

FSTF Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

[Click here to view the meeting recording](#)

Task Force Members Present: Jeimil Belamide (HSA/CalFresh); Priti Rane (DPH/Nutrition Services); Michelle Kim (DCYF); Emily Cohen (HSH); Jennifer LeBarre (SFUSD); Cissie Bonini (UCSF/Vouchers 4 Veggies – EatSF); Anne Quaintance (Conard House); Chester Williams (Community Living Campaign); Katie Jackson (Project Open Hand); Guillermo Reece (SFAAFBC); Jade Quizon (FAACTS); Noriko Lim-Tepner (SFMFB); Raegan Sales (Children’s Council of SF); Hannah Grant (Meals on Wheels SF); Lura Jones (Leah’s Pantry); Geoffrey Grier (SF Recovery Theatre)

Task Force Members Not Present: Tiffany Kearney (DAS); Mei Ling Hui (SF Park & Rec)

Also Present: Beth Bodner (SF Environment); Cathy Huang (HSA); Claudia Llanos (HOMEY-SF); Danielle Lundstrom (SFDPH – SNAP-Ed); Ellen Garcia (EatSF); Eric Chan (SFDPH – Office of Anti-Racism & Equity); Janna Cordeiro (Food as Medicine Collaborative); Julie Hibarger (HSA); Kaela Plank (SFDPH – Center for Data Science); Luana Mears (SFDPH – NEOP); Nancy Hernandez (Excelsior Strong); Priscilla Rodriguez (SFDPH – Office of Anti-Racism & Equity); Serena Ngo (Hirsch Philanthropy Partners); Tiffany Dang (DAS); Tommy McClain (HSA)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Next Steps
1. Call order to order 1:30 p.m.	Call to order at 1:30 p.m.	None.
2. Land Acknowledgment 1:30 p.m.	Priscilla Rodriguez recited the Land Acknowledgement.	None.
3. Welcome, member roll call, introductions, Cissie Bonini (Chair, EatSF/Vouchers 4 Veggies) 1:35 p.m.	Priscilla Rodriguez and Eric Chan reintroduced themselves. Public Comment: None.	
4. Approval of minutes from February 5, 2025 1:40 p.m.	Change “Sanoma” to “Sonoma”. Correct FAACTS website link. Correct FAACTS summit dates. Correct name spellings. Raegan Sales makes motion to approve minutes with corrections. Michelle Kim seconds the motion. None opposed. One abstained. Motion is passed. Public Comment: None.	None.
5. General Public Comment 1:45 p.m.	None.	

