

DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY AND AGING SERVICES
(DAS) COMMISSION

MINUTES January 8, 2025

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME/ President Spears

President Janet Y. Spears called our hybrid meeting to order in City Hall room 416 and virtually and stated that the DAS Commission acknowledged they are using the unceded homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples of the San Francisco Peninsula.

The (DAS) Commission Secretary called the roll:

Present: Commissioners, Wanda Jung, Martha Knutzen, President Janet Y. Spears, and Linda Parker Pennington, Barbara Sklar,

Excused Absence: Vice President Nelson Lum, Barbara Sklar, Sascha Bittner

Communications:

Commission Secretary Ravi Durbeej provided instructions for any members of the public that would like to submit a public comment to the DAS Commission.

Approval of Minutes:

No public comment.

A motion to approve the December 4, 2024 Commission Meeting Minutes from
The motion was unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT/ Kelly Dearman

DAS Executive Director Kelly Dearman presented a short report and had just met with Mayor-elect Lurie last Friday who gave great reviews of the DAS program and the entire department and staff. Yesterday I met with Kunal Modi who is the new chief of Health, Homelessness, and Family Services at the Mayor's Office and we had a great meeting and he is pleased with DAS and looking forward to working with us.

Introduced the new DAS Advisory Council president, Allen Cooper to the commission. We would also like to welcome Eli Gelardin who is currently at the Mayor's Office of Disability whose MOD office will be transitioning to DAS this spring inside the Office of Community Services and will report directly to DAS Deputy Director Cindy Kaufman. Eli has extensive experience of championing disability rights and working with policy makers in Marin and we are very fortunate and happy to have him onboard here at DAS. Lastly, I would like to thank Elizabeth LaBarre for standing in last minute for Commission Secretary Ravi Durbeej.

CASE REPORT/ Judith Dancer presented this month by Christina Irving

CASE Report presented by Christina Irving who is filling in for Judith who is out sick. CASE hosted their annual Christmas party at the Tell-High community center and it was great to come together and celebrate the holidays. We will be confirming the slate of Board Officers in the upcoming January meeting. CASE has received a 3-year capacity building grant from META fund for strengthening and enhancing the infrastructure of CASE emphasizing racial equity topics.

Commissioner Pennington thanked Christina and was happy about the news of the grant.

Item 8 is GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT.

No public comment.

DAS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH January 2025 Manna Chen who is an In-Home Supportive Services Social Worker.

- Deputy Director Kaufmann and the DAS Commission honored Manna Chen as the January 2025 DAS Employee of the Month
- Mann thanked everyone at IHSS for this incredible honor and she is incredibly humbled for this honor. She thanked all her managers, coworkers, and supervisors for all the support to make this possible.

Item 9 OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

Item 10 NEW BUSINESS

ITEMS 10A and 10B ARE INFORMATIONAL ONLY ITEMS AND DOES NOT

REQUIRE A VOTE BY THE COMMISSION

- A. Consideration regarding the DAS proposed budget for FY25-26 and FY26-27. (Presented by DAS Executive Director Kelly Dearman and HSA Deputy Director of Finance & Administration Dan Kaplan)

Presenter Kaplan will be presenting with Director Dearman and first thanked the entire budget team that he works with including Genevieve Hererra, Alex Gleason, and Celia Pedroza. This is the first of 2 budget presentations and today I will focus on this year's current budget situation.

We looked at how funds are spent through DAS by programs. IHSS constitutes 65% of the DAS Budget. We then can look at how the budget is seen from its source, either general fund, federal, state, and other funds that source the DAS budget. Outlined the DAS FY24-25 budget by category such as aid payments, CBO grants, salaries, etc.

Examined the Mayor's budget projection of a two-year deficit of \$875 .9 million and instructions to tackle this deficit. The mayor's goal is to reduce discretionary General Fund budgets by 15% in both FY 2025-26 and 2026-27.

Presenter Dearman gave a breakdown on DAS caseloads of Adult Protective Services, County Veterans Office, In-Home Supportive Services, Integrated Intake and Referral, and Office of Community Partnerships.

A timeline was then presented to end the presentation

Commissioner Knutzen thanked them for this thorough presentation and the level of detail and asked practically speaking, when the federal budget cuts happen, when will this affect us on the city level, FY26-27? Presenter Kaplan responded that we would see how this plays out from the policies of the new president elect.

Commissioner Jung agreed on how detailed this budget presentation was and is concerned about the needs of the disabled and elderly community in San Francisco and presenter Kaplan responded that they will be looking to find funding but there will have to be hard decisions of where to cut funds.

