

DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY AND AGING SERVICES
COMMISSION (DAS)
MINUTES FEBRUARY 3, 2021

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Commissioner Martha Knutzen called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

The (DAS) Commission Secretary called the roll:

Present: Martha Knutzen, Sascha Bittner, Michelle Carrington, Wanda Jung, Nelson Lum, Barbara Sklar and Janet Y. Spears

DAS 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:

No public comment

A motion to approve the January 6, 2020 DAS Commission meeting Minutes.

The motion was unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT/Shireen McSpadden

DAS Executive Director Shireen McSpadden began by acknowledging and wishing everyone a happy Black History Month. Next, Ms. McSpadden reported at the federal level with respect to the populations that DAS serves. Ms. McSpadden, apologized for neglecting to mention during her February report that there is funding in the President's stimulus package to address elder abuse and elder justice issues. Ms. McSpadden said that this is really noteworthy and hopes it's the beginning of federal investment in this very important area. On January 21st, President Biden unveiled a list of executive orders a road map outlining initial of priorities to respond to the current health and economic crisis. Within that plan are several opportunities for aging and disability networks and advocates to assume leadership roles to ensure that the needs of older Americans, people with disabilities and caregivers are addressed. Ms. McSpadden believes that this will be an opportunity to have voices heard and promised to keep the Commission updated. Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the new democratic majority in the Senate are setting up a fast-track budget process to lay-out the legislative foundation for what is expected to be a \$2T emergency response. Advocacy is really needed to ensure that the needs of older adults and people with disabilities are included in this plan and not left out. Continuing to the State level, the Governor has released the Master Plan for Aging, the California Department of Aging (CDA) is beginning its implementation process. The State will set up workgroups including: Long Term Support and Services for Aging and Disability, Equity and Aging and Elder Abuse and Justice. They will also create a Multi-Stakeholder Implementation Committee to provide policy oversight. These workgroups are listed on the CDA website. Ms. McSpadden encouraged anyone interested in applying for any of these workgroups or committees to visit the CDA website. The Master Plan for the Aging Stakeholder Committee which Ms. McSpadden sits on, has continues to meet is primarily consumed with the issue of vaccinations. The Committee is very concerned regarding the Governor's age-only focus. A recent analysis by the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund clearly shows that many people with disabilities are at a high risk of serious consequences and/or death from COVID and yet the State's policy

does not allow for these populations to be prioritized for vaccinations. Yesterday, the Master Plan for the Aging Stakeholder Committee sent a strongly worded letter to the state protesting this inequitable policy. Lastly, at the local level, Ms. McSpadden reported on the vaccination process in San Francisco. Ms. McSpadden recognized that we are fortunate to have DAS Deputy Director Cindy Kauffman participating in the Department of Public Health's (DPH) Senior Hub. Ms. Kauffman is providing advice to the DPH's Senior Hub on the DAS approach to older people and people with disabilities. Ms. McSpadden acknowledged the public concern with the roll-out and vaccination process and recognizes that the beginning has been "bumpy" and a little bit confusing. Ms. McSpadden said that part of what is driving the confusion is the limited vaccine supply. The vaccine distribution to the DPH and the San Francisco health care providers is very limited, inconsistent and unpredictable making the planning very disorderly. Ms. McSpadden believes that the process will smooth-out soon. DAS will continue to do outreach by phone and email and is dedicated to continue working with the Mayor's Office, DPH and the Department of Emergency Management to work on messaging the availability of the vaccine and how the public can access it. Along with the big vaccination distribution sites (San Francisco City College and Moscone Center), there is now distribution vaccination sites in the Bay View and in the Mission district and soon a SF Market site will open.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Executive Director McSpadden and the DAS Commission, honored Susan Lee from the DAS Office of In-Home Support Services (IHSS). Ms. McSpadden thanked Ms. Lee for her hard work and dedication.

