

Date: October 3, 2025
From: DFC Co-chairs Marie Jobling and Christina Irving
To: Commission Streamlining Task Force, City Hall, Room 362
1 Dr, Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102
Re: Advisory Bodies to the Disability and Aging Services Dept.



The Dignity Fund Coalition (DFC) has fostered several discussions on potential changes to the bodies related to the Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS). We respectfully ask you consideration of the following as you deliberate at your upcoming meeting on October 15 and beyond.

Principles

- Respect and continue to recognize the insights and advice of community leadership – seniors and people with disabilities who ably represent more than 25% of the population.
- Recognize the significant effort to date to create diverse bodies with assigned “slots” to enhance communication across various bodies.
- Keep a balance of Board of Supervisor and Commission appointments.
- Use the Long-Term Care Coordinating Council (LTCCC) slots to strengthen provider and consumer involvement.
- Work to understand and eliminate barriers to active participation.
- Assure a timely and transparent process to fill vacancies.

Following the template of the Commission Task Force and information from the Department of Disability and Aging Services, the DFC would recommend:

- **Keep the Disability and Aging Commission in its current role as Governing Body**, whose seven members will continue to be appointed by the Mayor. As such, its primary role is to approve contracts and policies of the Department of Disability and Aging Services.
- **Keep the Dignity Fund Oversight and Advisory Council in its current role as an advisory body** with 11 potential members related to the implementation of the Dignity Fund ordinance. There are currently 2 long term vacancies. Re-purpose LTCCC appointed positions to the ones that maintain representation from Service Providers and Consumers and move forward to fill the vacant two seats that have not been filled for a long time. Keep the body included in the Charter and recognize its purpose and core functions:
 - Purpose – Ensure transparent, equitable and community-informed use of the Dignity Fund to support services for older adults and adults with disabilities in San Francisco.
 - Core Functions
 - Ensure accountability for Dignity Fund spending
 - Advise on planning, evaluation and funding as required by the ordinance
 - Engage the community in a mandated needs assessment and service planning
 - Support program improvement and innovation based on current identification and emerging needs
 - Review reports and maintain provider input

- Support the regular convening of a Service Provider Work Group in support of the core functions of this body and represents front line knowledge of needs and impacts.
- **Keep the Disability and Aging Advisory Committee as a federally required advisory body.** While we are opposed to merging functions with the Oversight and Advisory Committee, there is some support for reducing the number of slots. Ideally, we would keep representatives appointed from each of the 11 Supervisorial districts and fill the remaining representatives chosen by the DAS Commission (with Commission members are in turn appointed by the Mayor.). There are currently at least 5 vacancies in the Commission slots and have been for some time, despite potential nominees.
 - Purpose – Serve as a community-based advisory and advocacy body that supports the mission of the AAA
 - Core functions –
 - Guide the development and implementation of the required annually updated Area Plan for Aging Services
 - Represent and promote the interests of older adults and caregivers in the community
 - Foster collaboration
 - Serve as a forum for older adults to voice needs and concerns
 - Assess local aging issues and recommend improvements in services and policies

In general, the feeling is that reducing the number of participants and increasing the amount of responsibility will make the work unmanageable. It will eliminate a large number of current, active and diverse leaders with no clear process and make the workload and amount of homework needed to provide good leadership on so many tasks something that can discourage participation. The current structure of the Advisory groups promotes good communication across the bodies and allows the space for them to engage service providers and participants through site visits and the support for the Service Provider Work Group.

Other Comments

Mayor's Disability Council became the responsibility of the Department of Disability and Aging Services when the Mayor's Office on Disability was merged into the functions of DAS. We would recommend that its form and function be formalized in the Administrative Code. In addition, we would recommend that language related to services for adults with disabilities and caregivers be integrated in the language of the above bodies where appropriate and that the name of the Charter be updated from the former Department title, Aging and Adult Services.

One Final Recommendation – to the extent language in the Charter is amended, we would urge deletion the “trigger” language in the Charter that is now being used to stop providing increased annual funding of \$3 million to the Dignity Fund. The Dignity Fund is just one of the very few set-asides that has this language and as such, is discriminatory against older adults and people with disabilities.