

DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY AND AGING SERVICES

(DAS) COMMISSION

MINUTES October 1, 2025

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME/ Vice President Nelson Lum

Vice President Nelson Lum 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 Vice President Nelson Lum, Martha Knutzen, Wanda Jung, Linda Parker Pennington

Excused Absence: President Janet Y. Spears, Barbara Sklar, Sascha Bittner

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 Jung

The motion was unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT/ Kelly Dearman

DAS Director Kelly Dearman acknowledged the government shutdown and reassured that safety net programs and funding will continue for the remainder of the calendar year. Director Dearman will monitor this and hopes it will dissolve soon. The Dignity Fund Community Needs Assessment is underway with preliminary findings expected by December and a report expected between March and April. Director Dearman also reported that the number of IHSS overdue

cases under Community First Choice Option (CFCO) had a 57% reduction from July to September. Director Dearman spoke on the burden of CFCO penalties on IHSS and shared that the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) is working on a legislative proposal that will decrease penalties to counties.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). DAS will host an all-staff hybrid event on October 28th which will feature author and disability rights advocate Alice Wong and launch DAS' Disability Employment Resource Group. Director Dearman hopes this event will elevate voices of the disability community and position DAS as leaders of disability-inclusive public service.

Commissioner Pennington, Knutzen and Wanda acknowledged IHSS efforts with managing caseloads under CFCO. Commissioner Pennington asked if reduced staffing levels are part of the challenge. Director Dearman confirmed and added IHSS is shifting around teams, offering OT and doing what they can.

DAS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH October 2025 Sharon Vernon who is a Social Worker with In-Home Supportive Services.

- Director Dearman spoke on Sharon's dedication, professionalism and compassion. Director Dearman noted Sharon's rapid growth and consistency to go above and beyond for clients by ensuring they are supported and connected during home-visits.
- Sharon expressed that they are honored to receive a reward for a job they feel most passionate doing.

ADVISORY COUNCIL/TACC REPORT presented by Allen Cooper

Presenter Cooper reported that during the last Dignity Fund Oversight Advisory Committee meeting, members had concerns about restructuring through the Commission Streamlining Taskforce and felt that their role was not reflected appropriately. Lastly, the committee acknowledged DAS' effort with the Dignity Fund Community Needs Assessment and suggested they outreach possibly overlooked populations such as the homeless and people unaware of DAS Services.

Commissioner Pennington asked about districts with vacancies and if assistance with outreach is needed. Cooper responded that DF OAC applicants first reach out to Executive Secretary Durbeej to check their district's vacancy before submitting their application to the District Supervisor. Secondly, nominees for the Advisory Council are sent to the committee.

CASE REPORT/ presented by Fiona Hinze: No report this month

Item 9 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

No general public comment.

Item 10 OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

Item 11 NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM A IS AN ACTION ITEM THAT REQUIRES A VOTE BY THE COMMISSION

- A. New grant with APA Family Support Services, for the period of October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026, in the amount of \$77,144 plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$84,858 (Presented by Leah Walton)

Presenter Walton is requesting authorization to enter a new grant agreement with APA Family Support Services for CalFresh Outreach and Expansion Services for the period of October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026, in the amount of \$77,144 plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$84,858.

Commissioner Jung asked if outreach is mainly to seniors or SSI clients and which San Francisco communities have a lower rate of CalFresh participation. Walton replied that outreach is mainly to seniors due to funding and the identified communities are on the state's data dashboard which can be viewed at the county level. Commissioner Jung also asked about the staff's language capacity. Walton listed 10 languages in addition to English that the organization has access to; other languages can be accessed through interpreters.

Commissioner Knutzen asked the role of the four listed consulting professional services. Leah answered that APA Family Support Services has family resource centers, will conduct outreach and application assistance, and intends to have partnerships with the listed consulting professional services for pop up services at partnered centers.

Commissioner Pennington asked if the 219 CalFresh applicants reflected the number of people receiving services. Leah clarified that applications may cover households which can obtain more than 1 person and there is no UTC goal for this contract.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment

A motion to approve from Vice President Lum

The motion was unanimously approved

Announcements

Vice President Lum announced Fleet Week will still happen on Thursday October 9th despite the shutdown and the Navy band will have a free performance during the block party on the 1500 block of Powell Street sponsored by the American Legion Cathay Post 384.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:12am by Vice President Nelson Lum