

DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY AND AGING SERVICES COMMISSION (DAS)
MINUTES JULY 14, 2020

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Commissioner Martha Knutzen called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

The (DAS) Commission Secretary called the roll:

Present: Martha Knutzen, Nelson Lum, Barbara Sklar and Janet Y. Spears

DAAS Executive Director Shireen McSpadden was present.

Communications:

Commission Secretary Bridget Badasow provided instructions for any members of the public that would like to submit a public comment to the DAS Commission.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the June 9, 2020 DAS Commission meeting Minutes.

The motion was unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT/Shireen McSpadden

DAS Executive Director Shireen McSpadden began with federal level actions that are taking place. Following months of delay due to the pandemic, Congressional appropriators have kicked-off the FY2021 federal funding debates. House lawmakers are moving through the funding bill for the next fiscal year including bills for the federal Older Americans Act and other aging programs. Since COVID-19 began Congress has passed trillions of dollars of emergency funding including significant investments in federal discretionary programs that are normally funded through the annual appropriations cycle. In March, Congress directed more than \$1B to core Older Americans Act programs to respond to the increased needs along with millions of dollars in funding to other safety net programs to respond to the unfolding crisis. Currently, both chambers are considering other additional major investments to address the ongoing and growing national health crisis and economic disasters. Ms. McSpadden stated that we have very much benefited from the funding and are continuing to advocate for more funding through the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) and through the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A). Ms. McSpadden hopes to find out in the near future if we will be receiving another infusion of cash for critical programs including nutrition, support of services and family care-giver programs and will get that information out so that it can be decided through the Commission or as individuals how to advocate for some of this funding. Next, Ms. McSpadden reported at the state level. The California Department of Aging (CDA) recently provided guidelines on re-opening of organizations who serve older people and people with disabilities. The CDA is advising not to fully re-open up until stage-four. Stage-four allows concerts, arenas and sports

events to open. The California Department of Public Health maintains that older adults and people with underlying health conditions are at risk for COVID-19. The CDA did allow for some re-opening flexibility which included Curry Senior Center who is currently open. Curry Senior Center feels strongly that because they serve such an at-risk population that the population will become even more at-risk if they are not allowed to come in and charge phones and get food assistance. Ms. McSpadden also mentioned that there is a focus now on equity and ageism with the CDA spearheading that effort and are kicking-off reframing aging conversations. The state director of the CDA asked Executive Director McSpadden, Commissioner Spears, Executive Director Kelly Dearman and Kate Kuckro to present to them along with a wide audience regarding the work that they do around ageism, preventing ageism and how to reframe aging. In addition to that, the CDA knowing that people are going to be at home, is engaged with Google to obtain a number of devices and get these devices out and into the communities to bridge the digital divide. The CDA is also thinking of proposing a new Medi-Cal benefit called Long Term Care at Home. Long Term Care at Home was created to assist people who are in need of home-care and skilled nursing care to remain in the community. Ms. McSpadden understands that there are many questions from the community of what this benefit would comprise of and is engaged and committed to having San Francisco's voice heard as this new benefit unfolds. On a local level, Ms. McSpadden reported on the San Francisco Emergency Operational Center (EOC). The EOC has now evolved to a new COVID-19 Command Center. Everything COVID-19 related and the city's response is now coming through the COVID-19 Command Center. The center is still located at the Moscone Center. Food access is still a major part of the COVID-19 Command Center and on the human services side of the COVID-19 Command Center, the focus and support continues to be on people who are sheltering in place in hotels and who will be there until there is a recovery plan for them and a way for them to move back out into the community. The Great Plates program was extended until August 9, 2020 and currently serves over 2000 people. DAS is working with the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Disability and the non-profit Thriving in Place, to distribute Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to the disability and deaf community starting next week. Ms. McSpadden was pleased to announce and welcome Alfred Sims as the new County Veterans Service Office manager. Ms. McSpadden is hoping that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors will appoint Mr. Sims as the new County Veterans Services Officer.

ADVISORY COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT/Diane Lawrence

Advisory Council held its first meeting on June 17, 2020 since February.

