

DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY AND AGING SERVICES (DAS) COMMISSION

MINUTES March 5, 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, Vice President Nelson Lum.

Excused Absence: Barbara Sklar and 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 February 8, 2025 Commission Meeting Minutes from
The motion was unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT/ Kelly Dearman

DAS Executive Director Kelly Dearman first wished all a happy Social Workers Month. On the federal level there have been executive orders to stop the aid to undocumented workers and members of the LBBTQ+ community and DAS will still aid these people.

There will be cuts to Medicaid and to SNAP from House and Senate Republicans. We are hopeful there will be additions on the federal level for the Older Americans Act.

Governor Newsome did announce a surplus for California but that could change due to the wildfires in southern California and federal cuts. It is doubtful that the Dignity Fund will be funded this year due to these cuts.

The city is currently in a soft hiring freeze with each department able to send over requests for positions to the mayor's office. The mayor sent out a citywide memo that all staff will now have to be in the office 4 days a week starting at the end of April. I'm currently meeting all members of the Board of Supervisors and happy to relay that we have two champions of disability and aging services rights, Supervisor Melgar and Supervisor Chen.

Commissioner Knutzen asked if there are any meetings or discussions being held to prepare for these upcoming budget cuts? Director Dearman said yes there have been many talks and its been challenging to understand exactly how they will be affected. Also working very closely with the City Attorney's office with these matters.

President Spears asked about March 14 for the Older American's Act and if it goes dark then? Presenter Dearman said it won't go dark, but they need to vote to extend the coverages and programs. What are the cuts that will affect Medicaid? \$880 billion from House energy and Commerce committee and \$230 billion from house Agriculture committee.

Commissioner Pennington wanted to acknowledge the pressure of the cuts and how well DAS leadership and Kelly is handling these.

Vice President Lum asked that assuming the current proposed budget will be passed, when will the cuts take place? Director Dearman responded during the next fiscal year, and in July 2025 the cuts will start taking place.

DAS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH March 2025 Lisa Yan who is an Administrative Analyst at the DAS Clinical and Quality Improvement Unit

- Director Dearman spoke on how Lisa Yan plays such a vital role to both her team and the public through her dedication to public outreach. Lisa has been an amazing example of helping and her impact is felt all throughout the agency.
- Lisa thanked everyone and said she is looking forward to continuing her hard work and is very grateful for this award.

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT/ Presented by President Allen Cooper

President Cooper talked about TACC (Area Aging Agencies) and they meet 3 to 4 times a year. At the meeting they focused on housing and services provided to aging members of the community. He spoke on the completion of new housing specifically for the elderly and the new Disability Cultural Center.

At the Advisory Council meeting they spoke on the Area Plan on Aging and the cuts in Medicaid and how it will affect our population. Talked also on future plans and directions for the council.

CASE REPORT/ presented this month by Fiona Hinze

Brief report this month on family leave and other resources from our providers and they thanked Mike Zaugg for his recommendation and also Mike Zaugg again for helping us with our presenter next month.

An exciting note is that the next meeting is their quarterly in-person meeting and thanks to the Stonestown YMCA annex for hosting us. Lastly, I wanted to thank Metta Fund and their staff for the \$300k grant. They have also been working on job descriptions for openings that we are hiring for. We are hiring a strategic planner and a project manager, and an administrative aid.

Item 9 is GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT.

Andrea Lazorik, program director for Home Match at Front Porch wanted to touch on 2 items of interest: spoke on Home Match being selected by the American Societies on Aging as the 2025 recipient of their Innovation and Social Impact award. This award recognizes an individual or organization using creativity or innovation to solve issues concerning older adults.

Assemblymember Chris Ward introduced the Home Sharing Act of 2025 that focuses on areas concerning home sharing such as: financial incentives and tax exemptions, protection of government assistance being stripped, enhanced tenant protections, and support for non-profit homeshare programs.

