

# DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY AND AGING SERVICES

## (DAS) COMMISSION

### MINUTES March 4, 2026

#### CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME/ President Janet Y. 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: President Janet Y. Spears, Vice President Nelson Lum, Linda Parker Pennington, Martha Knutzen, Wanda Jung, Sascha Bittner, Department Director Kelly Dearman

Excused Absence: Barbara Sklar


#### 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 Bittner

The motion  was unanimously approved.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT/Kelly Dearman

Director Dearman reported that DAS began visits to CBO's and difficult conversations about the upcoming budget. Recent news about staffing cuts was also shared. Director Dearman ended the report with hope for more community involvement and acknowledgment of March as Social Worker's month.

Commissioner Bitner also celebrated Social Worker's month. They announced early leave for today's meeting but will do anything to help keep the community in mind. Director Dearman reaffirmed that community is a priority.

DAS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH March 2026 to Caitlyn "Catie" Quinn, who is a Public Health Nurse in the Clinical and Quality Improvement Unit.

- Director Dearman celebrated Catie's compassionate services through trauma informed technique and client centered planning. Moreover, Catie advocates for clients and their independence and also informs families and conducts home visits. Catie is an example of how lasting change happens one person, one community at a time.
- Catie thanked the reward as a big honor. Caitie feels lucky to love her job, city and team, in a city she loves with a team she loves and serves the wonderful community.

Public Comment

ADVISORY COUNCIL & TACC Report by President Allen Cooper

Presenter Cooper was absent, the report was sent.

CASE REPORT presented by Fiona Hinze

Presenter Hinze reported that CASE and Dignity Fund Coalition are hosting an event for SPWG to review the CNA Draft and provide feedback. Next steps include presenting to DAS Commission and the Advisory Oversight Committee. Director Hinze expressed appreciation for HSA Planning and announced feedback will be presented in April. In response to DAS' budget presentation, Director Hinze reported that CBO meetings are underway and is urging DAS to have a transparent and collaborative process so the community can best advocate.

Item 9 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

Commenters from the Community Living Campaign and Senior Beat, an online magazine, advocated for the continuation of their employment programs for aging adults. These programs foster inclusive workplaces and provide stable income to combat age discrimination in the workforce. Commenters said funding for seniors and aging is part of DAS' core goals of DEIBA. A comment read by Executive Secretary Durbeej stated seniors are not a silent majority, SF Reserve helps them stay connected to the city and contribute to their pension. Commenters are asking for detailed list of cuts and urging the commission to tell the Mayor to reconsider priorities.

Commenters from Felton Institution explained that their employment program is cost-free to the community, provides mentorship and training, and fulfills the work requirement for public benefits. Commenters advocated that aging adults are increasingly unhoused and they need champions, but this is all at risk if programs are cut. DAS agreed to help replace the Benefits to Work program after it was cut but they were unsuccessful. Commenters asked DAS Commission to look at cost analysis and consider Workforce Development.

Commenters from Booker T. Washington described their Senior Victory Program as the longest standing, intergenerational space, dedicated to black seniors and disabilities. Fillmore's redevelopment, such as taking away Safeway, caused mental health disruption. Outreach programs are needed to help the community cope. Additionally, DAS is choosing to eliminate, we will lose 117K we will have to lay off ppl and cut programs on July 1, this is racist and unacceptable, lives are non-discretionary and the services Booker T. provides is core.

Commenters from Tech Institute advocated for digital equity for aging adults and people with disabilities. Digital inequity is a social determinate of health and inclusion. 242K people face growing barriers to access benefits. For instance, applying for SSA is online and users must understand MFA or else they are locked out for almost 3 hours to talk to someone. The Office of Digital Equity and its associated positions are going to be cut, please reconsider cuts and keep digital equity core to many of its mission.

Commenters from SF Village and Next Village advocated for funding their programs and said social connection is necessary for healthy living. The needs and population of aging adults is

growing faster. Cuts threaten staff who organizes about half of programs. Also, cutting programs will not save money but will guarantee effects will come later.

