

DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY AND AGING SERVICES (DAS) COMMISSION

MINUTES May 7, 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, and Sascha Bittner

Excused Absence: Barbara Sklar

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 April 2, 2025 Commission Meeting Minutes from
The motion was unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT/ Kelly Dearman

DAS Deputy Director Cindy Kauffman spoke on behalf of Director Dearman Deputy Director. Kauffman spoke on Director Dearman attending the national Health Care Decisions Day & Social Security National Day of Action on April 15 with Speaker Emeritus Pelosi. Spoke on the importance of safety net services. April 16th was the National Health Care Decisions Day at OnLook Services for her work on palliative care services.

Updated the DAS website adding the Mayor's Office of Disability to DAS. Director Dearman mentioned the addition of MOD to DAS and the improvements slated for Hallidie Plaza. Planning has approved this plan and is now moved to BOS for approval.

Locally, we are still working on the budget, and the mayor is still working on the final budget. We will then hear from the governor about the status of the state budget which could affect our budget. Federally they have cut services and broke apart many of the services apart from Human Services. In addition to the federal budget, the President has released an initial budget that proposes a 27.2% cut to non-defense items and a large boost to the defense budget. Congress is actually in charge of ratifying the budget and are looking to make significant cuts to Medicare and this could play a role in the San Francisco budget. There are many advocacy efforts taking place on both the federal and state levels.

On a positive note, May 6 – 12 is National Nurses Week and the next week is Older American's Week and we will be focusing on bringing older Americans together.

Commissioner Knutzen asked for DAS to send over any info for them to be activists and make calls and send advocacy letters on behalf of the community.

Commissioner Bittner spoke on the impact of losing Medicare amongst the disabled community.

President Spears asked if they anticipate cuts to programs and presenter replied that yes, but they are not sure but do want to present possible impacts of possible cuts and CBO's have been notified.

DAS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH May 2025 Arturo Ramirez who is a Senior Eligibility Worker with the DAS Eligibility Unit at the DAS HUB

- Deputy Director Kauffman congratulated Arturo and how he has exemplified his care for his clients and his amazing work with his colleagues.
- Arturo praised all his colleagues and thanked everyone for this award and recognition. He truly wanted to thank the entire team at the DAS Hub and his first coworker Caroline who taught him everything he knows and his direct supervisor.

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT/ Presented by President Allen Cooper

There was no Advisory Council Meeting last month but there was a TACC meeting to report on. TACC is a quarterly meeting with other advisory councils. There were presentations with one being on potential cuts to Medicaid. Many of these people that could be cut are IHSS clients and this would have a large impact on DAS. Went over how this could be done on a federal level and

currently there are many steps that must be taken through the House and Senate before it is approved.

Outlined strategies for people opposed to these cuts. Gave an outline for the Older Americans Act as well.

CASE REPORT/ presented this month by Fiona Hinze

Presenter Hinze is still looking for a co-chair of CASE and another board member of CASE is leaving and hopefully they will stay connected to CASE. I did see the new DAS website and it is very nice and much improved from the older MOD site.

Office of Financial Empowerment came to visit and provided services to our clients. At next meeting there will be a dental clinician will talk about expanding practices to elderly and disabled patients.

The Meta Fund grant is close to hiring a strategic planner/ project manager from this grant and hopefully will be announced later next month.

Item 9 is GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT.

No public comment

Item 10 OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

Item 11 NEW BUSINESS

ITEMS A THROUGH D ARE ACTION ITEMS THAT REQUIRES A VOTE BY THE COMMISSION

- A. Requesting authorization to enter into new grant agreements with Self-Help for the Elderly for the provision of Short-Term Home Care for Older Adults: Personal Care, Chore and Homemaker Services during the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2029; in the amount of \$842,772 plus a 10% contingency for a total grant amount not to exceed \$927,049. (Zhiqing Li will present the item).

Presenter Li is requesting authorization to enter into new grant agreements with Self-Help for the Elderly for the provision of Short-Term Home Care for Older Adults: Personal Care, Chore and Homemaker Services during the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2029; in the amount of \$842,772 plus a 10% contingency for a total grant amount not to exceed \$927,049.

Commissioner Knutzen asked about the people who qualify for this item and is the cutoff people who only qualify for Medicare? The presenter responded that people who qualify for Medicare plus people with higher incomes can also apply.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

A motion to approve from Commissioner Bittner

The motion was unanimously approved

- B. Requesting authorization to enter into new grant agreements with Self-Help for the Elderly for the provision of Nutrition Services for Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029, in the amount of \$12,573,404 plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$13,830,744. (Tiffany Kearney will present the item).

Presenter Kearney is requesting authorization to enter into new grant agreements with Self-Help for the Elderly for the provision of Nutrition Services for Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029, in the amount of \$12,573,404 plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$13,830,744.

Commissioner Jung asked if the clients have the option of getting to go or in-house meals? The presenter replied that Self Help only provides meals in person, no to go.

Also asked who chooses if the client has the option to sign up for these services and the presenter can sign up online or in person.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

A motion to approve from Commissioner Knutzen

The motion was unanimously approved

- C. Requesting authorization to enter into a new contract with the Merced Three Residential Care for the provision of Emergency Residential Care Facility for the Elderly Bed Placement; during the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029; in the amount of \$810,300 plus a 10% contingency for a total contract amount not to exceed \$891,330. (Ben Seisdedos will present this item).

Presenter Seisdedos is requesting authorization to enter into a new contract with the Merced Three Residential Care for the provision of Emergency Residential Care Facility for the Elderly Bed Placement; during the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029; in the amount of \$810,300 plus a 10% contingency for a total contract amount not to exceed \$891,330. (Ben Seisdedos will present this item).

Commissioner Knutzen thanked the presenter for the very detailed report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

A motion to approve from Commissioner Knutzen

The motion was unanimously approved

- D. Requesting authorization to modify the existing grant agreement with Institute on Aging for the provision of the Community Living Fund program; during the period from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027, in the additional amount of \$14,327,796 plus a 10% contingency for a revised total amount not to exceed \$27,630,868. (Zhiqing Li will present the item)

Presenter Li is requesting authorization to modify the existing grant agreement with Institute on Aging for the provision of the Community Living Fund program; during the period from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027, in the additional amount of \$14,327,796 plus a 10% contingency for a revised total amount not to exceed \$27,630,868. (Zhiqing Li will present the item)

Presenter Li noted that 2 corrections were made to Appendix A, and the updated memo will be sent to the commissioners and updated online.

Commissioner Jung complimented the presenter for structurally diagraming the item and it was incredibly helpful. Many of the other commissioners also thanked her for that.

Commissioner Pennington felt very good for the pattern of support for these grants that are going and helping the most vulnerable and needy people in the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

A motion to approve from Commissioner Jung

The motion was unanimously approved

Announcements

No announcements

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:40am by President Spears