

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

DATE: Wednesday, March 18, 2026

TIME: 10-11:30am

PLACE: 2 Gough Street 3rd Floor, Wisdom Room

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

Roll Call/Secretary

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

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

Motion to approve the February 18, 2026 Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes was seconded and then voted to approve.

General Public Comment: A member of the public spoke on their thoughts of the Final Area Plan

Executive Director's Report, presented by DAS Deputy Director Cindy Kauffman:

Director Dearman is currently in Washington, D.C. attending the USAging policy briefing. Locally, the department remains engaged in ongoing budget briefings, with the goal of avoiding additional cuts. However, some staffing reductions are anticipated, and planning efforts are underway. The final budget is expected to be completed in July. Director Dearman also noted that March is Social Workers Month, recognizing the important contributions of social workers.

Members inquired about the nature of the targeted budget reductions. Director Dearman acknowledged that the process has been challenging and involves making difficult decisions. She also discussed the potential impact on contracts and programs that may be subject to reduction or elimination.

Presidents Report, presented by Allen Cooper:

President Allen Cooper reported on the TACC meeting and discussed respite care in Marin County, noting that seniors currently make up 30% of the population, projected to reach 40% by the end of the decade. He explained that the program is church-based and largely volunteer-run to reduce costs, while in San Francisco, low-cost dementia care is supported through SF Aging.

President Cooper also addressed Proposition 1, noting that while it increases funding for mental health services, the funds will be administered by the state and may not be fully directed to services. Commissioners expressed concern about the reduced local control over these funds.

New Business:

Advisory Council Vote to Approve the FY 26-27 Final Area Plan Update Report for the California Department of Aging:

Presenter Izzy Clayter provided an overview of the Final Area Plan Update and the department's work on the plan.

Members raised concerns regarding the use of outdated data and discrepancies between funding figures and the updated budget. Presenter Adithi Vellore explained that, as part of a four-year plan cycle, overlapping data periods are used and funding reflects Dignity Fund projections. Presenter also noted that the reason they presented this proposal as drafts to the Council twice before, were for council members to raise concerns then and have time for edits before this final vote.

Members requested that their concerns regarding funding and data usage be reflected in the record prior to the vote.

The motion was put to a vote and passed unanimously.

FY 26-27 Budget Presentation by Alex Gleason & Genevieve Herrera

Presenters provided an overview of the budget, noting a projected \$936 million deficit over the next two years. The Mayor's Office has directed DAS and all City departments to implement \$400 million in total reductions. At the federal level, H.R. 1 is expected to have an additional negative \$300 million impact on the HSA budget.

For the HSA overall, a \$10.5 million reduction has been directed, with DAS responsible for \$2.9 million in targeted cuts. Proposed DAS service reductions include Access & Empowerment, Case Management, Community Connections, and Self-Care & Safety. As of February 18, DAS is not expecting the \$3 million Dignity Fund allocation, pending further direction from the Mayor's Office.

Members requested clarification on the structure of the \$10.5 million reduction and whether it applies annually or across the two-year period. It was clarified that the \$10.5 million represents a total reduction over two years, not an annual cut.

Presenter Gleason reviewed slides outlining detailed DAS budget proposals across divisions.

Members also discussed high IHSS caseloads and the relationship between the Public Authority and DAS.

The department is currently in the Mayor's phase of the budget process. DAS has submitted its proposed budget, and the Mayor has until June 1 to submit the final budget to the Board of Supervisors.

Site Visit Report:

Woolf House by Allen Cooper

President Cooper reported that the Woolf House website is not easily accessible, though information is available in both English and Mandarin. He noted that the Self-Help for the Elderly website includes a page for the site; however, it is minimal. A monthly schedule, weekly activities, and virtual programming were listed.

President Cooper shared that Woolf House is located on Folsom Street, but the address is at 801 Howard Street, and is operated by a nonprofit providing low-income senior housing. He described the site as a large, easily navigable space, serving approximately 30–40 individuals for meals, and noted that the food quality was very good.

No Announcements

Meeting Adjourned at 11:26am