

**Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS)
Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes**

DATE: Wednesday, September 18, 2024

TIME: 10-11:30am

PLACE: 1650 Mission St. 5th Floor, Golden Gate Room

To protect the health of the Advisory Council members, DAS staff, and members of the public during the COVID-19 health emergency, the DAS Advisory Council will continue to hold meetings remotely. Members of the public are encouraged to also participate in the meetings remotely.

Members Present: Darlene Ramlose, Chris Dillon, Marcy Adelman, Ivy Chang, Lisa Cook, Diane Lawrence, Renee Richards, Juliet Rothman, Morningstar Vancil, Beverly Karnatz

Members Absent Excused: Margaret Graf, Allen Cooper (attended remotely as guest), Tia Small, Anne Warren

WELCOME: Call to order 10:00am and welcome Council Members and guests

Roll Call/Secretary

At conclusion of Roll Call, President Lawrence noted that Steffany Dignum is no longer a member of the Council due to relocating her residence outside of San Francisco.

Further, President Lawrence announced that two weeks ago Beverly Karnatz was appointed by the Board of Supervisors to the Council's District 7 seat.

Motion to approve amended August 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes: approved.

President Lawrence noted a correction to the minutes. There are four officers not three. The minutes reference three officers and eliminate the role of secretary. The Council has a position of secretary in its bylaws.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Director’s Report, Director Kelly Dearman:

Director Dearman said the Annual Report came out a few weeks ago and is posted on the DAS website. The report is modeled on five goals shared with the Human Services Agency and highlights ways DAS has met those goals. Spoke about the virtual opening of the disability community center, which is doing very well. Mentioned that recently an “A” for accessibility was added to the diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging platform. HSA is the first in the city to add an A for accessibility. As part of this, DAS will work with the Department of Rehabilitation to provide training to DAS staff. The goal is to first train DAS staff and then open it to all organizations that work with DAS. A council member recommended that when trainings open to outside organizations, recording of trainings will be a helpful option. It was noted training for DAS staff is expected to start within a few months.

Director Dearman next spoke about a delay to the online resource directory due to a change in vendor. More information about this to come next year. Director Dearman shared that she was in Sacramento last week for the C4A strategic planning meeting. A lot of time was spent talking about one bill that would revise California's Older Americans Act. Revisions will update the Act by recognizing the changing demographics of the state and look at what services are provided across the state. Director Dearman concluded the report by noting the next commission meeting is in two weeks.

President’s Report by President Lawrence:

President Lawrence said she did not have anything significant to report other than the member updates shared earlier in the meeting.

New Business:

A. Elections and Nominating Committee Update

- i) Update – President Lawrence will check on the volunteers for the nominating committee. Should be finalized soon.
- ii) Election process – Vote on approving nominating committee next month. In November there will be a report of new slate of officers. President Lawrence noted that she and Margaret are completing their third term and, per bylaws, cannot be re-elected. A member of the nominating committee cannot be an officer.

- Nominating Report to Council—10/16/2024
- Election—11/20/2024

B. Site Visits—Stonestown YMCA Diane Lawrence

President Lawrence provided an overview of her visit to the Stonestown YMCA. She noted that the YMCA main website has a header bar with an Adult and Senior Section that links to the many senior programs. All the YMCA senior activities are listed. There is also a link on the main site to teams and staff with pictures. Noted there was no

information about disability accessibility on the site. During site visit she spoke with the director of senior programs about the website. The director explained they work very hard on the site to make it easy to navigate and that seniors review it. Spoke about exercise programs, group activities, congregate meals. During summer the site is used for a day care. Location is easily accessible with a Muni bus stop nearby. Most activities run to 12:30 and 4:00. Noted that one of the teachers will often announce the programs are being brought to the group by DAS. Said the Y will be moving eventually due to Stonestown remodeling project. Mentioned that senior housing is included in project development plans, and the Y may possibly move into that facility.

6) Reports from the Field

a) LGBTQ Updates Dr. Marcy Adelman

Noted the survey was delayed again. Getting state to sign off on it has taken longer than expected. Mentioned that she spoke to person in charge of focus groups who shared interesting comment about rural LGBTQ communities. Member in rural communities want to help each other but a challenge is finding ways to connect.

Morningstar spoke about a September 13 Rainbow Flag raising ceremony in the Castro. It was dedicated to Gilbert Baker. The mayor attended and talked about resiliency of the community. Ceremony was also attended by Supervisors Peskin and Mandelman.

President Lawrence commented that once survey is complete, Kathleen Sullivan from Open House will be invited to give an update.

b) CSL Priorities & Updates Anne Warren Vacancies for Assembly and Senate

No update.

c) Members Report

Chris Dillion spoke about a Fall Fest on October 6. Everyone is invited and an event flyer was shared with the Council.

Renee Richards is on the board of SCRAP, located in the Bayshore. They will have their annual fundraiser on Saturday, October 26 in conjunction with Ruth's Table, a DAS supported program on 21st Street. The fundraising auction will support SCRAP and Ruth's Table.

Juliet spoke about a new program of the Community Living Campaign (CLC) that will start this fall called Accessible Community Teams (ACT). The communities of CLC and community connectors will develop programs to look at accessibility issues in each community, including internal issues and

external issues. Juliet met with Department of Public Works and they are very supportive. They will be group's contact for external issues. Juliet will keep the Council updated.

Beverly said she is a member of LeadingAge California and recently attended about a wonderful workshop about working with people with Alzheimer's. Also in attendance was an executive from Open House. Beverly shared that one of her former students is now a retired attorney who specializes in health care. He is on the San Francisco Law Center Consortium for Policy. Beverly noted the need for legal expertise in areas of healthcare and housing. Diane suggested inviting attorney as a guest speaker to a future meeting.

Lisa said yesterday she went to the Flower Piano event at SF Botanical Gardens. Noted it would be good to have more activities in the park.

Darlene voiced her full support for the new CLC program that Juliet spoke about. Talked about need to address sidewalk issues in Miraloma Park.

- **Reminders and Announcements**

No announcements.

- **Adjournment: 11:24am**

Next Meeting: Wednesday October 16, 2024