

DIGNITY FUND OVERSIGHT AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 27, 2023; 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

1650 Mission Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Golden Gate

Conference Room

Public attendance via Zoom

Minutes

Attending: Marcy Adelman, Allen Cooper, Ramona Davies, Wanda Jung, Diane Lawrence, Sandy Mori, Jennifer Walsh, Vince Crisostomo

Excused: Martha Knutzen

Call to Order: Ms. Jung called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Roll Call: Melissa McGee called roll.

Announcement:

Wanda Jung: Monique resigned due to schedule conflicts. We will be working on finding a new member. There will be a change in meeting protocol. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors approved Motion No. M23-129, which discontinues public comments made by remote meeting participants. Public comments can be made by in-person participants only. Melissa sent out information regarding the motion, which will be in practice starting next meeting.

Approval of the Agenda: Members approved the OAC meeting agenda for November 27, 2023

General Public Comment Public: None

Approval of the Minutes: Members approved the OAC meeting minutes for September 18, 2023

Service Providers Working Group: Marie Jobling

Marie Jobling, from the Service Providers Working Group provided "SWPG's Recommendation Memo". See attached memo for information.

Questions:

Q: Can SWPG's recommendations go with the OAC meeting minutes?

A: Yes.

Q: Marie, can you send a copy of SWPG's recommendations?

A: Yes.

Request For Proposals (RFPs) Calendar

Mike Zaugg from HSA Office of Community Partnerships and Patrick Garcia from HSA Contracts presented "RFP Calendar". See attached slides for more information.

Discussion:

Ramona Davies: Regarding the renewal process for Group C (Nutrition & Wellness and Self-Care & Safety) in the fiscal year 2024-2025, what is the evaluation process before considering proposals?

Mike Zaugg: Performance wise, we monitor folks each year and the program areas they are committed to. Afterwards, we issue RFPs for folks to apply. Not aware of someone in Category C.

Ramona Davies: Regarding the schedule of RFPs, this is FY 2023-2024, some groups will be going in commission for FY 2024. If you are at commission and there is only 2 months left, how are groups expected to spend funds?

Mike Zaugg and Patrick Garcia: No, it's for the next year. Before, we ran into delayed certification of grants. Now, we try to get everything to commission by May to avoid this.

Ramona Davies: What does Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (RCFE) operations support?

Mike Zaugg: MOHCD funding to startup capital projects.

Ramona Davies: Will there be an expansion of RCFEs available?

Mike Zaugg: There should be.

Sandy Mori: Regarding late RFPs, what's its impact on contractors?

Mike Zaugg: As of now, none. We planned for the RFP process to be flexible and proactive towards barriers. The goal is for all providers to know where they stand next year with no disruption in billing.

Sandy Mori: Has disruption happened?

Mike Zaugg: We had some providers that couldn't invoice workers until August. This put a lot of pressure.

Sandy Mori: In those cases, it sounds like providers needed a cash flow system. How many are in those type of cases from list of dates?

Mike Zaugg and Patrick Garcia: Ideally, the RFP process will be better next year. It is unfortunate that disruption in billing happened before, but it is a lesson learned. Now we're planning ahead.

Sandy Mori: Are they aware of this problem?

Mike Zaugg: We are taking the lead on this.

Allen Cooper: Regarding DAS Wheelchair Repair, is that still on?

Mike Zaugg: It's in a multi-year grant, so it didn't expire in June 2023.

Allen Cooper: Is Wheelchair Repair under Cultural Center or ILRC?

Answer: it's at ILRC.

## Dignity Fund Fiscal Year 2022-23 Year-End Budget Update

Genevieve Herreria from HSA Budget presented “Dignity Fund Year End Report FY23”. See attached slides for more information.

Discussion:

Ramona Davies: There is \$6.2 million available in one time only funds. How do we access them with equity?

Mike Zaugg: Essentially, all dollars go out through procurement. Factors with equity and inclusion are in that process, weighted and scored.

Allen Cooper: What is ADRC?

Mike Zaugg and Cindy Kauffman: Aging and Disability Resource Center. It’s like 2 Gough (DAS Benefits and Resource Hub), an office for in person services and information provided by state-wide funding.

Wanda Jung: Regarding slide about different areas of allocation, does this relate to the community needs assessment (CNA)?

Mike Zaugg: Regarding the slide Contracts by Service Area, the bars on the graph align with the nature of programs and how they receive money, but it does not directly reflect what is highest demanding. For instance, Nutrition has state funding, significant add backs, and Dignity Fund dollars.

Vince Crisostomo: Regarding savings, does it have to be spent before the end of the FY?

Mike: No. We’d like to get it all spent so that other governments don’t use our available funding. Majority of dollars will end up with community-based organizations. Allocations include a mix of new procurements, RFPs, modifications of existing grants, and at least one new item in behavioral health.

Vince Crisostomo: This will happen while prepping 23/24?

Mike Zaugg: Yes, we are trying to activate these dollars meaning it will be used in the upcoming years.

Allen Cooper: Does Home Safe Program fall under DF dollars?

Cindy: That is under Adult Protective Services.

Ramona Davies: What question does SWPG have?

