

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

DATE: Wednesday, February 18, 2026

TIME: 10-11:30am

PLACE: 2 Gough Street 3rd Floor, Wisdom Room

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

Members Absent Excused: Marcy Adelman, Darlene Ramlose, Juliet Rothman, Lisa Cook

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

Roll Call/Secretary

Motion to approve the January 21, 2026 Meeting Minutes: President Cooper raised a question regarding a sentence in the minutes and will follow up with Ravi for clarification. A motion to approve the minutes, subject to any necessary correction, was seconded and carried.

General Public Comment: No public comment.

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

Director Dearman shared a brief budget overview, noting that more budget details will be presented later today at the DAS Commission meeting. It was noted that the City continues to face significant budget challenges and state and federal funding levels remain uncertain. On a positive note, it was observed that despite fiscal challenges there are signs of economic recovery in the City, including increased activity and tourism, especially the City's recent hosting of the Super Bowl.

Director Dearman continued with an update on the work completed by the Commission Streamlining Task Force. The Task Force has recommended to consolidate the Advisory Council and the Dignity Fund Oversight and Advisory Council. The City Attorney is drafting legislation with Task Force's recommendations and will send it to the Board of Supervisors by March 1. The Board of Supervisors will hold public hearings on the drafted legislation by April 1.

The Director's Report concluded by noting a draft Community Needs Assessment (CNA) is in progress. A joint DAS Commission and OAC Dignity Fund meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1 to review CNA findings and recommendations. Advisory Council members were encouraged to attend.

President's Report by President Dr. Allen Cooper:

No updates shared.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Draft of Annual Area Plan Update FY 26-27 Presented by Izzy Clayter:

Presenter Izzy Clayter provided a high-level overview of the Draft Area Plan Update, which included section highlights, population estimates, anticipated service levels, and a review of goals and objectives. [For more details see presentation slides on the Advisory Council website.]

Council members raised concerns regarding transportation affordability, potential service reductions, and IHSS access for individuals experiencing homelessness. There was also discussion about eviction prevention and funding for the Home Safe program. Staff clarified that although the Home Safe program was originally scheduled to sunset statewide at the end of the previous fiscal year, sustained advocacy resulted in a one-time allocation for the current fiscal year and FY 28. As a result, Home Safe will continue for the next three years on a smaller scale, with a primary focus on eviction prevention.

Staff emphasized that while budget constraints are significant, the department continues to advocate to ensure budget balancing does not come at the expense of older adults and people with disabilities.

The final Area Plan Update will be presented at the March 18 meeting for Council approval.

Site Visits:

Russian American Community Services Association – Tia Small:

Council member Tia Small reported on a site visit to the Russian American Community Services Association (RACS), located at 300 Anza Street. Tia found the RACS website to be one of the easiest senior services websites she has ever navigated, with service offerings listed clearly on the home page, easy drop down menus, and clear descriptions.

During her in-person visit, Tia observed that the facility is clean, accessible, and utilizes its small space to provide clients with services efficiently and pleasantly. RACS provides approximately 300 meals per day, half of which are delivered to clients' homes, and operates with a staff of 17. During her visit, Tia spoke with the RACS Executive Director about current issues. Funding was noted as a significant challenge. DAS funding was exhausted by June 30 and was not replenished until early September. RACS expressed a strong need for an emergency fund. They also reported ongoing technical problems with the Get Care system. Finally, RACS leadership noted impacts

from being redistricted from District 1 to District 2, reporting a lack of communication from the District 2 Supervisor compared to the previous level of engagement from District 1.

Reports from the Field:

LGBTQ Updates – Dr. Marcy Adelman (Absent – no report.)

CSL Priorities and Updates – Diane Lawrence (No report.)

Announcements/Reminders:

On February 12 Self Help for the Elderly held a grand opening for a new congregate meal program at Stonestown YMCA. The event was well attended.

Black History Month was recognized and a recommendation was shared to visit the Museum of African Diaspora.

Health update shared by Council member Vancil who will take a temporary leave for a medical procedure.

Reminder to Council members that the March 18 meeting will require a quorum for the Area Plan vote.

Adjournment: 11:06am

Next Meeting: Wednesday March 18, 2026