

DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY AND AGING SERVICES
(DAS) COMMISSION
MINUTES June 3, 2026

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME/ President Janet Y. Spears

Due to the absence of President Janet Y. Spears, Commissioner Knutzen called our hybrid meeting to order in City Hall room 416 and virtually 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: Linda Parker Pennington, Martha Knutzen, Wanda Jung, Sascha Bittner, Barbara Sklar

Excused Absence: President Janet Y. Spears, Vice President Nelson Lum

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/ Director Dearman

Director Dearman welcomed June as Pride Month. In state policy news, the assembly voted to keep the age eligibility requirement at 60 years old and maintain the asset limit of \$130,000 per APS clients and IHSS cost shifting was not approved. These decisions are not finalized as the bill is in the senate and governor's administration, and the statewide budget must be passed by June 15th.

In department news, the Mayor submitted the budget to Board of Supervisors (BOS) and hearings will begin June 10th. The Dignity Fund received the \$3M annual growth but there is a question of how the \$2.9M cut will affect funds. Director Dearman explained that the Dignity Fund growth formula will change from being dependent on deficit to being dependent on

Aggregate Discretionary Revenue (ADR). Projections estimated DAS will be in the red for 2 years with \$1.1M in the stabilization fund and CODB covered. Director Dearman plans to shore-up costs for core-programs and provide a small amount of funding for the HIV aging services and building connection with DPH and MOHCD. Lastly, in DFCNA updates, Director Dearman reported that DAS met with BOS members and will also meet other depts in the report to see how to better work with them.

Commissioner Pennington said thank you and asked if the public will have an opportunity to push back on the new growth formula. Director Dearman instructed that pushback requires advocacy for legislative change in the charter. Commissioner Pennington further asked if legislative changes go through BOS and Director Dearman affirmed it does.

Commissioner Sklar asked about alternative plans for disabled and aging communities that will no longer be eligible for services. Director Dearman acknowledged tragic impacts and advised for outreach and education.

Commissioner Jung said the general discussion about the back and forth with APS expansion and asset limits is very worrisome. Commissioner Knutzen noted that the Mayor's budget did not change anything and the public is effective in their advocacy then asked if add-backs are possible. Director Dearman confirmed add-backs are possible since the budget is not finalized and Commissioner Pennington mentioned BOS removed add-backs 2 years ago for discretionary funding however Director Dearman clarified that BOS still has access to some discretionary funding.

Commissioner Bittner congratulated staff for their work and acknowledged it as a balancing act. Director Dearman spoke on staff's efforts especially with the Mayor's Office during trying times and spoke on the importance of maintaining core services.

DAS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH June 2026 to Elaine Lung, who is a Human Services Agency Social Worker at the IHSS.

- Director Dearman spoke on Elaine's service since November 2014 which includes extensive case management experience and consistent dedication. Elaine was celebrated for thoughtfully adapting policies with a collaborative approach, acting as a trusted resource, and for embodying self-care to fully show up.
- Elaine thanked the whole team and said they are an inspiration. Elaine is looking forward to many years of achieving new miles stones.

ADVISORY COUNCIL & TACC REPORT by President Allen Cooper

Presenter Cooper reported that March's meeting overviewed the effects of HR-1 on the AAA, specifically healthcare for noncitizens. Due to HR-1, 400,000 CalFresh enrollees between ages

50-64 will be affected. Presenter Cooper noted that according to Justice In Aging, the state is not likely to mitigate these impacts.

In aging studies, Presenter Cooper reported that UC Davis conducted a study on aging adults in rural cities and concluded that aging adults in rural and urban cities face the same issues except rural areas lack transportation. In response, a rural health transition program will roll out. Moreover, Marin County hosted “Scam Jam”, a program that worked with multiple services together to discuss how aging adults get scammed.

Commissioner Knutzen agreed that scams are a significant issue and Presenter Cooper shared that the Advisory Council will discuss this topic in upcoming months and hopes to have a proposal.

CASE REPORT presented by Director Andrea Lazorik

In response to Presenter Cooper’s report, Presenter Lazorik offered to share Katherine Stephanie’s contact information for scam stopper neighborhood events. Presenter Lazorik also inquired on the information Commission request for future DAS Commission meetings.

