

DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY AND AGING SERVICES
(DAS) COMMISSION

MINUTES March 1, 2023

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME/President Martha Knutzen

Commissioner Martha Knutzen 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:

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

Excused Absent: Commissioner Barbara Sklar

DAS Executive Director Kelly Dearman was present,

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.

A motion to approve the February 1, 2023 DAS Commission Meeting Minutes.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Absent: Commissioner Sklar

AUTHORIZATION TO ALLOW THIRD-PARTY PRESENTERS WHO ARE NOT CITY EMPLOYEES TO ATTEND COMMISSION MEETINGS VIRTUALLY, PENDING ANY

CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE CHANGE OR MAYORAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION.

President Knutzen read the resolution to authorize third-party presenters who are not city employees to attend and present commission meetings virtually pending any government changes or supplements to the Mayoral Emergency Proclamation

No public comment.

A motion to approve the authorization to allow third-party presenters who are not city employees to attend commission meetings virtually, pending any California government code change or mayoral supplement to the emergency proclamation.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT/Kelly Dearman

Director Dearman thanked the commissioners for attending and joining the joint MOD/DAS Commission and with the HSA we had a wonderful Black History Month celebration with the Mayor. It was uplifting and we all enjoyed ourselves and celebrated. SF is sponsoring legislation to recognize care for all vulnerable people by expanding to undocumented persons in California. To address these new people and not enough care supporters there is a bill to address the shortage. Assemblyman Bill Ting is sponsoring the bill. We are not sure if it will pass due to budget deficits, but we are fighting for it. As Legislative Chair for C4A, we recognize the need for more IHSS caregiver support and asking the state to hire more caregivers. The need and urgency across the state is urgent.

C4A conference is coming up in May of 2023 and all commissioners will be notified and invited to attend to learn about what's happening throughout the state. Lastly, we have completed the Service and Allocation Plan which is how the Dignity Fund money will be spent the next four years and thanks to the staff for all the great work.

Vice President Spears asked if the \$5 million dollars will be annual, and Director Dearman answered yes.

Commissioner Bittner said if there's anything she could do to help with state support she would be happy and with IHSS she recognized how important to so many people that is and Director Dearman said they have already spoken to SEIU and others and they are in support.

Commissioner Lum asked the debt cost and asked if this will be an additional cost to the city and Director Dearman noted that this is a state-run program and would not be an additional cost to San Francisco. She did not know the exact amount but would get back to Commissioner Lum.

President Knutzen thanked Director Dearman and applauded the city for suggesting this critical legislation and advocacy from Director Dearman.

Commissioner Pennington asked if there was an estimate for how many caregivers this could provide for families and Director Dearman replied that hopefully this will free up family members to be able to provide for the family as well and will get back to Commissioner Pennington about specific numbers and dollar amounts.

DAS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH March 2023

- Director Dearman and the DAS Commission honored DAS IHSS Social Worker Janny Shen who goes above and beyond to assist her clients. Janny is well liked throughout her team and DAS is very proud to present this award to her!
- President Knutzen thanked and congratulated Janny Shen
- Janny Shen thanked Kelly and the commission for the recognition and thanked their entire team for all the support. After 12 years she said this is a true passion and she is overjoyed and thankful for being a part of this amazing team. March is social worker appreciation month, and this is quite an honor.

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT/Diane Lawrence

President Lawrence greeted the Commission and thanked them and Director Dearman. She thanked the Employee of the month and thanked her for her dedication to SF. In our last meeting we talked about the draft of the Aging Report, and attended a workshop – Cindy Kauffman will give a council update later this spring and Director Dearman gave an overview that gave great clarity on the available DAS services. Mike Zaugg gave an update on – There might be a bill in the Calif Leg has a sponsor for a bill to update the Brown Act.

Two site visits this month La Raza and 30th St. Senior Center in Noe Valley. Both centers are doing amazing work and clients seem reluctant to return in person. We have been doing the site visits with looking at the website as well which were both up to date and relevant.

LGBTQ updates, referral forms for Project Open House, and Open House is celebrating their 25th anniversary. No Dignity Fund update and we are still looking at ways to recruit for new members.

No questions and President thanked President Lawrence and noted she was happy to see the websites are viewed and reported on as well in the site visits. And President Knutzen asked if there are specific districts where they are looking for new members and President Lawrence said yes and no, there are specific districts but could use all members.

Commissioner Pennington noted that she does know people that might be interested in the Council and Commissioner Jung said she appreciated the site visits and if they look for websites that have different languages and President Lawrence said it's not always the case.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE REPORT /Diane Lawrence

President Lawrence greeted the Commission and reported that the JLC is still in the beginning of the legislation for the year. Bills are being talked about but no bill number as well and there are IHSS Bills that are on our agenda but no bill number as well as yet. C4A Legislation is accompanying budget asks (which the governor has requested) Calif Senior Leg had 8 of their 10 bills passed which is the most she recalls. There are two openings for CSL candidates.

CASE REPORT/ Fiona Hinze

CASE Report presented by Fiona Hinze who is presenting virtually and she did submit a report to the commissioners so they can read it. CASE is a coalition of 40 members of seniors and has been around for approximately 40 years. Typically they report to the commission on the Feb meeting where Deputy Director Kauffman presented to the CASE on social isolation. We had providers working directly with that office and Deputy Director Kauffman could work with them. In March we will have a visit from Time Slots which is an agency on creative aging for people with mild cognitive. A creative aging cohort will be held later this year as well. As CASE we are also cosponsor with the Dignity Fund on the Service and Allocation Plan. The summary of the written document can be forwarded and there are two seats on the OAC. CASE is also trying to get add backs and 1 has been approved. The participants in these programs are really growing since the pandemic and have been doing an excellent job despite not having the background to deal with many social services. We are hoping that this proposal will fund more behavioralist specialists in the future.

President Knutzen thanked presenter Lawrence and enjoyed the report.

Item 13 is GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT.

No public comment

Item 14 OLD BUSINESS

Commission Secretary did let Vice President Spears know that she will be reappointed next month.

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM A IS AN ACTION ITEMS AND REQUIRES A VOTE BY THE COMMISSION

A. Requesting authorization to modify the existing grant agreement with Self-Help for the Elderly for the provision of Short-Term Home Care for Older Adults: Personal Care, Chore and

Homemaker Services during the period of March 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025; in the additional amount of \$177,317 plus a 10% contingency for a total grant amount not to exceed \$803,718. (Michael Zaugg will present the item).

President Knutzen thanked Presenter Zaugg for the details

Commissioner Jung thanked for the clear documentation of the modification and asked if it will cover additional clients and Presenter Zaugg said it was a bit misleading because 1 person would normally be added to all three programs and maybe there could be an extra 100 clients served with 100 caregiver hours provided.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

A motion to approve.

The motion was unanimously approved.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

Announcements

No announcements

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:39am by President Knutzen