

DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY AND AGING SERVICES
(DAS) COMMISSION
MINUTES APRIL 6, 2022

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME/President Martha Knutzen

Commissioner Knutzen called our first hybrid meeting to order in City Hall room 408 and virtually and 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 Sascha Bittner, Wanda Jung, President Martha Knutzen, Nelson Lum, Barbara Sklar, Vice President Janet Y. Spears

Absent: Commissioner Michelle Carrington

DAS Executive Director, Kelly Dearman, was present.

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.

A motion to approve the March 2, 2022 DAS Commission Meeting Minutes.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Absent: Commissioner Michelle Carrington

Approval of Minutes:

No public comment.

A motion to approve the March 10, 2022 DAS Special Commission Meeting Minutes.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Absent: Commissioner Michelle Carrington

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT/Kelly Dearman

Executive Director Dearman noted how happy she and everyone was to be back in person and hoped we all get to continue in this direction. Director Dearman reported she was at the U.S. Aging Conference in Washington D.C. last week and was able to speak with members of Senators Feinstein and Padilla offices and with House Speakers Pelosi's staff. There is talk in DC of implementing a national task force to address the issues of making sure there is enough funds for home and community based senior programs, dealing with senior isolation and funds to help bridge the technological divide. The pandemic really exacerbated the technological divide between seniors and not also their doctors but with all communication with others as well.

The California Association on Area Aging is updating the Moderns Californians Act by asking for a Nutrition Program extension to address California's continuing senior nutrition crisis.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

- Executive Director Dearman and the DAS Commission honored Sarah Chan who is a nutritionist with the DAS Office of Community Partnerships.
- President Knutzen recognized and thanked Sarah for her tireless and difficult work helping seniors with nutrition and other programs.
- Sarah then addressed the commission and thanked her fellow coworkers saying this is truly a team effort and wanted to thank the DAS leadership and the commissioners who provide clarity and compassion to the community.

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT/Diane Lawrence

Advisory Council President's Report to the Commission on Disability and Aging Services on March 16, 2022. This report discusses the Advisory Council's March 16th, 2022 meeting.

President Lawrence stated that a critical item on their agenda was to choose two members for the Dignity Fund Oversight Council and that was accomplished. The Area Plan on Aging was approved and the Advisory Council welcomed their newest member, representative from District 2, Eva Aber.

They received a report on the C.L.C.S. Keep us Connected Campaign and some key highlights were expanding access to WIFI for seniors and persons with disabilities. A survey of AC members found they wanted to explore housing, transportation, master plan, mental health, and long-term health so we will be trying to arrange for guest speakers in those areas.

Next Advisory Council meeting: Wednesday May 18, 2022.

NO PUBLIC COMMENT.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE REPORT/Diane Lawrence

Joint Legislative Report to the Commission on Disability and Aging Services on March 2, 2022.

Advisory Council President Lawrence started off by stating The Joint Leg Committee recommended a letter of support for A.B. 2483 which the Advisory Council approved and a letter is being drafted. The bill requires housing and community developments to work with Medi-Cal agencies and mental health services and the Department of Health Care Services to connect developers with service providers. A bill is also being introduced that proposes to increase the personal needs allowance that is \$35 monthly that was set in the 1980's to \$50 a month which is a compromise from the proposed \$80 per month which was considered too high.

CASE REPORT/Daniel Gallagher

CASE Report to the Commission on Disability and Aging Services on April 6, 2022.

The Case Writing Report has been published and was sent out to the Commissioners in advance and also being distributed to various government officials, Board of Supervisors, etc. and it is a representative report of what the San Francisco non-profits have achieved during the pandemic. For April the Case Programming will feature a national speaker and writer on issues related to aging who will be the presenter and in May programming will address comments on informed care.

We are urging City Policy Makers to recognize that internet access is no longer a privilege to have, but a basic human right. The budget is asking \$3.5 million through 2023 and 2024 to strengthen baseline funding to close the digit divide.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Gallagher for the report and let him know it was worth the wait.

No public comment.

Item 11 is GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT.

Herbert Winer called in who was an employee of the Department of Human Services and his concern is that the walk to bus stops is too far for seniors and persons with disabilities. The city needs more bus stops that are more accessible to seniors and persons with disabilities and thanks the commission for addressing these issues.

