

DIGNITY FUND OVERSIGHT AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 3, 2017; 3:00pm to 5:00pm

1650 Mission Street, 5th Floor, Golden Gate Conference Room

Minutes

Attending: Ramona Davies, Sandy Mori, Elinore Lurie, Marcy Adelman, Beverly Taylor, Gustavo Serina, Monique Zmuda, Margy Baran, Allen Ng, Melissa McGee (DAAS), Rick Appleby (DAAS)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm.

Roll Call: Ms. McGee called roll. Excused absence: Chip Supanich. Ms. Davies announced that Ms. James would no longer be on the OAC due to changes by the Mayor to the Commission on Aging. Ms. Davies thanked Ms. James for her service.

Approval of the Agenda: Members unanimously approved the April 3 agenda.

Approval of the Minutes: Members unanimously approved the March 27 minutes.

Allocation Discussion: Ms. Davies opened allocation discussions with reminder that the group needs to make a decision at this meeting. She also noted handouts from DAAS Staff. Ms. Kauffmann explained that on the 6 category handout without the Cost of Doing Business, the \$880,000 CODB was proportionally added back into services.

Members discussed the elimination from the 4 category handout of Housing Retention and Nutrition & Wellness. The group clarified that the reason is that the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing is most involved with housing and that Nutrition services have already received increases. Members noted that DAAS already has a small group of clients who receive housing subsidies and discussed whether housing subsidies should be part of DAAS budget, Dignity Fund or not at all. DAAS Staff reminded the group that housing subsidies and the proposed Housing Retention category is about keeping seniors and people with disabilities in current housing and in the community, in line with the DAAS mission, not removing them from homelessness which may be more of a focus for DSHS. Members suggested the CODB could be allotted to Housing Retention so the Mayor would be enticed to pay for the CODB from other general funds. Member clarified that subsidies go to landlord and clients pay less rent themselves.

Discussion ensued about the nutrition pilot program. DAAS Staff reminded the group that this is a pilot of a new model not a research study per se. Pilot would show that offering services with meals increases participation and involvement in social services.

The group discussed public perception of Dignity Fund recommendations. One concern expressed is that a precedent will be set by this first set of recommendation that won't allow changing recommendations for next year. Members talked about the fact that the gap analysis and needs assessment would inform the next round of recommendations. Some of the programs recommended this year may not be successful so of course there would be different decisions next year. Ms. Mori reminds folks they have to be clear with constituents that the recommendations this year are one time and may change next year with new data. Decision today by OAC is backed up by DAAS data in developing the proposed recommendations.

More conversation about the CODB: whether it should be included or not in the recommendations, that BOS will not be so inclined to give add-backs now that Dignity Fund exists, that voters expected Dignity Fund for services not CODB, that strategies would be needed to negotiate with the Mayor and BOS, that advocating for no CODB in regard to what services won't be covered may work, and that, if Mayor rejects plan A (no CODB), we can fall back on six category plan with CODB. Suggestion that OAC could start with 4 category recommendations then go back to 6 category proposal if needed. Ms. Kesarwani thought that could create even more confusion for the public. Council cannot be sure when they will hear back from the Mayor's Office. Council also would like Mayor to be aware of what limitations there are with \$880,000 CODB deducted from Dignity Fund.

Public comment:

Vince Crisostomo, LTCCC HIV & Aging Work Group and SF AIDS Foundation: Since sales tax initiative failed no additional funds are available elsewhere for housing subsidies, and some folks are expecting it. DAAS Subsidies are to keep seniors in their housing. Seniors have to be homeless to get DSHS services. Also Project Open Hand started providing services at meals and increased participation by 25%. And, it good for public to see six category but confusing if related number change.

Laurie Sanchez, CTN: Support 6 category proposal. Notes that only one item is related to technology however. Perhaps Dignity Fund would only have to pay a portion of the CODB?

Silvia Sherman, Community Music Center: As community advocates need to advocate for no CODB from Dignity Fund monies. And need to include constituents in budget meetings and process to tell stories.

Mary Martin, Ingleside resident: recommending monies for home modifications, esp. stair lifts. She could be homeless if she doesn't get one as she has greater trouble negotiating the stairs. Ms. Kauffmann will speak with Ms. Martin about CLF funding or other sources for such a modification.

Mr. Serina moved that we recommend the 6 category proposals without the CODB and fall back to the 6 category proposals with the CODB if Mayor declines the CODB funding. Ms. Taylor offered the second. Members unanimously approved the motion.

The group discussed strategies for approaching the Mayor's Office, Melissa Whitehouse, the Mayor's budget Staff person. Anyone from OAC have relationships with Mayor's Office? Melissa Whitehouse passes the information to the Mayor. Ms. Mori and Ms. Baran agreed to approach Ms. Whitehouse in the Mayor's Office. Ms. Adelman agreed to communicate with the Mayor, to include a chair person from the Service Providers Working Group. Ms. Mori, Ms. Davies and Ms. Taylor will be in touch with Supervisor Cohen.

Public Comment: None

Adjourned: 4:47pm

Next meeting: Monday, 5/15/17, 3 to 5, Golden Gate Conference Room