

DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY AND AGING SERVICES
(DAS) COMMISSION
MINUTES July 1, 2026

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME/ President Janet Y. Spears

President Janet Y. Spears called our hybrid meeting to order in City Hall room 416 and virtually 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: President Janet Y. Spears, Vice President Nelson Lum, Linda Parker Pennington, Martha Knutzen, Wanda Jung, 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

Motion from Commissioner Bittner

The motion was unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT/ Director Dearman

Director Dearman celebrated Disability Pride month. For the state budget, the legislation's final agreement included the following:

- Rejected cost-shifting IHSS growth in assessed hours.
- Rejected proposal to eliminate IHSS backup providers.
- Rejected conforming IHSS program coverage with Medi-Cal annual re-determinations.
- Rejected proposal to reverse APS age requirement from 60 back to 65

- Counties will pay 100% of the Community First Choice Option Late (CFCO) penalties as opposed to the previous 50% county and 50% state cost.

SF IHSS was at risk of paying \$2.7M in CFCO penalty fees but as of May 2026, the penalty fee is \$85. Director Dearman congratulated IHSS for their compliance.

In local budget, the San Francisco Board of Supervisor (BOS) unanimously advanced the FY 2026–27 and 2027–28 city budget which includes \$34M to maintain Medi-Cal/CalFresh access, \$120M for housing stabilization and continued support for legal services. In DAS' budget, there were 16 Community Based Organization (CBO) grants proposed for elimination and 12 were restored; 5 grants had proposed reductions but 4 were fully restored and 1 was reduced by 40%. Director Dearman credited the add-backs to the tireless advocacy of the community as well as the work of program and contract staff. DAS staff are notifying CBOs with restored funding.

Director Dearman announced the 58th bi-annual conference for the National Association of the Deaf will be in San Francisco from June 30th until July 5th. DAS updated the sf.gov web page with resources for the deaf and hard of hearing community. Also, July 11th is One City Day where local community organizations and city employees come together to volunteer and connect with San Francisco communities. DAS will host a 504-walking tour in partnership with the Disability Cultural Center to educate participants on the history of disability rights.

Commissioner Knutzen recognized cohesive effort and mentioned receiving public feedback about the commission. Moreover, Commissioner Knutzen noted there is more advocacy on the state level.

DAS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH July 2026 to both Donte Smith and Anthony Zeno, who are the security team for DAS Benefits and Resources Hub

- Director Dearman spoke on their outstanding professionalism and service as well as remarkable situational awareness, deescalation through calm communication and their steady presence of safety. Recently, a 1st amendment auditor visited the DAS Hub and they engaged the auditor respectfully which positively embodies DAS' values.
- Donte thanked the commission for the award and noted they work 12 hours a day and remain dedicated to DAS clients. Anthony said they give their best effort and they like the office.

CASE REPORT presented by Director Andrea Lazorik

Director Lazorik reported June's meeting had 21 participants from 19 non-profits and included zoom accessibility tips and a presentation on the GUIDE model. Last month, Independent Living Resource Center presented on the updated Dignity Fund formula and shared how the Department of Children Youth and their Families has a similar funding model. Other updates include CASE facing more challenges to educate SF BOS of impacts of cuts and mitigate future cuts. Director

Lazorik announced to save the date of September 14th for CASE's in-person celebration at Ruth's Table which will include food, drinks and community connection. Lastly, Director Lazorik welcomed Independence Day.

Item 8 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

Item 9 OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

Item 10 NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM A IS AN INFORMATIONAL ONLY ITEM THAT DOES NOT REQUIRE A VOTE BY
THE COMMISSION

A. Community Living Fund Six-Month Report (July – December 2025) and Community Living Fund Annual Plan (FY 2026-27) – INFORMATION ONLY (Zhiqing Li will present this item)

Commissioner Jung appreciated the presentation and asked about the efforts in getting an Outreach Coordinator. Presenter Li explained that the role includes individual outreach for referrals and community outreach to underserved populations.

President Spears asked about projected revenue and the significant drop off for FY 2026-27. Presenter Li replied \$2M is projected for FY 26-27 on top of the \$2.8M received. President Spears further asked about service capacity from the revenue and Presenter Li predicts an increase in services.

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

B. Requesting authorization to enter into a new contract agreement with Professional Exchange Service Corporation for the provision of After-Hours Hotline Answering Services for the Adult Protective Services, Family and Children Services, Public Conservator, and Public Guardian Hotlines, for the period of July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2028, in the amount of \$180,000 plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$198,000. (Ben Seisdodos will present the item.)

Commissioner Seisdedos is requesting authorization to enter into a new contract agreement with Professional Exchange Service Corporation for the provision of After-Hours Hotline Answering Services for the Adult Protective Services, Family and Children Services, Public Conservator, and Public Guardian Hotlines, for the period of July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2028, in the amount of \$180,000 plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$198,000.

Commissioner Knutzen said results will be known once service begins and is optimistic in the planning and capacity. President Spears asked about the company's associated organizations and Presenter Seisdedos explained that the company supports APS services in the central valley and three nearby counties. Commissioner Pennington asked for data on the volume of calls from after hours and Presenter Seisdedos offered to provide data aggregated by program on a monthly basis. Lastly, Commissioner Lum asked about the current contract for the APS After Hours telephone answering services and Presenter Seisdedos said it is currently with AnswerNet through an informal bid awarded to CPMC.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment

Motion from Commissioner Jung

The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Requesting authorization to enter into a new grant agreement with Visitacion Valley Neighborhood Association for the provision of Community Services; during the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2031, in the amount of \$368,115 plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$404,427. (Sarah Chan will present the item)

Presenter Chan is requesting authorization to enter into a new grant agreement with Visitacion Valley Neighborhood Association for the provision of Community Services; during the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2031, in the amount of \$368,115 plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$404,427.

Commissioner Jung asked why is it a 5-year term and not the typical 2-3 years and Presenter Chan said the contract is part of the broader community service grant, and the contract length aligns with FY 26-27; also, since it is ready for procurement, it is 4 years totaling to 5 years. Commissioner Jung also asked why administrative support is sourced through subcontractors and Presenter Chan explained that the core team is made of independent contractors and since the grant is small, funds are prioritized to program operations.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment

Motion from Commissioner Jung

The motion was unanimously approved.

Announcements

President Spears announced that there will be a recess starting August and the commission will reconvene on September 2nd. Moreover, there will be a festival called “Future of Us” July 4th - July 12th; Metta fund will be present and there will be a panel discussion on the challenges caregivers face.

Director Dearman announced today as Jersey Day for fútbol.

Commissioner Pennington announced the Fillmore district will host a jazz festival on July 4th and Commissioner Pennington is reactivating programming in the Fillmore Heritage Center.

Commissioner Lum announced that there will be a 16,000 lbs. beam recovered from the World Trade Center placed at Pier 27 on July 10th at 11 AM to memorialize events of 9/11.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM by President Spears