

DIGNITY FUND OVERSIGHT AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 22, 2020; 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Via Zoom Conference Call

Minutes

Attending: Marcy Adelman, Margy Baran, Ramona Davies, Jessica Lehman, Elinor Lurie, Sandy Mori, Monique Zmuda, Beverly Taylor, Melissa McGee (DAS), Tiffany Kearney (DAS), Justin Chico (DAS)

Call to Order: Ms. Davies called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Roll Call: Ms. McGee called roll. The excused absence was Allen Ng.

Approval of the Agenda: Members approved the OAC meeting agenda for June 22, 2020 with the addition of discussion in regards to future OAC meeting dates.

Approval of the Minutes: Members approved the January 27, 2020 meeting minutes.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair Process-Ms. Davies explained that candidates that are interested in running for a position, or people interested in nominating a person must communicate that to Melissa McGee by July 5, 2020. Ms. McGee will then vet each candidate's interest and willingness. Elections will take place at the next DF-OAC meeting on July 27, 2020.

Programs/Services/Threats-Ms. McSpadden discussed in detail how DAS has adapted its programs and services during the COVID-19 pandemic. When Mayor Breed put the Shelter in Place ordinance into effect, there was an immediate and expansive need in Nutrition. There was a big increase in demand for Home Delivered Meals and Home Delivered Groceries. Some congregate meal sites changed their services to a grab-and-go service or delivery, to support their clients to stay home.

Ms. McSpadden reported that a new partnership was formed with the Shanti Project. Shanti quickly helped with recruiting many volunteers and created an individualized system where they can match a volunteer with a client who was in need of food and/or other resources. The Great Plates Program launched in conjunction with the Emergency Operations Center. The Great Plates program, which is a hybrid program, aimed at getting restaurants in business while also serving seniors meals. As of the week of June 22nd, 2,000 people have been served within this program.

Ms. McSpadden reported that departmentally, Deputy Director, Cindy Kauffman and her team have worked with the numerous Community Based Organization's to get them the necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), so they can run their programs. They have also worked with the CBO's to get them the necessary resources/funding and working/re-working budgets to help with the increase need in Nutrition support. Deputy Director, Jill Nielsen and her team in Adult Protective Services, are still going out into the field when needed, as during times like this, when seniors are sheltering in place, elderly abuse is more prevalent. IHSS is also providing IHSS services in hotels where the city has placed clients to socially distance from others.

Ms. McSpadden noted that a memo was sent out on June 22, 2020 to the Dignity Fund and Oversight Committee. The memo explained the impact of COVID-19 on Dignity Fund Allocations for FY19-20 and FY20-21. An amended memo was sent out on July 1, 2020. (Please see attached Memo)

RFP schedule & OTO funds- Ms. McSpadden explained that the RFP Schedule was suspended due to the challenge of completing RFP's during a pandemic and not knowing how future funding would look like. A variety of community providers and panelists agreed that they should focus on emergency response efforts. In response, DAS is extending all contracts for 6 months into the new FY 20-21. This extension gives DAS time to get staff back that were deployed as Disaster Service Worker's. Ms. McSpadden reported that the OTO process was reevaluated and OTO funds were diverted over to Nutrition funds and meals.

Ms. McSpadden reported that the Home Delivery Meal waitlist has lowered dramatically. With stimulus funds coming in, and simultaneously, President Trump declaring California to be in State of Emergency, it has allowed DAS to mix Congregate Meal funding and HDM funding to be utilized where it is needed the most. It also has allowed DAS to be flexible with any federal funding coming in.

Budget Update-FY 19-20 & FY 20-21-Ms. McSpadden reported that Mayor Breed gave department's budget reduction targets of 10% to the general fund. Moving up to 15% the following year and a 5% contingency. The Mayor's office does not know the full extent of the cuts, as the cuts do not take into account the extra expenses spent on the Covid-19 emergency response. With federal funding that has currently come in and future funding that has not been accounted for as of yet, the Mayor's office will reassess funding every couple of months moving forward. Ms. McSpadden explained that DAS is looking at the budget cuts as an agency cut and not a "per department" cut. Looking back at DAS core values, if cuts have to be made, it would be more effective to think about what programs are prioritized per Eligible Services Reduction List for reduction instead of cutting every program. DAS remains in conversation with the Mayor's Budget Office regarding additional adjustments that may be required to move budget reduction targets and absorb loss.

Public Comment- Helen Pelzman reported that at the Mayor's request, Mayor's Office on Disability (MOD), Mayor's Disability Council (MDC), and Community Alliance for Disability Advocates (CADA) has set a proclamation regarding a recognition in some form for the celebration of ADA 30. MDC will include a round table discussion on issues critical to the disabled community such as housing and unemployment at ADA 30.

Announcements-Jessica Lehman reported that Community Based Adult Day Health Care Programs (CBAS) and Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP) were saved. Ms. Lehman thanked everyone for their advocacy in saving these programs.

Ms. Lehman also announced that June 22 (1999) is the 21st Anniversary for the Olmstead Supreme Court decision. The ruling decided that people with a disability have the right to live in the community and not an institution. It also ruled that unnecessary institutionalization and

segregation is discrimination per Title II of the ADA. Governments are responsible to make sure supports are available as needed.

Future DF-OAC Meeting Dates-The members of the DF-OAC discussed potential future meeting dates. July 20th was chosen as the committee members would have more of a sense of how the proposed cuts would be implemented. (NOTE-July 20th meeting was rescheduled for July 27th)

August 17th was set as a tentative date. The OAC will discuss the need and topics of the meeting in the July meeting.

Adjournment: 4:50 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, 7/27/20, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Via Zoom Conference Call