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT/Diane Lawrence

President's Report to the Commission on Aging and Adult Services
February 17, 2020

Key Areas:

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1) Site Visits

- i) Discussion continued on How to do Site Visits during the Shelter in Place?
 - (1) The final fill-able form would be distributed within a week of the meeting. A team developed the form. This team included members Dr. Juliet Rothman and Dr. Janice Pettey along with Michael Zaugg.
 - (2) We discussed also reviewing the websites of Community-based organizations that have contracts with DAS.
 - (a) Again, the perspective would be as a consumer.
 - (b) Michael Zaugg will provide a list of contract vendors
 - (3) We will re-evaluate this process in 6 months.

2) Membership

a) Board of Supervisors

- i) Vacancies
 - (1) Patti Spaniak of District 11 is resigning from the Council and has reached out to her supervisor, Asha Safai re someone to replace her as well as asking her contacts for volunteers.
 - (2) Work continues on filing Supervisor-appointed representatives.

b) Commission

- i) 3 vacancies and we are looking for potential members to recommend.

3) Area Plan Update

- a) Rose Johns and Michael Zaugg reviewed the plan for this year's approval. It will be the first update to the new 4-year plan.
 - i) 2/17—present initial updates to the Council; material will be sent to the members either USPS or email prior to the meeting so members can prepare.
 - ii) 3/3—present to the Commission
 - iii) 3/17—Advisory Council final approval
 - iv) 4/3—Commission approval
 - v) 5/1—final copy due to CDA.

4) LGBTQ Adult Survey

- a) Target population—50+ and will include the trans community; HIV long-term survivors turning 60;
- b) A link was sent to Council members to share with their various contacts.
- c) This is the only survey of this community during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- d) Survey is a partnership between DAS and the Bob Ross Foundation which focuses on HIV issues.

5) Education Committee

- a) We are looking at Council’s participation again on this effort
- b) Some topics would include
 - i) Helping people to de-stress
 - ii) How to survive Covid-19 as a health issue

6) Discussion of access to vaccinations in various City communities.

7) Next meeting: Wednesday, February 17, 2021.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE REPORT /Diane Lawrence

- 1) This was the first meeting of the new Legislative session.
- 2) We discussed some background points
 - a) C4A often follows the same bills that we do
 - b) California Welfare Directors’ Association does as well plus others.
 - c) Lens of this session’s Legislative session is the Master Plan impacting bills; and also, Medi-Cal bills with self-sufficiency focus.
 - i) As of our meeting date, January 20, one bill—AB 14 fit with the Master Plan
 - (1) **Internet for All Act of 2021:** Prioritizes the deployment of broadband infrastructure in the most vulnerable and unserved rural and urban communities by utilizing the CA Advanced Services Fund (CASF) to provide community grants to bridge the digital divide.
 - (2) This could push the conversation along and this bill could include cellular data plans.
 - d) California Senior Legislature (CSL)—has bills they are supporting and in some cases looking for sponsorship. The list of bills will be presented in March.

- i) They continue to meet with legislators via Zoom.
- e) January 31, 2021 is the last day to introduce bills
 - i) As of our January 20, meeting date 250 bills had been introduced.
 - ii) We will see spot bills—those that are introduced and have a bill number, but which may be used for other legislative wording as the session progresses.
 - iii) Each legislator is limited to 12 bills this year.
 - iv) Assembly member, Phil Ting, has introduced spot bills for the budget
 - v) State Senators Chui and Weiner have introduced bills.
- f) There are Covid-19 and Wildfire bills again.
- g) After our February 17, meeting we will have a working list of bills and those will be presented at the March 3rd Commission meeting.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

No general public comment.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

- Presentation of the DAS FY 20/21 Schedule for Requests for Proposals and Contract Renewals. Patrick Garcia and Reanna Albert presented this item.
- A. Review and Approval of the FY 21-22 and FY 22-23 DAS Budget. Shireen McSpadden and Dan Kaplan presented this item.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Victor Oliverai is interested in learning more about the CVSO funding (\$1.1M) and how that funding is distributed.

A motion to approve:

The motion was unanimously approved

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Knutzen announced Commission's committee appointments.

MOTION TO ADJOURN,

The motion was unanimously approved

Meeting adjourned 12:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget Badasow
Commission Secretary