Marie Jobling: Looking at Table 5. Available FY 2023-24 balance on the Year End report, it would be good to know a timeline and how it will be in contract. How does this compare to the recommendations of SWPG?

Cindy Kauffman: We cross referenced SWPG recommendations with current needs. SWPG’s Behavioral Health Pilot is a large ask (pilot for 2 years). The Aging Mastery Program, which is on SWPG’s list under aging your way, is receiving funding under Community Projects- One Time Support. We are trying to fund and start these projects this year, but we don’t want to over promise.

- Public Comment: None

- Announcements:

Sandy Mori: We're not getting \$3 million. Is the department going to think about how to recoup it, or strategically obtain it? Does the department have any thoughts about this? The funding is required under legislation.

Kelly Dearman: We are thinking about it every day and have been talking to the mayor and the Budget Office. According to legislation, the city has an option to not approve funding while it is recovering. We are talking to them quite honestly and hoping to have no additional funding lost. During this economic instability, we are doing what we can.

Sandy Mori: My fear is that they're not looking at the bigger picture. That often gets lost in the budgeting process. The city's budget is huge. I appreciate you talking about it.

Kelly Dearman: We have worked with mayor, accessors, and the economics of law enforcement. We are talking about how we have thousands of older people and food insecurity as well as inquiring about how we can get their needs met.

Marcy Adelman: The largest part of our budget is nutrition. I am wondering if other resources in nutrition can replenish money from other programs that have lost Dignity Fund dollars.

Cindy Kauffman and Mike Zaugg: We leverage dollars from the state and federal budget wherever we can. The largest amount of leveraging we do is in nutrition.

Genevieve Herreria: Back in March, we had a Dignity Fund 101 (referring to DF OAC's March 20, 2023, meeting *Dignity Fund Budget Fundamentals PowerPoint*). It went over DF eligible services which involves Dignity Fund dollars, state funds, general funds, and add backs.

Adjournment: 4:07 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, January 27, 2024, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Included: SPWG comments to OAC below

## **Presentation to the Dignity Fund Oversight and Advisory Committee at their meeting on OAC meeting on Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.**

Good Afternoon, I'm Marie Jobling (she/her) and I'm here to represent the Service Provider Working Group, which is the joint responsibility of the Dignity Fund Coalition and the Coalition Agency Serving the Elderly. When this meeting got moved, it conflicted with the CASE board meeting, so you get me today.

Fortunately, Fiona sent along the budget memo she received, so I at least had something to review before the meeting. We did go ahead and share the information this morning to the DFC list, as we had promised to do at our last DFC meeting.

We appreciate the clear progression of information detailing DF-eligible services, current year's expenditures, and the funding available for the coming year's contracts.

The challenge is determining how this reflects on the priorities from the Service Provider Working group, which was previously provided at the last OAC meeting. Without knowing what is in the broad categories of available funding, it is hard to know how much it reflects those recommendations. For example, CASE had put forward a recommendation for behavioral health support groups at community centers. Other providers have offered the significant number of people on their waiting lists. Aside from the behavioral health ask, the other narrowed down priorities were the need to increase case management funding to increase wages for case managers and the need for more intensive case management; access to technology training and hybrid programming; safe and reliable transportation, and funding to build language capacity. (Attached is the list previously provided to DAS and the OAC.)

We appreciate that fact that there is not talk of cuts and that we all believe in preserving existing services and address waitlists, where possible.

We hoped to learn that today, or very soon, the details to provide feedback. We would also like know the timeline for available dollars to be made available into contracts and if will there be no further contract augmentations in this fiscal year.

From the Dignity Fund Coalition point of view, I'd like to make two other points. The fact that a bad budget year gets the City off the hook for the \$3 million annual allocation and that is likely to happen again next year. So, we lose this year and for the next subsequent 15 years. The point of the Dignity Fund was to plan funding and services for the future and to avoid having to go to the Board of Supervisor tin cup in hand at the end of the budget process asking for a little more please. And I should note, even that isn't working – the Board of Supervisors approved 4 addbacks for DAS and the Mayor has put a hold all 4 for them.

Seniors and people with disabilities are 25% of the population – the number are rising and poverty with it.

The Dignity Fund campaign was about a promise to those who made this City the wonderful place that it is and who struggle, on mostly fixed incomes, in a City that is increasingly expensive.

We want your help. Seniors and People with disabilities are not the ones who created the situation they are in and are the least able to deal with it unless they get a helping hand and the ability to continue to contribute the vitality and creativity at the neighborhood level.

The Dignity Fund is held up as an example, but it won't be a good one if it stops growing to keep pace and we are still there with our tin cups.

So, to recap, we hope to:

get the detail on the progression of funding as it relates to the SPWP priorities

get a timeline for decisions and implementation

get your willingness to post meeting material on the sfgov.org website or send out to an expanded list if you want real input.

get your help with the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to help keep the promise of the Dignity Fund.

The City is not required by law this year to allocation \$3 million dollars, but doing it is right and just. We ask your help.

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Original priorities identified by the Service Provider Working Group.

- Case Management/Intensive Case Management
- Safe and Reliable Transportation
- Access-technology training
- Mental Health (on-site and remote)
- Language Capacity Building
- Resources for Continued Hybrid Programming
- Nutrition Services
- Home Care
- Outdoor Programming