Total of 17 people commented

Item 10 OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

Item 11 APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the consent agenda action this item constitutes a consent agenda and is considered to be routine by disability and aging services commission and will be acted upon by a single vote of the commission. There will be no separate discussion of this item unless a member of the commission or the public requests, in which event the matter will be removed from the consent calendar and considered a separate item

Self Help from the Elderly MIPPA program is under vote for its funding amount to be revised from the original amount of \$337,035 with an additional \$28,508 to the revised amount of \$365,543 from local and federal funding. The program's modification term will be set from March 1, 2025, to June 30, 2028.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment

A motion to approve from Commissioner Jung

The motion was unanimously approved.

Item 11 NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM A IS AN ACTION ITEM THAT DOES NOT REQUIRE A VOTE BY THE  
COMMISSION

A. Review of the Draft FY 2026 – FY 2027 Area Plan Update for the California Department of Aging. (Executive Director Kelly Dearman and Izzy Clayter will present this Item)

As part of the Older American Act's funding requirement, DAS submits a plan every 4 years with updated population trends and strategies to address needs. Presenter Clayter provided updates on San Francisco's demographics which included people over the age of 60 and 60+year olds in poverty. Additionally, Presenter Claytor went over anticipated service level changes.

Director Dearman presented updates on DAS' goals and objectives

1. **Improve Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility:** the DCC had its grand opening in July 2025, and hosted events made available online and in person.

2. **Develop Strong Workforce and Collaboration:** the ADF Workgroup gathers recommendations from various partners to create an Age and Disability Friendly San Francisco. ADF has facilitated projects such as increasing ramp taxis for on demand wheelchair accessible transportation and implementing digital inclusion standards for a fully accessible municipal website with over 40 participating departments.

3. **Advance Employment and Economic Security:** Veteran benefits are more accessible through online filing and taxi vouchers to get to service appointments.

4. **Foster Health and Well-being:** The department's Online Resource Directory (ORD) will launch in Spring 2026. The next phase is to integrate the ORD with DAS GetCare records by September.

5. **Ensure Safety and Care** The Long-Term Care Ombudsman achieved 100% coverage of Skilled Nursing Facilities, resolved 84% of complaints. Moreover, a reported 1,350 consultations, 2,620 unduplicated clients, and 6,440 were completed.

DAS staff will incorporate feedback then will return on April 1<sup>st</sup> for final approval.

Commissioner Jung asked about budget cuts on digital access. Office of Community Partnerships Director Mike Zaugg responded that digital navigator services will have a small

reduction starting June 20<sup>th</sup> however, digital equity is core to our services, so programs like SFConnected and Tech At Home are not facing any reductions.

Commissioner Jung also asked about the absence of units in Nutrition Counseling and the dramatic decline of disease prevention and health promotion. Office of Community Partnerships Nutrition Program Manager Tiffany Kearney explained that there are no units because it was a declining service over the years and the 2 providers, OnLok, Meals on Wheels, stopped nutrition counseling. Alternatively, all providers have nutrition education at a minimum of every quarter, based on needs and client interest. Kearney also answered that the CDA redefined service units by each class regardless of attendants. For instance, before 6 attendances to a class equates to 6 units, now 1 class equates to 1 unit. Commissioner Spears asked for the number of units using the updated definition. Kearney responded that since last year's procurement, the funding is the same.

Commissioner Knutzen appreciated the recommendations for BIPOC communities and gave personal thanks to efforts in collaborating with Muni to talk about transportation needs for aging adults and people with disabilities. Commissioner Jung complimented the report as being robust, acknowledged how it is useful to see "the big picture" of work done by staff and expressed excitement for DAS' progress, particularly the online portal.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comment

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

B. Requesting authorization to modify the existing grant agreements with multiple providers for the provision of Nutrition Services for the period of March 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029; in the amount of \$1,051,557 plus a 10% contingency for a total grant amount not to exceed \$9,524,959. (Tiffany Dang will present the item)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comment

A motion to approve from Commissioner Sklar

The motion was unanimously approved.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 10:51 AM by President Janet Spears