minute in Downieville.

The Board discussed the option of remote attendance and quorums. Executive Director Diefendorf spoke on the legislation that was recently passed on the Brown Act regarding remote appearances. There are certain exceptions regarding emergency situations and having to take care of a family member.

Director Dryden informed the Board that according to the Brown Act the director that appears remotely can have a vote, but they do not count towards the quorum. Only those in person are considered for the quorum.

VII. Public Comment

Director Nortrup stated he has been getting more involved with the Community Garden in Susanville. The City wants an informal 501(c)(3) created for the Garden. He inquired if LPSCAA could assist with funding once the nonprofit is created.

Executive Director Diefendorf explained that a 501(c)(3) under the Internal Revenue Service provisions is a charitable organization, and with that there are certain tax benefits, reporting requirements and taxes that need to be paid. Diefendorf suggested the donators utilize the Plumas Community Development 501(c)(3) for tax purposes and the 501(c)(3) donates the item and/or money to the Garden.

Director Teeter stated if the Garden were to apply for funding through LPSCAA, they will be competing against Crossroads Ministries, Salvation Army, and Lassen Family Services, which are emergency food and supply organizations. However, the Community Garden's goal applies to the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). The Garden does not give the people a fish they teach them how to fish. Teeter advised Nortrup to get his proposal ready for 2026, and LPSCAA could possibly utilize Discretionary funds.

Executive Director Diefendorf explained that there are two different types of Community Block Grants. One is Community Service Block Grants under which the Community Action Agencies are involved, and the other is Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), which can be utilized for economic development. Historically, Plumas Community Development Commission administered CDBG for Plumas County, which were used for education programs, tax preparation services, building a couple resource centers and replacing water lines that had been damaged by fires.

Director Dryden requested to put a discussion regarding Discretionary funds on the next agenda, and for Nortrup to get on social media and the radio to promote the Community Garden.

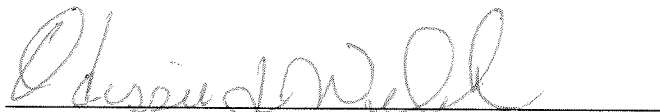
Director Teeter announced that within two weeks he should have the draft Request for Proposal language and application for the food truck program ready for the Board to review at the June meeting.

Next Meeting:

The next Regular meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2025, in Sierra County at the Sierra Brooks Lodge.

XIII. Adjournment

By consensus the Board agreed to adjourn the meeting at 11:01. Director Barclay motioned to adjourn the meeting. Director Barney second the motion. No opposition. Approved.



Odessie Welch, LPSCAA Chairperson

Attest:



Tricia Romandia, LPSCAA Board Secretary