

Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS)

Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, November 19, 2025

TIME: 10-11:30am

PLACE: 1650 Mission St. 5th Floor, Golden Gate Room

Members Present: Allen Cooper, Margaret Graf, Chris Dillon, Harry Breaux, Lisa Cook, Morningstar Vancil, Beverly Karnatz, Tia Small, & Ivy Chang, Daisy Jiminez, and Marcy Adelman.

Members Absent Excused: Diane Lawrence, Juliet Rothman, and Darlene Ramlose.

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

Roll Call/Secretary

Motion to approve the October 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes: Approved.

General Public Comment: No public comment

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

Megan Elliott, the new permanent Deputy Director of Programs, introduced herself and shared her background, expressing how happy she is to return to DAS and to work again with Kelly and the team.

We are saddened with the passing of Alice Wong, a renowned disability and accessibility champion in San Francisco who served as a mentor to me, and the Board of Supervisors honored Alice yesterday in recognition of her legacy.

We are extremely proud of San Francisco's rapid response in supporting CalFresh recipients during the recent government shutdown.

Cindy Kauffman provided an update on the Dignity Fund Oversight and Advisory Committee, noting that the committee received 6,000 survey responses, three times more than the previous cycle. She also spoke on the recommendations from the Streamlining Task Force and how it will affect both the DFOAC and the Advisory Council.

The city is now in the final stages of budget discussions before the final budget is sent to BOS for approval. Lastly, I recently attended the C4A conference where the California Association of

Area Agencies on Aging met and focused on strengthening services for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers.

President's Report by President Dr. Allen Cooper:

During his President's Report, Dr. Allen Cooper asked the Council whether they wished to hold a December meeting, and the group agreed to proceed.

He then shared his perspective on the upcoming changes to the Advisory Council, noting that the Streamlining Task Force has issued recommendations to merge the Dignity Fund Oversight and Advisory Committee with the Advisory Council.

Dr. Cooper spoke at length about the structure of the proposed new council and introduced a motion for the Council to prepare a unified letter to the Streamlining Task Force to be voted on next month.

Director Dearman as well as Deputy Director Kauffman provided clarifications on several related issues, including the Dignity Fund budget and the fact that San Francisco remains in a stronger financial position than many counties due to its backup funding.

Council members also discussed submitting a finalized unified letter of support to the task force next month.

Old Business: none

New Business:

IHSS REPORT: Megan Elliott

Megan Elliott provided an overview of the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program, beginning with a description of how IHSS fits within the broader DAS structure alongside APS, Legal Assistance, and Ancillary Programs. She outlined the different modes of service provision and explained that IHSS funds services that allow aged, blind, or disabled individuals to safely remain in their homes.

She noted that IHSS currently supports approximately 30,000 enrolled clients and reviewed the eligibility criteria for the program. Megan also explained the role of Social Workers in conducting assessments, emphasizing that assessments must follow state-mandated guidelines to determine service needs.

Megan discussed current challenges, including increased applications and workforce shortages, both of which have contributed to a backlog in service delivery. She described the range of services IHSS provides, including domestic services, non-medical personal care, and paramedical services.

She then detailed the three modes of IHSS service provision: the Independent Provider Mode, the County Contractor Mode, and the Homemaker Mode. She provided a thorough explanation of each mode, how individuals can become IHSS providers, and how clients may select providers through the registry system.

Megan concluded by highlighting HomeBridge, a key IHSS partner and the largest provider of caregiver training, which plays a vital role in supporting the caregiver workforce and enhancing service quality.

Took questions on the overview and members thanked her and asked if other city departments have programs as well to help seniors stay in their homes.

Members spoke on accessibility of services for seniors and the backlog between providers and clients.

Reports from the Field:

Announcements/Reminders:

Adjournment: 11:37 am

Next Meeting: Wednesday December 17, 2025