

DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY AND AGING SERVICES
(DAS) COMMISSION

MINUTES FEBRUARY 7, 2024

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME/ President Spears

President Janet Y. Spears 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, , Nelson Lum, and President Martha Knutzen, Janet Y. Spears, Linda Parker Pennington, 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 January 10, 2024 Commission Meeting Minutes from Commissioner Bittner.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes:

No public comment.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT/ Kelly Dearman wished everyone a happy lunar new year and a happy Black History Month.

Executive Director Dearman thanked everyone and federally the first substantial upgrade to the Older American's Act to better support the national aging network. On the state level California is working to modernize the Older Californian's Act which was passed in 1980 and amended in 1997.

Maceo Person from DAS and Alexa Cobbins from the HSA DEIB Office partnered with the LGBTQ to sponsor a workshop for non-binary community members to apply to city jobs. Work at the Richmond Senior Center at 6221 Geary has been under way and despite delays the office of Community Partnership at DAS has an analyst assigned to the problem reaching out to both community seniors, the Felton Institute, and the contractors doing the repairs. We hope for a resolution in the next 2 – 3 months.

Congratulations to DAS Deputy Director Jill Nielsen who has been asked to join a statewide committee to help the state implement SB43, which expands the definition of grave disabilities when it comes to conservatorships, to develop best practices and protocols throughout the state.

DAS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY 2024

- Director Dearman and the DAS Commission thanked CHRISTINA THIBEAUX who is a Social Worker Specialist in the DAS Collaborative Caregiver Support Team
- Chritina thanked the commission and was very appreciative of this recognition from them, her peers, all of her the members of her team, and everyone who lets her be the best social worker she can be!
- President Spears and the rest of the commission thanked Christina for her amazing attitude and dedication to her work.

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT/Diane Lawrence

President Lawrence thanked the commission and spoke on new appointments from both the DAS Commission and from District Supervisors. Our District 2 representative will not be seeking another term unfortunately. We will be working hard to fill all seats on the Council. First Joint Legislative Committee will be held this month as well and that committee has full membership.

CASE REPORT/ Dan Gallagher

CASE Report presented by Dan Gallagher where he spoke on the programming of CASE and in January CalAIM was presented to the CASE. The February presentation will be from UBER and their cyber security team and will provide insight into how scammers are trying to fraud elders.

There will be a screening on 'All the Lonely People' coming up and the new officers are in place for CASE for 2024. Spoke on the Dignity Fund as well and how it is widely supported by all SF voters but how important and critical it is. CASE will

Martha Knutzen thanked Dan for all his hard work and the commissioners thanked DAN for his

Item 9 is GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT.

No public comment

Item 10 OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

Item 11 NEW BUSINESS

- A. Information Review and approval of the Fiscal Year 2024-25 and 2025-26 DAS Budgets. (Presented by DAS Executive Director Kelly Dearman and HSA Deputy Director of Finance & Administration Dan Kaplan)

Deputy Director Kaplan thanked his budget team of Celia Pedroza, Alex Gleason, for all their hard work and analysis. This is one of the toughest budget years due to shortfalls from the State and City.

- The Budget Process is seeing a \$800 million gap in the Mayor's Budget in deficit in the next two years from revenue shortage. Outlined the Budget reductions that are impacting HSA. The Governor proposed reductions that hopefully the legislator will not vote to take all the HSA reductions off the budget. Our budget now does not take into account these cuts.
- Addressed the DAS Reduction Plan for City General Funds and spoke on the Dignity Fund and its parameters
- Even with the reductions the DAS Budget still rose. Aid payments is the biggest growth and CBO grants as well.
- Spoke on the Dignity Fund and the triggers for it has grown.

Director Dearman spoke on Senate Bill 43 which is a new law that went into effect Jan 1st 2024 & expands the legal definition of grave disability to include severe substance use disorder and inability to provide for own safety and/or medical care.

Has already increased referrals for LPS conservatorship and will take new positions that are already budgeted for DAS.

Dan Kaplan then finished the proposal by outlining the budget timeline by way of the Mayor's Office, submittal to BOS, and then new budget takes effect.

Vice President Lum asked what they will do if the state does not make the cuts they are planning and Kaplan answered that they have to project revenue and make judgments on upcoming revenue and sometimes a revenue forecast can be a complicated guess on what money will be allocated.

President Spears asked if these cuts do come from the state then what happens and Kaplan replied they will then look into what services can be cut.

President Spears then asked for clarification on the Dignity Fund and asked it is it either the \$3 million or nothing and Kaplan answered that they have not dealt with that yet, they will determine if that road is crossed. Labor negotiations will also play a large role on all the labor contracts will have to be signed by April 15.

President Spears also inquired on SB43 and the additional numbers and if there is concern of APS service shortages and Kaplan answered that will come from employee labor contracts.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Marie Jobbling spoke on the Dignity Fund and the possible loss of this revenue and urged the commission to work for this funding.

Christina Irving from the Dignity Fund Coalition spoke and asked for the support of the commission of this funding not only for this year, but for many years to come. This annual allocation is added to DAS's baseline and this is very important. The loss looks more like \$39 million total to the DAS budget.

Another member of the public also spoke on the possibility of losing the Dignity Fund and how important it is to our citizens and their elder health. Spoke on inflationary woes and she understands but people are afraid right now and really can use this aid.

A motion to approve from Barbar Sklar

The motion was unanimously approved.

INFORMATIONAL ONLY ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A VOTE FROM THE COMMISSION

B. PRESENTATION AND REVIEW OF DAS - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM MEMORANDUM #33: CONSUMER GRIEVANCE PROCESS (Presented by Mike Zaugg) INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Presenter Zaugg gave a presentation and review of DAS - Office of Community Partnerships Program Memorandum #33: Consumer Grievance Process.

Commissioner Bittner asked about if the Council has received training on ableism and President Lawrence and said that they did receive some.

Commissioner Knutzen asked for clarification on the feedback process and President Spears thanked them for the clarifications

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

C. Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 Area Plan Budget Amendment 1. (Presented by Genevieve Herreria) INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Presenter Herreria gave an informational only presentation on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 Area Plan Budget Amendment 1.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

ITEMS D THROUGH E ARE ACTION ITEMS AND REQUIRES A VOTE BY THE COMMISSION

D. Presenter Requesting a vote by the Commission to appoint Renee Richards to the DAS Advisory Council for a two-year term as a DAS Commission Appointee.

The commission will vote to appoint Renee Richards to the DAS Advisory Council for a two-year term as a DAS Commission Appointee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

A motion to approve from Commissioner Bittner

The motion was unanimously approved.

- E. Requesting authorization to modify the existing grant agreements with multiple providers during the period of February 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, in the additional amount of \$3,521,363 plus a 10% contingency for a revised total amount not to exceed \$26,711,741.
(Presented by Tiffany Dang)

Presenter Dang along with fellow DAS Nutritionist Leah Walton is requesting authorization to modify the existing grant agreements with multiple providers during the period of February 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, in the additional amount of \$3,521,363 plus a 10% contingency for a revised total amount not to exceed \$26,711,741.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

A motion to approve from Commissioner Jung.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Announcements – President Spears let the commission know about the LGBTQ survey and Commissioner Bittner let the commission know about the upcoming MOD/DAS Joint Commission Meeting on Friday Feb 16th 2024 1pm in room 400.

Vice President Lum thanked everyone and wished everyone a happy Chinese New Year and GO SF 49ers!!!!!!

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:57am by President Spears