

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

DATE: Wednesday, February 19, 2025

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: Allen Cooper, Margaret Graf, Chris Dillon, Ivy Chang, Beverly Karnatz, Tia Small, Lisa Cook. Marcy Adelman, Morningstar Vancil.

Members Absent Excused: Renee Richards. Diane Lawrence, Juliet Rothman, Darlene Ramlose.

Welcome: Call to order 10:03 am and welcome all Council Members and guests.

Roll Call/Secretary

Motion to approve the January 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes:

President Cooper stated that, according to Robert's Rules of Order, any suggested corrections to the minutes should be given to Tia (Secretary). She will note the corrections, which will then be discussed and voted on at the meeting.

Public Comment: Allegra Fortunati had questions for Director Dearman; how has Lurie changed DAS, how he ran on accountability platform and did he make any more accountability requirements for dept, and does DAS have any contracts that involve the Dreamkeeper program.

Director's Report, presented by Executive Director Kelly Dearman:

Director Dearman said that they are deep into budget talks. Every department has been asked to cut 15% off budget, then give to Mayor's office in the next week. Mayor's office submits it to Board of Supervisors. No new programming, focus is on core programs.

On a Federal level, executive orders are being written with things changing quickly. SF remains a Sanctuary City and DAS remains committed to DEI and accessibility. There will be no statements released, trying not to shine the light any brighter, remain committed to our values while trying not to lose \$450M of fed aid.

Mayor Lurie is committed to street safety and cleaning up drug crisis. Director Dearman met with Lurie and Kunal Modhi, who both like DAS and how it's run. They want a place for centralized contracts for timely payments and efficiency. Director Dearman thought this not a good idea as subject matter expertise is required for contracts and suggested looking at DAS, which is efficient and well run.

The Mayor has asked for Dept Heads to be in office 5 days/wk, others don't have to.

The city has is not in a hiring freeze but a slowdown. Every month the Mayor gets a list of positions to be filled, then he decides what to do. Safe streets and homelessness are a priority so DAS is not on anyone's radar.

There's a travel ban so Director Dearman is not attending the DC conference on aging. Marcy asked what we miss out on for Policy Briefing that Kelly misses out by not attending conference, perhaps a foundation or donor could foot the bill to go to DC. She said the Older American's Act funding is going to be a problem. Director Dearman is currently meeting individually with Board of Supervisors, so far Melgar, Chen, Mahmood. Melgar and Chen both said they want to be champions of our causes and interested in older adults and disabilities.

President's Report by President Dr. Allen Cooper:

Allen confirmed that amended minutes are allowed before, during and after a meeting.

If we don't understand an acronym, put up JARGON GIRAFFE with hand motion and the person will describe the acronym.

President Cooper presented a TAC meeting summary. The meeting primarily focused on housing concerns, particularly the increasing fear of more homeless seniors.

- TAC Presence: San Francisco has its own TAC, while Los Angeles has multiple TACs.
- Affordable Living for Aging (ALA): A Southern California-based organization under FrontPorch that provides shared housing for seniors. Their model involves tenants living in extra rooms within seniors' homes and offering necessary support, such as cooking and transportation.
- Disability Housing Update:
 - Kelsey presented on a new disability housing project on Van Ness, set to be completed in March 2025.
 - The project includes 110 units and a disability community center.
 - Kelsey also has a similar project in San Jose and aims to develop more.
- State Budget Presentation:
 - The budget is balanced but remains tight.
 - Potential Medicaid cuts could impact programs like CalAIM and Medicaid coverage for undocumented individuals. (This wasn't discussed at the meeting but includes a proposed \$1 trillion cut, work requirements, and the removal of undocumented coverage.)
 - An incorrect statement about Medicaid funding was clarified.

- Older Americans Act funding is currently under a continuing resolution, set to expire this year. If it lapses, it could have severe consequences, potentially followed by impacts on the ADA.

New Business:

A. VFY 2025-2026 Area Plan Update Process Update – Izzy Clayter

Izzy is an Analyst in HSA Planning, works on supporting various DAS programs. Purpose of plan – it's an Older American Acts requirement. DAS submits a plan that addresses demographic trends and population needs, and how \$ is used to support seniors, and coordinated systems. In interim years, they do updates. \$7.8M in Older American Act for community services, a small % of DAS' overall budget. FY 25/26 is due May 1, 2025. Today is the draft presentation, they will return again on 3/19 w/final draft seeking approval.