Item 10 OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

Item 11 NEW BUSINESS

ITEMS 11A and 11B ARE INFORMATIONAL ONLY ITEMS AND DO NOT
REQUIRE A VOTE BY THE COMMISSION

- A. Introduction of Eli Gelardin, Director of the Mayor's Office on Disability and their Integration into DAS. (Presented by Eli Gelardin)

Presenter Gelardin introduced himself and the Mayor's Office on Disability and their Integration into DAS. MOD has a rich history coming from the Americans with Disability's Act. SF has grown and weaved into an accessible city over the last 30 years.

We are thrilled and excited with our transition into DAS. This integrated system is addressed with policy, programs, and community services. Our new name will be the San Francisco Office on Disability and Accessibility (ODA). Our transition will hopefully be complete by April 1st.

Commissioner Jung asked for an explanation on the mention on of ADA transition planners and Director Gelardin replied that they work with new and existing structures to make sure they are all ADA compliant.

Also, she asked about the working relationship with ODA and DBI and Office of Digital Technology and presenter Gelardin replied that they do work with these agencies to ensure accessibility and compliance for all. This work is emerging but can be difficult and I want to educate and provide small businesses with the ability to provide accessible services. Also, the Office of Digital Technology works with his team to make sure they procure services from accessible vendors.

Commissioner Jung also asked if presenter Gelardin is responsible for the 60 something accessibility coordinators across the city, presenter Gelardin replied that he does work with them on a 1-1 basis but is not responsible for all.

Commissioner Knutzen thanked him for this in-depth report, and they are very much looking forward to hearing more from him and his department.

President Spears welcomed him and thanked the other commissioners for asking all the pertinent questions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

B. Review of the Draft FY 2025 – FY 2026 Area Plan Update for the California Department of Aging. (Executive Director Kelly Dearman and Izzy Clayter will present this Item)

Presenter Dearman and Clayter spoke on the review of the Draft FY 2025 – FY 2026 Area Plan Update for the California Department of Aging.

Presenter Clayter started by highlighting the purpose of the Area Plan. Purposes to assess demographic trends and needs; outline plans for the purpose of the plan.

Gave a 4-year timeline on the Area Plan Update with population estimates and anticipated service levels.

Presenter Dearman outlined the 4 main goals of the Area Plan: Goal 1 to provide equity, inclusion, and accessibility, Goal 2 to maintain a strong workforce and collaboration, Goal 3 economic and economic security; and Goal 4 Health and Well-Being for all residents.

Commissioner Jung appreciates report like this because it reflects on all the exceptional work DAS has been doing and the recognition of all the non-English speakers and the outreach to them.

Commissioner Pennington asked about the kind of metrics and measurable data used and Adithi Vellore from HSA Planning and answered they typically look at objectives and the Dignity Fund objectives and that snapshot is used in the Area Plan Update.

President Spears asked about how the department looks at the middle-income members of San Francisco and their struggles on staying in San Francisco. Presenter Vellore replied that the Area Plan has a very stringent framework and the federal poverty threshold, and we do understand there is much more than that.

Director Dearman echoed Adithi's sentiment, and this will be another opportunity to hear needs from all other members of the community.

Commissioner Knutzen asked about the online directory and the pending funds for that, and Director Dearman replied that it has been green lighted and they are very happy to report this.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

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

- C. Requesting approval of a sole source waiver and authorization to enter into a new contract agreement with Excellesoft Partners, LLC for provision of licensing access to Registration Enrollment Video Appointment (REVA) for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028, in the amount of \$43,920 plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$48,312. (Shannon Morgan will present the item)

Presenter Morgan is requesting approval of a sole source waiver and authorization to enter into a new contract agreement with Excellesoft Partners, LLC for provision of licensing access to Registration Enrollment Video Appointment (REVA) for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028, in the amount of \$43,920 plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$48,312.

Commissioner Pennington asked if there's an estimate of the cost savings and presenter Morgan said she did not off the top of her head but her and the commissioner agreed this item would save the department a great deal of money.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

A motion to approve from

The motion was unanimously approved

- D. Requesting authorization to enter into new grant agreement with Homebridge for the provision of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) during the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029; in the amount of \$144,000,000, plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$158,400,000. (Shannon Morgan will present the item)

Presenter Morgan is requesting authorization to enter into a new grant agreement with Homebridge for the provision of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) during the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029; in the amount of \$144,000,000, plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$158,400,000.