OLD BUSINESS

None

13. APPROVAL OF A CONSENT AGENDA ITEM THIS ITEM CONSTITUTES A CONSENT AGENDA AND CONSIDERED TO BE ROUTINE BY THE DISABILITY AND AGING SERVICES COMMISSION.

The consent item was moved by Commissioner Jung and seconded by Vice President Spears

No public comments.

A motion to approve.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Absent: Commissioner Michelle Carrington

NEW BUSINESS

ITEMS A through B ARE INFORMATIONAL ITEMS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE A VOTE BY THE COMMISSION.

14A. Presentation of the 2022 Dignity Fund Community Needs Assessment (Joint hearing with Dignity Fund Oversight and Advisory Committee) – Presented by Dina de Veer and Leah Jarvis, RDA Consulting

This Commission Meeting is a joint hearing with the Dignity Fund Oversight and Advisory Committee and roll was taken for their members and there was a quorum. The Community Needs Assessment has detailed and identified service strengths, gaps and unmet needs, recommendations in services, and allocation of the plan for the next 4 years. In 2021 DAS contracted RDA and there were 3 overarching questions that guided the assessment: what are the needs of older adults and adults with disabilities in San Francisco, what are the system level strengths and gaps, and what population subgroups may be under served?

Many different surveys were used to acquire this data and the presenters broke down the needs by different ethnic groups to show they are different amongst the groups. There was a report of how funds are spent across city districts showing significant variations with District 5 having the highest per participant expenditure while District 3 had the lowest.

There was a temporary loss of power throughout room 408 in City Hall and it took about 25 minutes to get WebEx fully functioning and the power restored to continue with the meeting.

LGBTQ and immigrant communities were studied as well as the need for equity in the Needs Assessment.

The commissioners thanked the RDA and the DFOAC members for this presentation and for being so patient through the technical difficulties.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

14B. Review of Receipt and Planned Use of American Rescue Plan Act Funding by the Department of Disability and Aging Services. (Staff: Mike Zaugg will present.)

DAS staff Mike Zaugg thanked the commission and relayed the information that this funding is coming through the California Department of Aging which is focused on supporting the Older American's Act program and efforts. These funds will be used to support: Title IIIB – Supportive Services - \$1,103,124; Title IIIC1 – Congregate Nutrition - \$719,429; Title IIIC2 – Home-Delivered Meals - \$1,079,14; Title IIID – Disease Prevention - \$105,516; Title IIIE – Family Caregiver Support Program - \$344,186; and Ombudsman - \$11,109.

The implementation process will be starting in the coming weeks and months and all the items will be coming to the commission for approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

ITEMS C through J ARE ACTION ITEMS AND REQUIRE A VOTE BY THE COMMISSION.

14C. Resolution to hold in-person meeting with some members possibly appearing remotely.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

A motion to approve.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Absent: Commissioner Michelle Carrington

14D. Authorization to allow third-party presenters who are not City employees to attend commission meetings virtually, pending any California Government Code change or mayoral supplement to the emergency proclamation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

A motion to approve.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Absent: Commissioner Michelle Carrington

14E. Review and approval of the FY 2022-2023 Area Plan Update for the California Department of Aging (Staff: Executive Director Kelly Dearman and Adithi Vellore will present this Item).

Director Dearman was excused to leave early and Acting Director Cindy Kaufman presented with Adithi Vellore. Adithi is seeking approval of the FY 2022-23 Area Plan Update. She discussed technology in the digital divide, research navigation, and staff training and development. She referred to her previous presentation to the commission and turned it over to a vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

A motion to approve.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Absent: Commissioner Michelle Carrington

14F. Requesting authorization to modify the existing grant agreement with Self-Help for the Elderly for the provision of Short-Term Home Care for Older Adults: Personal Care, Chore and Homemaker Services during the period of April 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022; in the additional amount of \$41,508 plus a 10% contingency for a total grant amount not to exceed \$592,275. (Michael Zaugg will present the item).

