

# DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY AND AGING SERVICES

## (DAS) COMMISSION

### MINUTES April 1, 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 for this Joint Meeting with the Dignity Fund and Oversight Advisory Committee and the Mayor's Disability Council:

#### DAS Commissioners:

Present: Commissioners: President Janet Y. Spears, Vice President Nelson Lum, Linda Parker Pennington, Martha Knutzen, Wanda Jung, Sascha Bittner, Barbara Sklar

Excused Absence: Martha Knutzen

#### DFOAC Members:

Present Chair Vince Crisostomo, Vice-Chair Jennifer Walsh, Allen Cooper, Marcy Adelman, Ramona Davies, Wanda Jung, and Dianne Lawrence.

Excused Absence: Sandy Mori and Martha Knutzen

#### MDC Members:

Keontae Clark was the only member present with all other members absent.

#### 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 welcomed the month of April as Neuro-Diversity month which celebrates unique strengths of the neurodivergent community and shifts public perception from deficit-based views to acceptance to improve workplaces and schools.

In department news, Director Dearman reported that the DAS budget met the \$10.5 M goal through staff and services cut. The budget was sent to the mayor; next is BOS. It was also shared that the Dignity Fund will receive the \$3 M allocation fund for FY 26-27. This is based on the policy that allocates additional funds based on the city's revenue as determined by the controller. DAS scheduled a meeting with DF OAC and the budget team at the end of April to discuss changes.

In policy work, Director Dearman attended the Annual US on Aging Policy Briefing in DC and met policy makers and spoke about reauthorizing the Older Americans Act which protects Medicaid. Dearman referenced a recent briefing on the economic and health value of the aging network which connects better care coordination to better health care outcomes and lower health care costs, generating \$3.47 for every dollar.

In upcoming events, Supervisor Sauter is having a hearing on proposed budget impacts on April 15<sup>th</sup>. On April 16<sup>th</sup> 10AM, Supportive Care Collaborative will host a press conference about advance care planning on the city hall steps, where Director Dearman will be one of the speakers.

Kelly will send Commissioner Sklar another email about the Dignity Fund allocation ##. President Spears asked about US Aging events and Kelly listed the Policy Briefing in DC on March 16<sup>th</sup> and the Annual Conference and Tradeshow on July 18-21 in San Diego. Commissioner Bittner thanked Kelly and spoke on how people with disabilities can also have dyslexia, so environments like school and work can be challenging. Commissioner Bittner asked about a detailed report about budget cuts and for advocacy guidance, Director Dearman responded that a report was sent out and the two will talk offline.

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

- Amanda was not present; the commission will present her the award at the May meeting.

ADVISORY COUNCIL & TACC Report by President Allen Cooper

Presenter Cooper reported on Marin County's new respite program which is church based and primarily staffed with volunteers so it will be low cost. The program is facing challenges with licensing in California so far there are 2 private, Presenter Cooper mentioned IOA as a provider in SF. Presenter Cooper recommended commission to consider dementia care. (fix order)

Presenter Cooper also shared an advocacy opportunity. Due to the California Behavioral Act, funding for behavioral services will be transferred from county to state which will reduce funds from 60M to 30M.

Presenter Cooper also reported that during the last Advisory Council meeting, the budget presentation was well received.

Presenter Cooper reported on a site visit to SHE's Woolf House Senior Center. The building has 120 units and no mobility problems. The senior center is not publicly visible, case management is not available, meals are prepared offsite, fish is disfavored, and it closes at 2pm. Activities include dance exercises twice a week, watching the news in Chinese and BINGO.

Presenter Cooper reported that the SHE's webpage on Woolf House is limited to the monthly menu and activities. Presenter Cooper hopes this is being investigated.

Questions:

Commissioner Jung asked if there will be corrective action on SHE's website, Presenter Cooper explained that this is the second time the Director of Community Partnerships is aware of the issue. Address. Howard and 5<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Jung also asked if services at Woolf House are available to non-residents, Presenter Cooper explained that services are available to non-residents however there are few of them; there is another place nearby.