Commissioner Jung thanked presenter Morgan for sharing these metrics. Commissioner Knutzen thanked her for the evaluation of Homebridge and the clearness and succinctness of this proposal.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

A motion to approve from

The motion was unanimously approved

- E. Requesting authorization to modify the existing grant with Homebridge to provide In-Home Supportive Services Contract Mode for the period of May 1, 2025-June 30, 2025, in the additional amount of \$2,419,719 for a revised total amount not to exceed \$144,684,989. (Shannon Morgan will present the item)

Presenter Morgan is requesting authorization to modify the existing grant with Homebridge to provide In-Home Supportive Services Contract Mode for the period of May 1, 2025-June 30, 2025, in the additional amount of \$2,419,719 for a revised total amount not to exceed \$144,684,989.

Commissioner Pennington stated she was very impressed with these proposals and how they laid out all the services.

President Spears asked about the expansion of CalAid and is that a correlation of people requesting more IHSS services. Presenter Morgan replied they have seen an uptick in enrollment due to MediCal with eligible participants.

President Spears asked Director Dearman if this program is at risk if Medical on a federal level is cut and Director Dearman replied that yes, this program could be in a dire situation with fewer hours to serve everyone if the dollars are cut from the federal level.

Commissioner Knutzen agreed with this sentiment

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

A motion to approve from

The motion was unanimously approved

- F. Requesting authorization to modify the existing grant agreement with SF Marin Food Bank for the provision of Food Assistance Program; during the period of March 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025, in the additional amount of \$270,235 plus a 10% contingency for a revised total amount not to exceed \$9,430,406. (Tiffany Kearney will present this item)

This item has been taken off this month's agenda and will be on the April's DAS Commission agenda for consideration.

- G. Requesting authorization to modify the existing grant agreement with SF Marin Food Bank for the provision of Home-Delivered Groceries Program; during the period of March 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025, in the additional amount of \$116,213 plus a 10% contingency for a revised total amount not to exceed \$4,884,681. (Tiffany Kearney will present this item)

Presenter Kearney is requesting authorization to modify the existing grant agreement with SF Marin Food Bank for the provision of Home-Delivered Groceries Program; during the period of March 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025, in the additional amount of \$116,213 plus a 10% contingency for a revised total amount not to exceed \$4,884,681.

Commissioner Jung asked for clarification about the numbers for the modification, in this three-month period are there are plans to distribute 77,000 bags of groceries or is this back funded and presenter Kearney replied that they do overserve, and they currently serve on average 77,000 bags per month.

Vice President Lum asked what percentage does DAS fund the Marin Food Bank in the whole and presenter Kearney replied that the total DAS and non-DAS funding is approximately \$17 million dollars with DAS providing \$1 million.

Commissioner Pennington asked about how large is the waiting list for this program and presenter Kearney replied about the SF Marin Food Bank there are 438 consumers on the wait list. Approximately 10% and commissioner Pennington asked if there is a plan to accommodate

these people and presenter Kearney said that unfortunately there is no more funding to accommodate more meals.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

A motion to approve from

The motion was unanimously approved

- H. Requesting authorization to enter into a new grant agreement with SF Marin Food Bank for the provision of Food Assistance Program for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029, in an amount of \$11,458,225, plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$12,604,048. (Tiffany Kearney will present this item)

Presenter Kearney is requesting authorization to enter into a new grant agreement with SF Marin Food Bank for the provision of Food Assistance Program for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029, in an amount of \$11,458,225, plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$12,604,048.

Commissioner Jung asked about a large increase in funding to this grant but the number of consumers being served is lower than the previous grant and why is that, presenter Kearney answered that the same people are needing the services from the pantry site longer.

President Spears asked if this a combination of food delivered, and on-site meals and presenter Kearney replied that the food assistance program supplies the food and HGC supplies the deliveries.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

A motion to approve from

The motion was unanimously approved

Announcements

No announcements

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:35am by President Spears