May’s meeting had 20 representatives from 18 organizations which included a discussion with the People’s Coalition Budget on restoring cuts. On May 12th, CASE invited BOS and Task Commissioners to join community advocates in a stand against cuts facing aging adults and people with disabilities at the steps of City Hall; 2 BOS staff showed up and 3 supported via email. Additionally, Presenter Lazorik stated that when CASE members attempted to hand-deliver a card to the Mayor, the Mayor avoided them eating a sandwich and post a video.

CASE recently hosted a well-received panel on the city budget process that included a breakout on presenting to commissions. Also, the group is considering updating bylaws to allow member votes on endorsing ballot propositions. At the June meeting, Christina Irving from the Family Caregiver Alliance will present on GUIDE, a free Medicare program offering dementia care navigation services.

Commissioner Knutzen advised Presenter Lazorik that although reporting every activity is not required, CASE’s role is valuable to DAS Commission and CASE reports are an opportunity to amplify CASE’s voice and get feedback from Commission. Director Dearman offered an offline conversation. Commissioner Sklar asked if AI belongs in CASE and Presenter Lazorik planned to research and follow up with commission. Commissioner Pennington appreciated the transparency.

Item 9 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

A member from SPWG commented that upon their husband’s passing and sorting through papers, legislation about Dignity Fund (DF) was found. The DF funds services to keep with the pace of aging population. The DF provided thoughtful funding models, but too many years failed

to materialize. The DF received \$3M but also received \$2.9 M in cuts. Commenter asked if the DF fulfilling its purpose. Lastly, a hearing request was made to legislative change on the DF and a website was offered, sfdignityfund.org.

Item 10 OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

Item 11 NEW BUSINESS:

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

A. FY2027 Area Plan Budget (Presented by Genevieve Herrera)

ITEMS B THROUGH H ARE ACTION ITEMS THAT REQUIRES A VOTE BY THE COMMISSION

B. Requesting authorization to modify an existing contract with RydeTrans, for the period of July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2029, in the amount of \$247,500 plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$363,000. (Presented by Sandra Teixeira)

Presenter Teixeira is requesting authorization to modify an existing contract with RydeTrans, for the period of July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2029, in the amount of \$247,500 plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$363,000.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment

Motion from Commissioner Pennington

The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Requesting authorization to enter into a new grant agreement with Project Open Hand for the provision of the Nutrition and Supportive Services for Healthy Outcomes for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2030, in an amount of \$2,476,256 plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$2,723,882. (Leah Walton will present the item)

Presenter Walton is requesting authorization to enter into a new grant agreement with Project Open Hand for the provision of the Nutrition and Supportive Services for Healthy Outcomes for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2030, in an amount of \$2,476,256 plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$2,723,882.

Commissioner Jung requested elaboration on Project Open Hand's mobile van services in the Excelsior and Mission communities. Presenter Walton explained that mobile vans are co-located with community clinics and are alternative access points for meals and groceries. Following up, Commissioner Jung asked about support services and counseling to which Presenter Walton explained that nutrition education is typically offered in group settings at the main office and available via zoom or phone appointments while counseling is always one to one.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment

Motion from Commissioner Jung

The motion was unanimously approved.

D. Requesting authorization to approve a sole source waiver and new contract agreement with Collabrios for the provision of CA-GetCare for the period of July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2030, in the amount of \$2,135,955 plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$2,349,551. (Michael Zaugg will present the item)

Presenter Zaugg is requesting authorization to approve a sole source waiver and new contract agreement with Collabrios for the provision of CA-GetCare for the period of July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2030, in the amount of \$2,135,955 plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$2,349,551.