CASE REPORT presented by Andrea Lazorik

Presenter Lazorik was introduced and thanked Director Hinze. Andrea is the Director of Home Match, a homeless prevention program funded by DSHS and Front Porch Community and Services. The program is available to people ages 18+ but most clients are low-income older adults.

Presenter Lazorik reported that during March's meeting, DAS presented DF CNA findings and SPWG and CASE membership asked these key questions:

- Based on findings, how does DAS maintain and expand service levels for DF eligible services with growing demand and budget cuts?
- How will DAS continue to have partnerships with CBOs that are focused providing equitable services, especially with subgroups eliminated and budget cuts?

Presenter Lazorik challenged a quote from Mayor Laurie about making budget cuts now and focusing on core services to avoid difficult choices later by justifying DAS' services as core services and that preventative care is cost saving. CASE requests a list of service providers affected by service cuts and amount of each cut to create a contingency plan on unmet needs. Presenter Lazorik confirmed receipt of Kelly's email of detailed cuts and expressed uncertainty of why DAS did not name all service providers.

Lastly, Presenter Lazorik announced that April's CASE meeting will invite the People's Coalition to collaborate on the contingency plan.

#### Item 9 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

#### 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

Curry Senior Center is under vote for its funding amount to be revised from the original amount of \$2,220,382 with an additional amount of \$15,496 to revised amount of \$2,235,878 from local funding. The program's modification term will be set from April 1, 2026, to June 30, 2026.

No Public Comment

Motion to Approve

Motion was unanimously approved

Item 12 NEW BUSINESS:

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

Review and Approval of the FY 2026-27 Area Plan Update for the California Department of Aging. (Presenter Clayter of DAS)

Presented draft in 2 public hearings during February and March. These hearings allowed comments on development and content. Updates reflect key discussion topics from previous presentations such as importance of transportation, ombudsman, DAS efforts on speaking with key communities about updates and budget reductions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment

Commissioner Jung appreciated the presentation and comprehensive updates. The Area Plan looks ready to go.

A motion to approve from Commissioner Jung

The motion was unanimously approved.

- A. Presentation of the Final FY 2025-26 Dignity Fund Community Needs Assessment (Paulo Salta, Fiona McBride, and Adithi Vellore will present this Item).

DAS Staff presented an overview of the DF CAN which included findings and key changes.

**Findings revealed that:**

- DAS and its service providers are effective in engaging older adults and aging adults with disabilities.
- Service-connected clients have higher needs and face more barriers, older adults with an equity factor have higher needs than peers, and seniors with met needs worry about future needs.
- LGBTQ+ Community data feedback indicates that DAS services should reach targeted needs to increase participation

**Key changes to the DF CNA report as a response to public comment were:**

- Under Findings and Recommendations, Recommendation #4, assess impact of DAS services and identify outreach opportunities, was added to reinforce department efforts in maintaining and improving client's mental health (pg.49)
- Under Findings and Recommendations, Recommendation #4, collaborate with DPH to promote interagency referral for caregivers, was added in response to discussion on Alzheimer's and Dementia (pg.72)
- In Appendix C, in the Population Survey, summary of findings and providers survey data table were added (pgs. 75-77, 104-118). In Appendix E, reference tables were updated. (pg.161)

For the DF CNA, the next steps are to present to BOS in June TBD. For the Dignity Fund, the next steps are to prepare Services and Allocation plan for FY 2027-28 to FY 2030-31 as well as conduct focused analyses.

Commissioner Pennington, Commissioner Jung, and Commissioner Lum gave thanks to the presenters. Commissioner hopes to apply content to self and peers. President Spears asked what kind of dollars are represented for the financial allocation for districts and Presenter Vellore responded that it is budgeted dollars for Dignity Fund eligible services. On behalf of feedback received, President Spears recommended the city should have more infrastructures for physical activity and Director Dearman agreed that accessible parks are necessary and referred SFMTA as an outreach. Moreover, President Spears asked how this report will engage with the city. Director Dearman said that DAS will speak with departments such as DSHS, MOHCD, DPH, and Rec and Park.

No Public Comment

A motion to approve from Commissioner Bittner

The motion was unanimously approved.

#### Announcements

None.

#### Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 11:09 AM by President Janet Spears