

DIGNITY FUND OVERSIGHT AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 15, 2023; 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
1650 Mission Street, 5th floor, Golden Gate
Conference Room
Public attendance via Zoom
Minutes

Attending: Martha Knutzen, Sandy Mori, Ramona Davies, Allen Cooper, Marcy Adelman, Jennifer Walsh, Vince Crisostomo, Wanda Jung, Diane Lawrence

Excused: Allen Ng, Monique Zmuda

Call to Order: Ms. Davies called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Roll Call: Paulo Salta called roll.

Approval of the Agenda: Members approved the OAC meeting agenda for May 15, 2023.

General Public Comment: None

Approval of the Minutes: Members approved the March 20, 2023 meeting minutes. Approved.

OAC Chair and Vice Chair Elections: Ramona Davies

Nomination slate was sent out on May 2nd and voted upon. OAC members appointed Wanda Jung as Chair and Vince Crisostomo as Vice Chair. Their term begins upon appointment.

Service Providers Working Group

Fiona gave an update and thanked Ramona Davies and Sandy Mori for their service as Chair and Vice Chair of the OAC. The SPWG has not met since the last OAC meeting. Fiona shared that there is no new funding for the Dignity Fund for the coming fiscal year. The SPWG and advocates will look to receive money from the Board of Supervisors through the add-back process. The group will request budget information and waitlist numbers for programs that might be negatively affected from Director Dearman and Deputy Director Kauffman.

DF Allocation Plan

Michael Zaugg, DAS OCP Director, provided an overview of the Dignity Fund (DF) Allocation Plan and resources available for this upcoming fiscal year and current city budget situation. In January, Mike presented to this body about the plans for the DF allocation for the upcoming fiscal year. That is now on hold. The Dignity Fund Needs Assessment is a strong resource which includes a key recommendations section and appendices that includes data points for reference. Another resource is the recently released housing needs assessment, which includes suggestions for implementation.

Dr. Adelman asked about the funding, resources, and priorities for projects going forward and OCP Director Zaugg replied that there would not be cutbacks for programs already in existence but most likely there will not be many new programs started.

Diane Lawrence asked about how to work with DAS to improve programs when speaking to our Supervisors. Adithi Vellore suggested that for district level questions to use the Affordable Housing Needs Assessment as there is data for specific districts.

OCP Director Mike Zaugg also spoke on the Service and Allocation Plan on community engagement and case management. Strengthening the input of our providers and developing strategies for dealing with complex needs is a priority. Ensuring equitable and inclusive services for LGBTQ+ and people of color is a priority.

Sandy asked about the status of the Disability Community Center. The RFP will be rereleased shortly and will be out for about 6 weeks.

Allen asked about mental health needs and how DAS integrates these needs. Mike talked about how DAS is getting a better feel of the needs through discussion with CASE, Openhouse, and DPH.

There was discussion on how to reprioritize when looking at Dignity Fund funding and a strategy to look at how the Department will handle these cutbacks. Also, there was discussion about how to change the prioritization of funding and how we look at the funds during times of low funding and budget surplus.

Housing Subsidy Deep Dive Update

Adithi Vellore gave an update on the new Dignity Fund Needs Assessment cycle. The Housing Subsidy Deep Dive will be moving forward with funding from the Dignity Fund.

Public Comment:

Caller thanked Ramona and Sandy for ushering the creation of the Dignity Fund and their leadership and was appreciative of both Mike and Adithi for presenting their findings.

Announcements:

Dr. Adelman had an article on Aging in the Community in the SF Bay Times, in which she and Speaker Emerita, Nancy Pelosi, are on the front cover.

Martha Knutzen wanted to acknowledge and thanked the Chair and Vice Chair for their tremendous work on this Committee. Sandy stated that it might be an uphill battle to renew the Dignity Fund because of political ageism. However, the aging population is continuing to grow and we can use advocacy and community organizing to hold the policy makers accountable.

Adjournment: 4:13 pm

Next meeting: Monday, June 19, 2023, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.