Commissioner Knutzen asked why items on page 3-4 are highlighted and Presenter Zaugg said these are components. Commissioner Knutzen also asked about the Online Resource Directory's interface with DAS' improved online access; and Presenter Zaugg explained DAS is working with IT to enhance interface with the two systems to make and track referrals.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment

Motion from Commissioner Bittner

The motion was unanimously approved

E. Requesting authorization to enter into a new grant agreement with Family Caregiver Alliance (FCA) for the provision of Temporary Respite Services for the period of July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2030, in the amount of \$3,453,460 plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$3,798,806. (Rosemarie Tocchini will present the item)

Commissioner Knutzen asked about the program's outreach to targeted clients since it aims to serve isolated populations. Presenter Tocchini answered that the FCA is listed as the top result in google searches for "family caregivers" and "caregiver support", FCA has a multi-lingual website with CareNav where caregivers can access resources and referrals without being a client and conducts 56 annual outreach activities which includes partnering with health care community partners, faith-based communities, tabling and advertising. Commissioner Pennington asked about eligibility for this program and Presenter Tocchini explained that eligibility is determined by case managers on a case-by-case basis, however Presenter Tocchini will follow up with Commissioner Pennington's question about eligibility for a caregiver in San Francisco.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Director of FCA commented on appreciation for the contract and further elaborated on the program's outreach methods. Family Caregiver Alliance has a wide referral network, is a CASE member, attends community partnership meetings, and partnerships in healthcare. Other outreach entry points are in informal services such as social media, tv, and radio, and other community groups. Lastly, the commenter welcomed commission to suggest referrals for partnership.

Motion from Commissioner Bittner

The motion was unanimously approved

F. Requesting authorization to enter into a new grant agreement with Openhouse for the provision of a Housing Resource List for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028, in an amount of \$109,720 plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$120,692. (Dana Leavitt will present the item)

Presenter Leavitt is requesting authorization to enter into a new grant agreement with Openhouse for the provision of a Housing Resource List for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028, in an amount of \$109,720 plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$120,692.

Commissioner Jung asked how the relevancy and reliability of the Housing Resource List was determined and Presenter Leavitt explained consumer feedback from annual satisfaction surveys are regularly used. Commissioner Knutzen asked how will it be incorporated to DAS Hub and Presenter Leavitt responded that the DAS Hub can subscribe people to the monthly housing list, 311 has the list and outreach is done by Openhouse.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment

Motion from Commissioner Jung

The motion was unanimously approved

G. Review and approval of California Department of Aging's Aging and Disability Resource Connection Infrastructure Grant, contract number AD-2627-05, associated budget, and all subsequent amendments. (Katherine Lauerman will present this item)

Presenter Lauerman is requesting to review and approve the California Department of Aging's Aging and Disability Resource Connection Infrastructure Grant, contract number AD-2627-05, associated budget, and all subsequent amendments.

Commissioner Jung asked about the ADRC sites listed in the contract that are labeled as unfunded for language services and if those sites already have language capacity and Presenter Lauerman said confirmed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment

Motion from Commissioner Jung

The motion was unanimously approved

H. Requesting authorization to modify the existing Mental Health Connect grant agreement with Curry Senior Center during the period of May 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028, in the additional amount of \$1,026,628 plus a 10% contingency for a revised total amount not to exceed \$2,453,364. (Michael Zaugg will present the item)

Presenter Zaugg is requesting authorization to modify the existing Mental Health Connect grant agreement with Curry Senior Center during the period of May 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028, in the additional amount of \$1,026,628 plus a 10% contingency for a revised total amount not to exceed \$2,453,364.

Commissioner Pennington said the Navigator program is essential especially for people without family, capacity nor time. Also, since telehealth will be cut, it was asked if other services will be available. Presenter Zaugg said SF Connected has labs throughout the city. Commissioner Sklar requested a presentation displaying the changes in services and where people need to go; Presenter Zaugg will begin a draft for this request and send it out in a memo. Commissioner Jung requested confirmation that this is mental health services provided by Curry Senior center; Presenter Zaugg provided confirmation.

Commissioner Knutezen, people who want to access this service will have to go to Curry but telehealth is different. Presenter Zaugg explained that at

first telehealth offered providers statewide for clients, but the program found that in-person experience was better which led to relying on Curry Senior Center for in person mental health services. Lastly, it was shared that Commissioner Pennington has a sister who experienced isolation and the only access to healthcare was therapy through the phone which was cut. Commissioner Pennington's sister experienced a deeper decline and only recently recovered. Commissioner Pennington stated that cutting off the phone for someone who isolates is an issue. Presenter Zaugg replied that the service is designed to be a low barrier service and will include a navigator to follow up with folks.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment

Motion from Commissioner Bittner

The motion was unanimously approved.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 11:22 AM by Commissioner Knutzen