

DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY AND AGING SERVICES
(DAS) COMMISSION

MINUTES March 6, 2024

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME/ President Spears

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

Excused Absence: Sascha Bittner and Barbara Sklar

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 February 7, 2024 Commission Meeting Minutes from
The motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes:

No public comment.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT/ Kelly Dearman

Thanked the commission and let them know it is federal social services month as well as federal nutrition month and there is no real update on the budget, but we will have many cuts but hopefully not to existing programs

This is month 3 of SB43 and the new conservatorship laws and we are seeing better communications amongst departments to help those in need.

The ASA Conference is in San Francisco and there will be 2 presentations from DAS on the CSA and APS on older adults on abuse and neglect.

Executive Director Dearman thanked everyone for their hard work.

DAS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH MARCH 2024

- Director Dearman and the DAS Commission thanked all the members of the Legal Division of the Public Administrator / Public Guardian Team.
- All 19 members of this legal team were honored by Director Dearman and the Commission
- Janet Boesnecker thanked the commission and thanked everyone from their team for all their hard work and dedication.

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT/Diane Lawrence

President Lawrence thanked the commission and spoke on the Adv Council that met on 2/21/24 that welcomed 3 new members. The BOS will also approve a District 4 appointee. Commission Bittner asked about the training on Ableism and Cindy Cauffman provided an update on DAS last month.

We approved the 1st draft of the Area Plan and the Dignity Fund members gave the council an update.

Consumer Grievance process was also adopted and a site visit at the Mission Neighborhood Center was also presented that included a food bank and intergenerational activities which is very inspiring.

Commissioner Knutzen asked about improving the sites and they are working on an official response that will happen at the next council meeting.

Commissioner Jung asked why there is no Spanish language on site but President Lawrence clarified it's just the website

Commissioner Pennington asked about what districts are still open and its 9 & 10.

Joint Legislative Council/ TACC Report/Diane Lawrence

President Lawrence spoke on the first JLC meeting of 2024 on 2/21/24 and presented the commission with the full list of bills that are being tracked currently both federally and on the state level. They try to track mostly bills that pertain to DAS and their constituents. Most bills stall on the floor but they do note the ones that move forward. AB2110 is being watched closely.

President Spears asked when is the Older Americans Act being reworked and President Lawrence said it hasn't been worked on since the early 1990's. Director Dearman added some clarification and President Spears asked if it will change the funding and Dearman replied no.

Also asked if this will change how this is worked on at the state level and Dearman said it might change how some AAA's work.

TACC first quarter meeting where Cal Commission on Aging asked for a full report and TACC is looking into modernizing their reports.

CASE REPORT/ Judith Dancer

CASE Report presented by Judith Dancer where she spoke on being the new co-chairperson for CASE and introduced herself to the commission. CASE was looking into UBER fraud on older adults. CASE is looking forward to dispersing the \$6.1 million dollar fund and waiting on the March Controller's report to see if the Dignity Fund will be available.

Item 9 is GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT.

No public comment

Item 10 OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

Item 11 NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATIONAL ONLY ITEM NOT REQUIRING A VOTE FROM THE COMMISSION

- A. Review of the draft FY 2025 – FY 2028 Area Plan for the California Department of Aging (Staff: Executive Director Kelly Dearman and Adithi Vellore will present this Item).

Presenters Vellore and Director Dearman thanked the commission and are presenting the AREA

Presenter Vellore spoke on the PLAN FY 2024- 2028. Purpose of the Area Plan:

- Older American's Act requirement
- Must submit a 4-year area plan
- Assess demographic trends and population needs.
- Outline agency goals and plans
- This plan schedules the agency's plan for the next four years.

Summarized the DAS Planning Process through shared goals and practices. And identified the Area Plan structure and services and oversight aligned with the Older American's Act requirements.

Spoke on how older adults are the fastest growing age group in San Francisco and the diversity and ethnic makeup of the senior population. We can also see that there is a decline in the Black older population in San Francisco from 9% to currently 5%. They also chronicled the disparity of needs of this population.

Adults with disabilities found:

- Find barriers to their needs
- Social connectivity and mental health needs are not met
- Would benefit from expanded tech resources
- Safety through public and assisted transportation
- Elder members of the LGBTQ+ populations needed more care and access to services

Needs assessment and targets:

- Social isolation
- Low-income
- Limited English speakers
- Communities of color
- LGBTQ+ community
- Individuals at risk of institutionalization

Director Dearman spoke on the Narrative Goals and Objectives:

- Aligns with the agency goals
- Promote equity, inclusion, and accessibility
- Strong workforce and collaboration
- Health and Well-Being

Commissioner Knutzen thanked them for this excellent report and we really appreciate it and how well written and presented this report is. And talked how important public transport is for older adults.

Commissioner Jung agreed with Commissioner Knutzen and appreciated the work behind it and the cohesiveness of this report and the community themes.

Vice President Lum asked about if there's been any effort to cooperate with other veteran services to work together for these services and presenter Vellore replied that they do and Mike Zaugg spoke that housing development is a little outside of DAS scope but they work with veteran sites such as nutrition and development. Deputy Director Kauffman also spoke saying that they are working closer with other city departments for all issues moving forward.

Commissioner Pennington thanked them and gave her a level of confidence as to where the funding will be going and she is happy to see that.

President Spears first thanked the presenters and asked about the funding level and how will it change through the next 4 years? Presenter Vellore said they submit a 4 year plan and Deputy Director Mike Zaugg said that this is funded through the federal level and then through the state.

President Spears also asked about CalAIM and how this will affect and Deputy Director Kauffman answered that the Dept of Public Health and Public Services is in the process of forming a steering committee and just last week they identified the important stakeholders.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public Comment

**ITEMS B THROUGH D ARE ACTION ITEMS AND REQUIRES A VOTE BY
THE COMMISSION**

- B. Review and Adoption of DAS – Office of Community Partnerships' Program
Memorandum #33: Consumer Grievance Process. (Staff: Mike Zaugg to present).

Presenter Zaugg spoke on Review and Adoption of DAS – Office of Community
Partnerships' Program Memorandum #33: Consumer Grievance Process

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

A motion to approve from Commissioner Pennington

The motion was unanimously approved.

- C. Requesting a vote by the Commission to reappoint President Diane Lawrence to the DAS Advisory Council for a two-year term as a DAS Commission Appointee.

The DAS Nominating Committee member Commissioner Jung spoke on the qualifications of President Lawrence and all of her hard work and dedication, passion and time to the advisory council and we do appreciate and the nominating committee voted to reappoint to another 2 year term.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

A motion to approve from Commissioner Jung.

The motion was unanimously approved.

- D. Requesting authorization to modify the existing grant agreement with Self-Help for the Elderly for the provision of CalFresh Healthy Living; during the period of March 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024, in the additional amount of \$138,136 plus a 10% contingency for a revised total amount not to exceed \$595,279. (Leah Walton will present the item)

Presenter Walton is requesting authorization to modify the existing grant agreement with Self-Help for the Elderly for the provision of CalFresh Healthy Living; during the period of March 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024, in the additional amount of \$138,136 plus a 10% contingency for a revised total amount not to exceed \$595,279.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

A motion to approve from Commissioner Knutzen.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Announcements – President Spears spoke on the America Society on Aging conference that will be happening in San Francisco later this month.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:09am by President Spears