

Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS)

Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, March 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, Diane Lawrence, Harry Breaux, Juliet Rothman, Darlene Ramlose.

Members Absent Excused: Morningstar Vancil.

Welcome: Call to order 10:02 am and welcome all Council Members and guests.

Roll Call/Secretary

Motion to approve the February 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes: approved

Public Comment: None

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

Director Dearman noted that many executive orders from the Trump administration have had significant impacts on LGBTQ+ communities, people of color, and immigrants. DAS is closely monitoring the situation. The mayor prefers to maintain a low profile on these matters.

Congress is working on the budget for the upcoming year. The House budget proposal includes \$880 billion in cuts over a 10-year period which would require substantial reductions to Medicaid.

Last Friday, the Senate passed a six-month government funding measure extending through September. This bill maintains funding for Older Americans Act programs at 2024 levels—meaning no cuts, but also no increases.

On the State level, the 2 yrs of deficits, fires in SoCal and Federal policies on tariffs/trade/immigration could impact budget revenues.

Locally, on 2/21/25 the budget went to Mayor Lurie with proposed \$1.5M in cuts from the Office of Community Partnership, which is DAS' 15% cut. Despite the cut, core services remain. Dignity Fund probably won't get its \$3M this year. By 4/28/25 city employees must be working in the office 4 days/week.

The mayor's office of Disability is moving to DAS with a new name, "Mayor's Office on Disability and Accessibility."

President's Report by President Dr. Allen Cooper:

President Cooper welcomed new Advisory Council member Harry Breaux.

Conservatorship presentation to the Council is upcoming and alerted the group of "The Laguna Honda Roadshow" by the Dept of Public Health, 12:00 on the 3rd Wednesday, with the Grey Panthers' Terry Palmer.

Older Americans Act funding is continuing, but there is no longer an Older Americans Act, it ended in 2024. Marcy asked if a Justice in Aging presentation could be arranged to discuss an overview of all the challenging things happening.

How the Dignity Fund works was also discussed as a potential presentation topic.

Juliet will focus on site visits again with a goal of the Council's participation. President Cooper will send out the list of sites that need visiting and Juliet will present protocol next month.

Old Business:

Area Plan on Aging Approval – Izzy Clayter

Presenter Clayter is seeking approval of the Area Plan on Aging Update for 2025-2026. Draft was presented at the February meeting and finalized version was distributed. Beverly asked about the non-OAA Funding Sources and IHSS service units. Motion to approve the report passed.

New Business:

Overview of DAS Programs – Cindy Kauffman Deputy Director of DAS

Presenter Kauffman gave an Overview of DAS and where our Advisory Council sits within it. She discussed:

- Target population are those with disabilities, veterans, and older adults.
- 2 sides of DAS; Direct Service Programs (Jill Nielsen) APS, IHSS, and Legal/Guardianship Programs for individuals, and the Community Services side (Kaufman) for the community at large.

- DAS provides a continuum of services from active independent individuals to services for those unable to manage their needs.

Cindy described the Direct Service Programs and the Community Service Programs, which includes the Resource Hub.

DAS Advisory Council's purposes are to:

- potentially conducting public hearings,
- developing and administering the area plan,
- representing the interest of older adults,
- reviewing and commenting on all community policies, programs and actions affecting older people.

Advisory Council's duties are:

- visit each provider under contract with DAS,
- advise on all matters relating to dev and admin of area plan, all operations conducted under the plan and other matters relating to the well-being of the population services.

The DAS Advisory Council Handbook roles are:

- act as additional, informed set of eyes regarding DAS services,
- educate and experience for Council members,
- create an engaging presence with DAS funded providers,
- bring input back to DAS.

Beverly asked how current councilmembers interact with their supervisors. Many council members responded, and their engagement was varied. Harry asked if there was an intersection with SFMTA, and the answer was that there is some overlap, but it is a work in progress.

Reports from the Field:

A. LGBTQ Updates – Dr. Marcy Adelman

Marcy said that the Dignity Fund and DAS have really stepped-up LGBTQ programming over the years and was thankful to all who made that happen.

B. Joint Legislative Process Review – Diane Lawrence

Diane went over schedule, she has a report she'll send commission with the bills. The Senate and Assembly have some parallel bills; APS, IHSS, Brown Act, etc. Funding requests must already be in budget.

C. Dignity Fund – Allen Cooper

Met Monday, beginning process of needs assessment. Finding new ways to reach out to communities with questionnaire. Diane, Marcy and Allen will keep Council engaged.

Announcements/Reminders

Margaret is going to be honored for District 4 as part of Woman's Month for distinguished services at the Board of Supervisor's meeting on Tuesday, 1:00 3/25/25. Reception first then the meeting.

Beverly flyer Sequoia Living flyer on Pickleball Rally fundraiser for Bay Area Youth.

Adjournment: 11:30am

Next Meeting: Wednesday April 23, 2025