

**Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS)
Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes -**

DATE: Wednesday, April 15, 2026

TIME: 10-11:30am

PLACE: 2 Gough Street 3rd Floor, Wisdom Room

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

Roll Call/Secretary

Members Present: Margaret Graf, Chris Dillon, Tia Small, Ivy Chang, Diane Lawrence, Daisy Jiminez, Lisa Cook Allen Cooper, Morningstar Vancil

Members Absent Excused: Harry Breaux Juliet Rothman, Marcy Adelman, & Darlene Ramlose.

Motion to approve the March 18, 2026 Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes was seconded and then voted to approve.

General Public Comment:

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

The Dignity Fund Report was released earlier this month and we spent a great deal of time working on the budget this month. Today there is a meeting with the Finance and Appropriations Committee that I will be attending that will discuss the budget and how it affects our population.

I was just in DC at the USAging conference, and spoke with our Senators and Speaker Emeritus Pelosi who came and spoke to us about the state of the nation and our policies. The Area Plan was submitted and voted on.

President's Report, presented by Allen Cooper:

President Allen Cooper apologized for coming in a bit late, he spoke on the budget hearing at City Hall today and invited council members to attend in person. There will be people advocating outside the Mayor's Office for the services cut from DAS initiatives.

Director Dearman clarified that there is no actual vote today, but Supervisor Sauter specifically wanted to hear about what proposed cuts will be made to the budget so it's a good opportunity for people to advocate on their behalf.

President Cooper spoke on the effects of IHSS funding deficits and how this could put people on the streets.

New Business:

Dignity Fund Community Needs Assessment Presented by DAS Deputy Director Cindy Kauffman:

This is the DFCNA Project Overview, which is a legislatively mandated part of the Dignity Fund and the purpose is to find the needs of the community and services most needed by the community. The purpose is to gather community needs of diverse older adults, disabilities, veterans, and caregivers.

The research activity is composed of community research and equity analysis. This year we had 6,440 participants, community forums with 460 participants, focus groups and interview with 130 participants, and held a service provider working group with 65 participants.

We studied the DAS population and client profiles. The population profile was studied with an equity factor. Bipoc, LGBTQ+, limited English, Asian & Pacific Islanders, Black/African American, and Latinx populations were all studied and recommendations were made.

Overall, DAS has been very effective in reaching clients with 1 in 3 San Francisco older adults getting services from us. Older adults have varying needs and most seniors worry about how these needs will be met. Top 5 needs of older adults were: getting enough physical activity, using technology, receiving legal assistance, enough social contact, and getting the medical services needed.

Affordability is a top concern for adults with disabilities and find the social service programs do not only essential services. Social connection is essential for consumers and can be enhanced by community spaces. Older adults need mobility and safety is main concern.

50% of older adults and 64% of adults with disabilities find it hard to navigate this system and find it hard to find the services they need.

Caregiver stress level were recorded and found that a good portion of caregivers experienced emotional and mental stress working with our population. Veterans have significant unmet need for social connections and how to navigate getting services both within and beyond their VA benefits.

Members spoke on veteran services and the safety of woman veterans at VA hospitals and the safety problems with LGBTQ members at VA care centers.

Asked about the Dignity Fund and how San Francisco differs from other city/ counties in California and how it is unique that San Francisco City County offers this fund.

Members spoke on the inequalities that minority members of the community face when seeking care and services.

Members spoke on the upcoming budget and this assessment compared to the requests from the mayor's office for the prioritization of funds to services. Also asked about how these cuts will affect our population and the long term effects of these cuts and Director Dearman responded that its our job to constantly remind the mayor's office and the BOS that the older population is the fastest growing population in san Francisco. We were also happy to see how may people responded to these focus groups and respond to these surveys which we feel is a good thing.

Members spoke on the importance of outreach and members of the community wanting information from city leadership.

Announcements:

Tomorrow is national Healthcare Decisions Day and there will be meeting at the City Hall Steps and at the Disability Cultural Center starting at 10:15am

Meeting Adjourned at 11:21am