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

DATE: Wednesday, October 21, 2026

TIME: 10-11:30am

PLACE: 2 Gough St. 3rd Floor

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

Roll Call/Secretary

Members Present: Margaret Graf, Ivy Chang, Tia Small, Lisa Cook, Diane Lawrence, Daisy Jiminez, Allen Cooper, Harry Breaux

Members Absent Excused: Juliet Rothman, Morningstar Vancil, Chris Dillon, Marcy Adelman, Daisy, Juliet Rothman

Motion to approve the September 2026 Meeting Minutes: Motion Approved

General Public Comment: no public comment

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

Cindy Kauffman presented the Director's Report, beginning with an update on a new food security task force established to oversee food security strategy and help the City navigate the broader food security landscape.

She also shared highlights from the CASE 50th Anniversary celebration, which she attended alongside Director Kelly Dearman. Kauffman noted that the event featured many inspiring speakers, drew a great turnout, and was a wonderful celebration for the community.

Additionally, Kauffman announced that DAS has officially launched its new online directory, noting that staff are excited about the rollout and are currently completing the final program cards.

During the discussion, a Council member asked whether the directory is currently live and Kauffman confirmed that the site is live and stated that all nine departments are expected to work in alignment to keep it running smoothly.

President's Report, presented by Allen Cooper:

In the President's Report, the President provided a brief legislative update, noting that several bills have recently passed. While the bill to establish a state conservator did not pass during this session, it is expected to be reintroduced in the next legislative term.

Also spoke on a retired FBI specialist who delivered a presentation titled Staying Safe in the Digital World, focusing on fraud awareness and practical strategies to help older adults protect themselves from digital scams.

DAS Department Annual Report Highlights Presentation: Cindy Kauffman

Cindy Kauffman provided an overview of the DAS Annual Report, detailing the agency's strategic goals and action plans for the coming year:

• Goal 1: Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility
• Goal 2: Strong Workforce and Collaboration
• Goal 3: Employment and Economic Security
• Goal 4: Health and Well-Being – Includes active participation in the San Francisco Mayor's Office Breaking the Cycle initiative to help inform citywide policy and strategy.
• Goal 5: Safety and Care – Focuses on ensuring dignity and maximizing the independence of older adults by preventing and addressing abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation.

A Council member inquired about the Mobile Benefits Center. Kauffman explained that the vehicle is roughly the size of a bookmobile and described the various neighborhoods and locations it travels to across the city.

Office of Disability and Accessibility (ODA) FY 25–26 Year in Review presented by Eli Gelardin

• Overview & Compliance: Eli Gelardin provided an overview of how the Office of Disability and Accessibility (ODA) advances disability rights and accessibility across San Francisco, including coordinating client grievances, compliance, and citywide repairs. Sidewalk accessibility remains a primary concern for the disability community.
• Policy & Community Engagement: Gelardin highlighted ODA's policy work and community outreach efforts, including the Beyond the Front Door program and participation in the National Association of the Deaf Annual Conference.
• Architectural Access Projects: Gelardin detailed several ongoing architectural initiatives, noting that the Hallidie Plaza Redesign is a major focus area for ODA.

Council members asked whether SFPD should take a larger role in addressing motorized scooters on sidewalks. Gelardin noted that ODA has been actively coordinating with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to address this issue.

Announcements: Council Member Graf reminded attendees about the importance of voting and shared information regarding voter registration.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:29am