DAS staff Michael Zaugg presented and is requesting to modify the existing grant agreement with Self-Help for the Elderly for the provision of Short-Term Home Care for Older Adults: Personal Care, Chore and Homemaker Services in the amount of \$41,508. These funds will support on call care workers that will increase the capacity for the program. The contractor has done a great job since 2011 and the monitoring report looks good so far.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

A motion to approve.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Absent: Commissioner Michelle Carrington

14G. Requesting authorization to modify the existing grant agreement with Shanti Project for the provision of Animal Bonding Services for Isolated and Medically Vulnerable Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities; for the period of April 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022; in the additional amount of \$100,000 plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed of \$993,084. (Melissa McGee will present the item)

DAS staff Melissa McGee presented this item requesting a modification to the existing Shanti Project grant for an additional \$100,000 to support Animal Bonding Services for Isolated and Medically Vulnerable Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities. This modification would increase both clients served and service unit care in navigation, peer volunteer and support hours and provides a 12% increase in funding as well as 12% increase in funding all deliverables.

Commissioner Jung requested more specific information on how funds will be utilized and questioned a specific budget item and presenter McGee agreed to follow up to provide more information. It is noted that this was satisfactorily completed. and presenter McGee said that is correct for April and May. Presenter McGee also clarified that the some of the funds will go towards increasing pet supplies and increasing service units.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

A motion to approve.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Absent: Commissioner Michelle Carrington

14H. Requesting authorization to enter into a new contract with Central Communications for the provision of 24-Hour APS/FCS/PC/PG Hotline Answering Service during the period of April 1, 2022 through June 30, 2026; in the amount of \$106,250 plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$116,875. (Akiles Ceron will present the item)

DAS staff Carrie Wong presented this item and asked for approval for Central Communications to provide a 24 hour hot line and back up coverage for four adult protective services programs.

Commissioner Jung asked about the public access to callers, specifically if there has been discussion regarding how they provide service to non-English callers and deaf or hearing-impaired callers. Presenter Wong replied that they do have language translators available as well as TTD for the hearing impaired.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

A motion to approve.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Absent: Commissioner Michelle Carrington

14I. Requesting authorization to modify the existing grant agreement with Catholic Charities for the provision of the Community Services program during the period of April 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023; in the additional amount of \$147,740 plus a 10% contingency for a revised total not to exceed \$1,849,499. (Staff: Tiyana Coleman will present this item)

Staff Tiyana Coleman, an analyst with the Office of Community Partnership, presented this item to modify the grant with Catholic Charities in the amount of \$147,740 plus a 10% contingency. This modification will go towards providing adults with disabilities meals and establish community and an opportunity for socialization. Activities include pet therapy, entertainment, and exercise classes.

Commissioner Jung asked if this modification would go towards a continuing project with Breaking Bread or is this new and if it will serve the same number of people, presenter Coleman responded saying this will serve additional clients and more meals.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was a caller call in the cue but unfortunately due to technical difficulties the caller was lost but we did let them know they could email the commission directly through the secretary Ravi Durbeej with any questions or comments.

A motion to approve.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Absent: Commissioner Michelle Carrington

14J. Requesting authorization to modify the existing grant agreements with multiple providers for the provision of Nutrition Services; during the period of April 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025, in the additional amount of \$5,145,073 plus a 10% contingency for a revised total amount not to exceed \$31,328,793. (Tiffany Kearny will present the item)

DAS staff Tiffany Kearny presented this item on nutrition services and let the commission know that nutrition security with adults with disabilities has always been a serious issue but the pandemic has exacerbated these issues. This item seeks to modify eight separate grants to add vital funding for nutrition support in the community. Those grants and locations are: The Bayview Senior Center Congregate - Nutrition Services for Older Adults, Episcopal Community Services – Congregate Nutrition Services for Adults with Disabilities, Kimochi Inc. – Congregate Nutrition Services for Older Adults, Kimochi Inc. – Home Delivered Meal Nutrition Services for Older Adults, Self Help for the Elderly – Congregate Nutrition for Older Adults, Self Help for the Elderly - Home Delivered Meal Nutrition Services for Older Adults, and Self Help for the Elderly - Home Delivered Meal Nutrition Services for Adults with Disabilities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

A motion to approve.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Absent: Commissioner Michelle Carrington

That concluded the action items on the agenda.

Announcements

No announcements this month

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:59pm by President Knutzen