

# **Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS)**

## **Advisory Council**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 21, 2026

**TIME:** 10-11:30am

**PLACE:** 2 Gough Street 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Wisdom Room

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**Members Present:** Allen Cooper, Margaret Graf, Chris Dillon, Lisa Cook, Tia Small, Ivy Chang, Diane Lawrence, Juliet Rothman, and Daisy Jiminez.

**Members Absent Excused:** Darlene Ramlose, Harry Breaux, Marcy Adelman, and Morningstar Vancil.

**Welcome:** Call to order 10:00 am and welcome all Council Members and guests.

**Roll Call/Secretary**

**Motion to approve the December 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes:** Approved.

**General Public Comment:** Member of the public spoke on the formation of the new committee and how important the dignity fund is to this community.

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

Kelly spoke on how tough the budget is this year and how much they are looking to cut. The mayor has promised to keep all core services and Kelly has reminded the mayor that all DAS services are core to the disabled and adult communities.

We will be working closely with the Dignity Fund to try and keep these funds.

Members asked if there was a way to lobby and advocate for these services and Kelly agreed this is a good idea and will send out information to the council. The governor released the first preliminary budget and there will be some tough decisions to be made as this progresses.

The PGE power outages were handled by the hard work of many DAS staff, and she thanked them for their fast & hard work. Lastly on the budget, the IHSS & APS programs will not be cut.

On good news the Disability training for DAS staff has a 94% completion rate and we are so proud of this staff that really cares about the population.

**President's Report by President Dr. Allen Cooper:**

The Joint Legislative Committee has 2 upcoming pieces of Legislation coming up: The Older American's Act has expired, and the House did not take it to vote but it is now reintroduced.

The other bill is the Wiser Act, regarding Medicare is an effort to privatize Medicare. Spoke on two bills against this privatization and how we can advocate to stop this. We will send out advocacy to help with this.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:**

**Area Plan Update FY 26-27 Presented by Izzy Clayter:**

Presented by Izzy Clayter and details the needs of older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers. This update is year 3 of the 4-year area plan. For this year we will be presenting a draft of the plan and take feedback in February and then seeking approval from the council in March

An APU survey which is fully anonymous was then distributed and thanked everyone for their participation and assistance.

**Dignity Fund Presentation by DAS Deputy Director Cindy Kauffman:**

Started the presentation with a history of the Dignity Fund. This fund began with Proposition I in November 2016. It's an initiative to ensure stable, equitable, and community-based services for older adults and people with disabilities. Establishes planning & allocation process and oversight & advisory committee. An overview was then presented which outlined the City contribution of the \$38 million baseline which grows by over \$33 million over 10 years.

Members asked if other cities had Dignity Funds and to our knowledge, no. Asked to go over the Superfund and presenter Kauffman gave the numbers for the baseline of the fund and the prospects of additional funding in prosperous years.

Kelly added that she was happy with this question and how important the other super funding is and how much we rely on this extra funding to support and fund our programs.

Members spoke on the specific services that are provided by DF such as food services and other ways they provide better advocacy for the fund.

**Announcements/Reminders:**

**Adjournment: 10:53am**

**Next Meeting: Wednesday February 18, 2026**