Topics of Discussion:

- Census 2020
 - A quick update was provided and at that time
 - 61% of households had completed the Census with 52.8% completed online
 - 62.5% in California with 59.3% in San Francisco
- Area Plan on Aging was unanimously approved and will be signed.
- The California Senior Legislature will not be meeting in person in October but will

accept all the few proposals submitted by their members as their legislative program for the coming year. (There was no Joint Legislative Committee report given this month)

- Dignity Fund OAC's next meeting, via Zoom, on Monday, July 20th.
- Site Visit Updates: We had some reports on visits that were done prior to the Shelter in Place and these were given.
 - Juliet Rothman reported on the Stanford Hotel, Veterans Academy, and Veterans Commons meal sites.
 - There were some concerns regarding activities and participation at the sites.
 - Allegra Fortunati and Kay Parekh reported on Kimochi Senior Center.
 - Patrons raised concerns regarding heat and meal variety
 - We asked Michael Zaugg and his team to do some review of the concerns and to get back to us as a future meeting. An update will be provided to the Commission later this year.
- LGBT Update/Dr. Marcy Adelman
 - Dr. Adelman reported on the Commission on Aging and the Master Plan. Everything is focused on the budget.
 - She announced the historic Supreme Court decision to prohibit employment discrimination against the LGBTQ community.
 - There is still concern that locally and on the state level no one is collecting gender and sexual orientation data.
- Membership Committee/Kay Parekh
 - We still have openings on the Council for new members.
 - Several current district representative members need to be reappointed but will continue on the Council until their re-application can be considered by the Rules Committee and Board.
 - There are also Commission appointees who need reappointment. Applications that have not yet been submitted are being finalized.
 - Contact will be made to those Supervisors who do not have district representation.
- The Advisory Council's next meeting is July 22, 2020 and we will discuss how to address site visits while in quarantine and continue our discussion on membership efforts.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Jessica Leman, Senior and Disability Action commented on her concern around care rationing and the lack of hospital bed space and ventilator equipment and who gets treated. Since the

beginning of pandemic there has been talk that seniors will be that last people to get treated. Now that there is a surge and Bay Area hospitals are starting to fill-up the concern is renewed. Ms. Lehman also stated that Senior and Disability Action now has a California care rationing coalition to connect with different hospital systems to make sure that seniors and adults with disabilities lives are valued and protected. Please email Ms. Lehman at jessicsdaction.org if you are interested and would like to become involved. Ms. Lehman also commented on the nursing home and living facility concern with so many people getting sick and dying in nursing homes and living facilities. There will be a gathering for people who are concerned Thursday, July 16, 3-4:00 PM. Ms. Lehman announced the 30th anniversary of the American Disabilities Act this month. Senior and Disability Action is doing a book reading series. Please check the sda.org website if you are interested.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Electing the DAS Commission President and Vice President:

1. A motion to elect Commissioner Martha Knutzen as the DAS Commission President

The motion was unanimously approved.

2. A motion to elect Commissioner Janet Y. Spears as the DAS Commission Vice President

The motion was unanimously approved.

- A.** Review and approval of FY20-21 CDA Area Plan Budget, associated contract AP-2021-06, and all subsequent amendments. Alex Gleason presented the item.

No public comment

A motion to approve:

The motion was unanimously approved.

- B.** Review and approval of the FY 2021-2024 Area Plan for the California Department of Aging. Executive Director Shireen McSpadden and Rose Johns presented the item.

No public comment

A motion to approve:

The motion was unanimously approved.

- C.** Requesting authorization to modify the existing grant agreement with SELF HELP FOR THE ELDERLY for the provision of Elder Nutrition Program (ENP) Congregate Meals during the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020; in the additional amount of \$1,333,669 plus a 10% contingency for a revised total modification amount not to exceed of \$1,945,121. Tiffany Kearny presented the item.

Public Comment

Annie Chung- Self Help for the Elderly, Commented on the great food need during this pandemic and thanked the Commission and Executive Director McSpadden for their support for this budget modification.

A motion to approve:

The motion was unanimously approved.

- D.** Requesting authorization to enter into a new grant agreement with Swords to Plowshares for provision of Legal Assistance for Veterans with Mental Health Claims; during the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022; in an amount of \$236,060, plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed of \$259,666. Kate Shadoan presented the item.

No public comment

A motion to approve:

The motion was unanimously approved.

- E.** Review and approval of California Department of Aging – Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) contract HI-2021-06, associated budget, and all subsequent amendments. Michael Zaugg presented the item.

No public comment

A motion to approve:

The motion was unanimously approved.

- F.** Review and approval of California Department of Aging – Dignity at Home Fall Prevention contract FP-1920-06, associated budget, and all subsequent amendments. Mike Zaugg presented the item.

No public comment

A motion to approve:

The motion was unanimously approved.

- G. Requesting authorization to enter into a new contract with COTCHETT, PITRE & McCARTHY, LLP for the provision of Legal Services for the San Francisco Public Guardian (SFPG) and San Francisco Public Conservator (SFPC) during the period of June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021; in the amount not to exceed \$60,000. Carrie Wong presented the item.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

No announcements

MOTION TO ADJOURN,

The motion was unanimously approved

Meeting adjourned 11:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget Badasow
Commission Secretary