

DIGNITY FUND OVERSIGHT AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 20, 2024; 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

1650 Mission Street, 5th floor, Golden Gate

Conference Room

Public attendance via Zoom

Minutes

Attending: Marcy Adelman, Allen Cooper, Ramona Davies, Wanda Jung, Jennifer Walsh, Vince Crisostomo

Excused: Sandy Mori, Diane Lawrence

Call to Order: Ms. Jung called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Roll Call: Melissa McGee called roll.

Approval of the Agenda:

Members approved the OAC meeting agenda for May 20, 2024.

General Public Comment Public:

None

Reminder: The San Francisco Board of Supervisors approved Motion No. M23-129, which discontinues public comments made by remote meeting participants. Public comments can be made by in-person participants only.

Approval of the Minutes:

Members approved the OAC meeting minutes for November 27, 2023.

Service Providers Working Group - Fiona Hinze

Fiona Hinze reported that the SPWG has not met in year 2024 thus far but hope to meet soon. The goal of the SPWG is to have input in future agenda items through submitting this information to the OAC as their advisory group. As the OAC has not met, nor has the SPWG. As the group provides input based on the OAC schedule; as you have not met, there is no report today.

SPWG is jointly run by CASE (Coalition of Agencies Serving the Elderly) and DFC (Dignity Fund Coalition). There has been a change in leadership in CASE. Dan Gallagher is no longer chair but will remain on Board. Co-chair of the SPWG is now Judith Dancer, as she is co-chair of CASE. The current SPWG co-chairs are now Fiona Hinze, Judith Dancer, Marie Jobling, and Christina Irving.

City Budgeting Process – Cindy Kauffman (Slide deck of presentation is attached.)

Budget information was presented to DAS Commission at the February meeting and there has been change since.

The city is projecting an 800-million-dollar deficit and has asked departments to find 10% in cuts.

The State budget is also experiencing an expected 44-billion-dollar deficit.

The City budget office is giving DAS the 3 million Dignity Fund allocation, but from this is the 1.7 million CODB, as well as needing to find an additional 1.65 million in cuts. This would be in addition to

the 1.1 million in cuts already requested and identified. The department can find it through cuts or through a lack of growth.

Specific expectations will be known by June 1, when the Mayor's budget is complete.

Kelly Dearman will present the DAS budget to the Board of Supervisors in June; the first presentation is Wednesday June 12.

MOCA funding had been previously identified and the department has programmed this 2.7 million in nutrition programs. We will have to see what happens with MOCA funding on the State level, and depending on what happens there will be decisions about programming. C4a is advocating for MOCA funding, especially identifying impact on nutrition and meals.

APS and IHSS programs are also looking at potential cuts to programs.

At this point, the department does not know much until both city and state budgets are decided.

Questions / Comments –

Ramona – Is there advocacy / champions for services on the Board of Supervisors?

Cindy - Yes, Supervisors Melgar and Peskin, maybe Stefani and Ronen. But of note, given the current climate, champion is a loose term, as everyone needs money.

Allen – Are we getting the 3 million Dignity Fund allocation?

Cindy – Yes. And of the 3 million, a portion goes to CODB; the rest funds expansion, new programs, etc.

Marcy – Can DAS identify those most vulnerable and offer some sort of assistance for outreach to businesses to apply for grants?

Cindy – When CBOs reach out, we can provide names / suggestions, i.e., Metta Fund. We help where we can and share our process, but we do not know agencies donor bases, etc.

Ramona – An important fact of DF is that baseline gets funded and preserved, and the 3 million is added each year. Also, that the intention was never to have CODB come out of DF.

Vince – It is a bad budget year as well as an election year, so many factors are at play, including pilots; suggest not new programming currently and try to preserve current programming.

Cindy – We appreciate the hesitation to develop new programming. Suggest the OAC ask the SPWG about priorities. CASE and SPWG can offer their opinions on preference given the situation.

Vince – Food security crucial right now.

Cindy – To our benefit in SF, we at least have DF which others in state do not.

Ramona – What emerging needs are we hearing about?

Cindy – Nutrition is always a need; access to information and referral so they know where to go; getting folks linked into services like entitlement and benefits.

Mike – The department refers to SAP and DFCNA. Services for AWD are an emerging need; as are mental health services for OA and AWD.

Allen – IHSS is not DF, correct? How many will lose services? Undocumented individuals are currently receiving services but will lose them with current budget.

Kelly – We believe this is a relatively small number, but still a very difficult situation for that population.

Vince – Will the DCCC move forward w/ no issue, as that money has already been allocated and will move forward?

Cindy – A cut would be considered those currently in contract; if not currently in contract, then not a cut but no growth.

Marcy – Can we cut if organization is in contract?

Cindy – All contracts have contingency about funding availability.

Cindy – The department won't know specifics until end of this month. If cuts go through, we will have to find 1.65 million in cuts.

Wanda - At the moment, the 3 million is still in place, but the bad news is that there still may be hard choices to make.

Vince – My recommendation is to cut over growth, using the 1.3 million to support existing programming, no new growth.

Allen – If we don't need contingency, what will we do?

Cindy – The department will look at cycle B needs as this is the current cycle per the SAP, as well as emerging needs. Cycle B includes programs in access and empowerment, caregiver support, housing.

Public Comment:

None

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Announcements:

Vince Crisostomo is the recipient of the George Choy award from the Asian Pacific Alliance for his work in community services.

Marcy Adelman is the recipient of the Norma Statton award from the Community Living Campaign.

Adjournment:

4:00 p.m.

Next meeting:

Monday, July 15, 2024, 3:00pm to 5:00pm