Update itself: (1) Population Estimates – 191K 60+ in SF, 20% of community. Largest portion 44% Asian/Pac Islanders. 11% of seniors live in poverty in SF, half of which are Asian/Pac Islanders. Black and Native Am also highly likely to live in poverty. (2) Service levels decreased targets or the same funded by OAA dollars. Decreases in congregate meals, reduced service levels in Health Promotion and Nutrition Counseling.

Director Dearman spoke about Narrative Goals & Objectives. 5 primary areas.

- Goal 1 update = DAS is pursuing a variety of strategies. Disability cultural center virtual programming and brick and mortar center will open in 7/2025.
- Goal 2 update = Regular training on DAS services and resources and revamping and expanding training on sex orientation and LGBTQ awareness sometime this year, also domestic violence and older adults.
- Goal 3 = DAS continues employment navigation and support, 2024 program offered 1000 hrs of benefit counseling and 18 workshops.
- Goal 4 = DAS launched Enhanced Care Mgmt within CLF program serving 140 clients (Comm Living Fund) and added 2 CalAim programs discharging from SNF to get to ALF or support at home.
- Goal 5 = in Jan 2024 we were first county of expansion of mental health CShip, facilitate expansion of support to mental illness and/or substance abuse. Over 140 referrals in 2024, 35% increase from 2023. Centralized intake at Resource Hub.

Allen asked if there is concern under Goal 1 and 2 about the use of terms that the Fed gov has banned? Dearman said there is a concern. Mike is aware, working with city attorney - we're here to serve the community, not in a proactive stance.

Allen asked who is responsible for building evacuation plans for people with disabilities? Dearman said they work with Dept of Emergency Management, a subgroup works on evac plans, she will meet with them in the next few weeks.

Marcy asked if there's a reduction to Legal Assistance, does Legal Aid for Elders fund them, and were they decreased? Mike said decrease less than 2% and we are supplementing with local funding.

Discussion about CalAIM comm support programs with Marcy, Beverly.

Cindy Kauffman said the Community Living Fund's primary focus is bringing folks out of Laguna Honda and maintaining them in the community. This week they brought someone out of a SNF into ALF and are piloting a program where SF Health Plan uses their LTC dollars to support about 20 people from SNF to ALF who have high needs.

Morningstar said 1000 VA federal workers fired, a lot of veterans not going to get healthcare.

Beverly concerned about cutbacks of congregate meals as they are so important for socialization.

Marcy suggested peer mental health groups, a step before a clinician. Mike said it is another good idea. Good news is we have a Friendship Line (whose use has skyrocketed) and have launched a few pilots that are funded for mental health.

Allen mentioned St. Anne's is closing, is there a way for a team to go into SNF from DAS see who might be eligible for housing and IHSS instead of SNF. Director Dearman said she, Cindy, Supervisor Chan, and others. are working on that specific issue. DAS doesn't do housing but could figure out people/resources/options.

Izzy confirmed that everything discussed today will be added into Area Plan as flags for the department to consider.

B. Topics for Future Meetings

Great response, Allen sent out list of potential topics.

- Overview of DAS: Cindy Kaufmann will provide an overview of DAS which was often requested. Kelly said this overview will contain information on a number of the requested topics.
- Understanding the conservatorship process, impact and laws, from LPS in the 1970 to today's Care Court. Outside of DAS, just for informational purposes.
- Understanding the IHSS process.
- Laguna Honda and SNFs in general. Allen suggests all read "God's Hotel," by Victoria Sweet. Terry Palmer an optional speaker.
- CalAIM - Daniel Sie from Dept of Health, worked at Medicare, would be a good person to present.

- Legal Aid for the Elderly should speak to us. DAS provided 3200 hours of aid last year.
- Additionally, Chris would like a “why we’re here” presentation, and discuss the availability of appropriate housing for all, SNF, ALFs, Memory, etc. Beverly read the bylaws and wonders if we only look at certain programs or all DAS funded programs.

C. Public Comment Moved to End of Agenda

- a. Allen Moved General Public Comment from the beginning to the end of the meeting.
- b. Margaret said Dorothy Lathan will be honored next Tuesday at 2pm at the Board of Supervisors meeting, a special honor for Black History Month.

Old Business: None.

Reports from the Field:

A. LGBTQ Updates – Dr. Marcy Adelman

B. Joint Legislative Process Review

One additional Joint Leg person is needed to join Chris, Allen, Tia, Diane and Margaret. Diane was absent, so Allen read her statement. Jan/Feb no meeting, March in-person to discuss bills likely to come in. No meeting in April, just an update. May an in-person meeting. Question - what could our advocacy be? The legislature has until 1/24 to submit their new bills so she will have more news next month.

Announcements/Reminders

Adjournment: 11:30am

Next Meeting: Wednesday March 19, 2025