

Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS)

Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, July 16, 2025

TIME: 10-11:30am

PLACE: 1650 Mission St. 5th Floor, Golden Gate Room

Members Present: Allen Cooper, , Chris Dillon, Beverly Karnatz, Diane Lawrence, Juliet Rothman, Daisy Jimenez, Ivy Chang, Morningstar Vancil. Darlene Ramlose, Harry Breaux, Marcy Adelman, Lisa Cook.

Members Absent Excused: Tia Small, Margaret Graf, Marcy Adelman,

Welcome: Call to order 10:04 am and welcome all Council Members and guests.

Roll Call/Secretary

Motion to approve the June 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes: Approved.

Public Comment: None.

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

Kelly spoke on the BOS meeting yesterday where we witnessed three members of the public were honored for their work on Disability Awareness and Accessibility. The meeting was recorded on SFGOV. Tomorrow is the grand opening of the Disability Cultural Center and in light of all the negative cuts to service, this is a highlight for us.

The Big Bill passed and nothing goes into affect until 2026 and 2027 and the way they are attacking Medicaid is making it so people will fall off Medicare. But nothing has changed yet and we will start to figure out how to still serve people and keep people still on Medicare. We will continue to work harder and with compassion.

As to the local budget, we have had to reduce funding to some of our services. Therse are difficult decisions but ones we had to make.

Reporting that Jill Nielsen is leaving DAS and moving out of state to be closer to her family and even though it will be tough for us, it is a great move for her. The transition will not be easy, but we will hold it together in the interim before we find her replacement. It is a huge loss for DAS but we are very happy for her and will work extremely hard to keep her department operating smoothly.

Diane wanted to compliment the DAS staff because she gave a service card to a friend and they reached out to her and told her the customer service at the HUB was phenomenal and was extremely happy with the DAS services and reps she spoke with to help her!

Morningstar thanked Kelly as well for her work with the Native community and DAS' help in serving them.

President's Report by President Dr. Allen Cooper:

All the legislation is completed and federal, city, and state budget have passed. We will now have to wait and see how this affects us in terms of service cuts and funding.

New Business:

A. Report on Overview of Disability Programs from Eli Gelardin

Eli Gelardin, Director of the San Francisco Office on Disability & Accessibility gave a presentation on his new work at DAS. Has spent many years in the North Bay at a nonprofit working on Disability rights.

ODA's purpose is to ensure that the City's programs, services, and facilities are all accessible to all individuals. They provide access, ADA compliance, and strategic planning. Gave an overview of ODA, Budget, and Staffing and the org chart for his team.

Gave a breakdown of all the ADA grievances in San Francisco FY24-25. And also spoke on examples of grievance resolutions throughout the city. In the process of redesigning the city's reporting process.

Hallidie Plaza will be redesigned with the funding secured and working with other city agencies that will fix the access barriers to that plaza. Spoke on programmatic Access and the challenges to enforce the laws without harming existing small businesses in SF.

Celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the ADA. Disability Cultural Center (DCC) Grand Opening Week. Thurs July 17th 12 – 2pm Grand Opening with many different celebrations there all weekend.

Members had questions regarding different ways to help and addressing other disability access problems. Eli spoke and mentioned he could stay after the meeting to answer any questions on accessibility interests.

B. Site Visit Reports

Diane let the council know that they will have a report maybe in August for a few different site visits.

Old Business:

New member Daisy Jiminez gave a brief introduction of herself and her bio.

Council person Morningstar Vancil left the meeting early because she felt President Cooper was not taking her questions in a timely manner.

Reports from the Field:**A. LGBTQ Updates – Dr. Marcy Adelman**

Marcy spoke on the cuts to funding for all LGBTQ services.

B. Joint Legislative Process review – Diane Lawrence

Want to make a change in the process review for advocacy and new members.

C. CSL Priorities & Updates – None.**Announcements/Reminders****Adjournment: 11:31 am****Next Meeting: Wednesday August 20, 2025**