President Spears asked presenter Kaplan to address the cost of doing business and where that shows up in the budget and presenter Kaplan responded that cost of doing business is an inflation factor for programs in progress. President Spears also outlined the details of the budget and how the mayor can add cost of doing business costs when presenting to the Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

B. Review of the Dignity Fund Cycle-End Evaluation FY 2019-20 to FY 2022-23 (presented by Adithi Vellore)

Presenter Vellore presented on the Dignity Fund Cycle Overview which includes the Community Needs Assessment, Services and Allocation Plan, and Cycle-End Evaluation. This outlines the 4-year cycle and identifying 8 priorities in key priorities. The key priorities are: increase awareness and accessibility of services; promote inclusion; focus on equity factors; improve geographic access to services; boost service engagement; make decisions using data; collaborate with city and community; & strengthen community-based provider infrastructure.

Outlined all Dignity Fund eligible services and this fund has had a positive impact on services for seniors and persons with disabilities in San Francisco. One of the major impacts of the Dignity Fund is access and empowerment. Then outlined community connection and engagement and services towards nutrition and wellness.

Director Dearman thanked Adithi and the entire planning team, and all of the services provided to DAS by the Dignity Fund.

Commissioner Knutzen asked if we will get better data through the new DAS Get Care System or are some people just left out of that count. Presenter Adithi said she would defer to the programs to see which persons will be added to DAS Get Care.

Commissioner Jung seconded the comments on how important it is receive data on DAS clients and how great the work that has been done with the Dignity Fund to support seniors and persons with disabilities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

Director Dearman exited to attend the swearing in of new Mayor Lurie and Deputy Director Kauffman entered.

ITEMS C THROUGH E ARE ACTION ITEMS THAT REQUIRES A VOTE BY THE COMMISSION

C. Requesting a vote by the Commission to appoint Darlene Ramlose as a DAS Commission Appointee to the DAS Advisory Council. (Presented by DAS Nominating Committee Chair member Nelson Lum)

Presented by DAS Nominating Committee member Commissioner Jung who confirmed the nominating committee's approval of Darlene Ramlose's application to the DAS Advisory Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

A motion to approve

The motion was unanimously approved.

- D. Requesting authorization to enter into new grant agreements with multiple grantees to provide Support Circle Programs for the period of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026; in the amount of \$60,000 plus a 10% contingency for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$66,000. (Presented by Mike Zaugg)

Presenter Zaugg is requesting authorization to enter into new grant agreements with multiple grantees to provide Support Circle Programs for the period of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026; in the amount of \$60,000 plus a 10% contingency for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$66,000.

They are in constant communication with the budget team and aims to not bring about a new service that will clash with the upcoming budget cuts.

Commissioner Jung commented on the wide discrepancy of number of sessions and hours and service objectives and how will each service organization operate differently?

Presenter Zaugg replied that each provider will be deferred to their frequency and could be driven by varying cost. Commissioner Jung also asked about in Next Village an interpreter was listed and presenter Zaugg said this will be mostly English led services, but some providers will have a translator on standby to be more inclusive.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A member of the public, cofounder of Next Village, thanked the DAS Department for conceiving this grant and for the ability to help aging seniors in San Francisco.

A motion to approve

The motion was unanimously approved.

- E. Requesting authorization to modify the existing community services grant agreements with multiple providers during the period of January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027, in

the additional amount of \$481,590 plus a 10% contingency for a revised total amount not to exceed \$8,081,192. (Alex Tanquilut will present the item)

Commissioner Jung recused herself from the vote as she has a conflict with one of the providers. Commissioner Jung left the room.

Presenter Tanquilut is requesting authorization to modify the existing community services grant agreements with multiple providers during the period of January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027, in the additional amount of \$481,590 plus a 10% contingency for a revised total amount not to exceed \$8,081,192.

He detailed all of the specific modifications.

Commissioner Knutzen asked about the funds for the van and if it was communicated to the SFMTA that the reason for the vans to take people is because our elderly population does not feel safe on MTA buses?

Presenter Tanquilut responded that going forward this will be a point of emphasis with elders who attend these community centers and, in the future, we will communicate to Muni these fears.

Commissioner Knutzen said she would appreciate it if this is a possibility. Deputy Director also said she can share this information with Muni and President Spears asked if we could convey and use our voices that the #19 and #49 buses are not feasible to get our elderly constituents to their community centers in the mission.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

A motion to approve from Commissioner Sklar.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Announcements

No announcements

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:58am by President Spears