<p>6. FSTF Member Updates, Hannah Grant (Meals on Wheels SF) 1:50 p.m.</p>	<p>Please refer to the recording for this presentation, linked here. This agenda item starts at the 9:56 minute mark and ends at the 24:40 minute mark.</p> <p>Hannah Grant gave an overview of Meals on Wheels SF and presented on organizational new projects, challenges, and opportunities. A discussion/Q&A followed with additional notes below.</p> <p>Hannah Grant: Hi, everyone. For those of you who don't know me my name is Hannah Grant. I'm a registered dietitian nutritionist and the Director of Programs and Partnerships at Meals on Wheels of San Francisco. We were founded in 1970 with the mission of providing nutritious meals to seniors in San Francisco to help them live more independently in their homes. We've expanded a lot since 1970 and currently provide meals to over 3,500 seniors and adults with disabilities in San Francisco and Northern San Mateo County. Those programs are provided through Partnerships with the San Francisco Department of Disability and Aging Services as well as the San Mateo County Area Agency on Aging. Our clients can receive up to two meals per day 7 days a week and can get either twice weekly frozen deliveries or daily hot deliveries based on their individual needs. Our programs aren't means tested but 42% of our enrolled clients report experiencing food insecurity and 84% of them fall below 200% of the federal poverty line. Home delivered meals is definitely our core program, but we try to leverage our 35,000 sqft production facility which you can see in this picture. We try to leverage that to offer an array of other programs and services. For example, we contract with the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to provide meals to many of San Francisco shelters and navigation sites. Through this program, we serve two meals a day to approximately 1,200 individuals give or take. We also</p>	<p>None.</p>
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	<p>provide home delivered groceries to about 500 seniors every week through a partnership with the San Francisco Marin Food Bank and we provide medically tailored meals to low-income members of the community through a contract with San Francisco Health Plan. In addition to meals, we provide services to help seniors age safely in place. These include safety checks with each delivery, an assigned social worker to help with referrals to other programs, and coordination of resources. It also includes our client needs program which provides items such as microwaves, refrigerators, adaptive utensils, and home safety equipment. We connect seniors to volunteers through our friendly social caller, friendly visitor, and friendly grocery shopper programs. These have the added benefit of helping to reduce social isolation and loneliness which are major concerns for homebound seniors. For new projects, challenges, opportunities as we look forward, we have a couple new projects in our pipeline. Firstly, we're working to increase our capacity to offer more culturally responsive menus and to accommodate our client's diverse dietary means. At our current scale, this does present a pretty significant operational challenge but it's important to us that clients have a dignified experience and that the meals they receive are appropriate for them, so this is a priority for us in the next year or so. We're also working on launching a pet food program. We learned through our annual surveys that many of our clients were sharing the meals they received with their pets or spending a considerable portion of their limited funds on pet food. We saw this as an opportunity to kind of come at food security through a side door. We're hoping that by providing high-quality pet food to these clients we can ensure that they get the maximum benefit from the meals we provide and then also free up resources for them to use for other necessities. For challenges, we're currently facing I suspect</p>	
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	<p>these are going to be familiar to most folks. First there's the general uncertainty around the availability of future funding given the current administration. About 50% of our annual operating budget comes from government contracts so we're just paying close attention to the situation as it develops. Secondly, the rising cost of food presents a challenge. We produce 10,000 meals per day on average and that does help us leverage economy of scale that smaller organizations might not be able to, but it also means that small price increases for individual items add up rapidly. The third challenge is we do anticipate an increased demand over the coming years. Each day over 10,000 people in the United States turn 65 and adults over 60 are the fastest growing age group in San Francisco. As we look forward and try to think about how we can best meet that growing need especially considering the other challenges I just mentioned. That leads me to what we see as future opportunities and that is exploring partnerships with other organizations. As we all know there's so much great innovative work being done here and as the landscape changes, we really want to think about new ways to collaborate with other orgs so that we can all build resiliency in the food system and just better support the communities that we serve. We think there's a lot of opportunity there. That's a little bit about me and Meals on Wheels. If anyone has questions, I'm happy to answer any.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: Thank you, Hannah. Tremendous amount of work Meals and Wheels has and continues to do. The new facility is amazing. Can you just repeat the percentage of federal funding because I know that Meals on Wheels nationally gets in the headlines.</p>	
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	<p>Hannah Grant: So, for us here at meals on Wheels San Francisco it's about 50/50 government contracts and then donations or brands.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: What percentage is federal?</p> <p>Hannah Grant: Not off the top of my head. I know that a larger percentage of it is state and local than is federal, but I don't know the exact numbers.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: When you talk about opportunities and new partnerships, did you have any examples of that that you might be looking for?</p> <p>Hannah Grant: We're kind of exploring a lot of things. I think different maybe referral partnerships for some of our programs. My position, Director of Programs and Partnerships, is relatively new and so that is sort of my mandate is to identify those opportunities. If anybody in this room has ideas, I'm very open to them. I think Meals and Wheels has a lot of resources in terms of our facility and our fleet. I think that there's opportunities to have mutually beneficial partnerships where we can build that resiliency and offer more services to more people and maybe help other orgs build capacity in a way that helps us help our clients too.</p> <p>Chester Williams: I can validate everything that has been said about Meals on Wheels as being very positive. We've had a kind of an existing contract with them for about seven or eight years with the Bayview program that comes in on Thursdays. I have to say without Meals on Wheels our program would have been virtually impossible to achieve any type of goals related to that. I'm very thankful that they have come on board with us, and we've been able to increase at least 75 to 85% of our clientele. The operation of the program has been easier for us. Thank you and keep up the good work. I have to say this is unique because I've worked with a lot of community</p>	
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	<p>programs. We have a little office space. Now that's amazing because usually when you go in you know you're a guest and someone just has you go in, but we came in they said nah we're going to give you a little office space to work in and it's really been very helpful. So, thank you.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: Another question about the pets [program] that's super interesting. I worked at St. Anthony's for many years. Once the support groups came out, we had to allow folks in with their pets to the dining room which was just an amazing amount of people and really changed some of the operations. How are you funding that operation?</p> <p>Hannah Grant: So, that's going to be primarily funded through grants and private donations.</p> <p>Anne Quaintance: Hannah, this looks great. Thanks for the update. I just wanted to throw how meals are provided to current Meals on Wheels clients in supportive housing and if there's interest in exploring different models for that? As far as kind of more efficiency, effectiveness, or expansion. Things like the food kiosk potentially being a vendor or partnership with that I think could be fun to explore. The only other thing is when I got to Conard House pet support was one of the things that were called out as of one of the key services. We did start a pet support program. I'd be happy to talk to you a little bit about that and what we've seen there. It has been helpful. We have 80 pets currently.</p> <p>Hannah Grant: I'm going to take you up on that. I know we talked a little bit about the food kiosk a while ago and there's been some staffing changes, so I think that fell off our radar a little bit, but I'd love to start that conversation back up. I will reach out to you.</p>	
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	Public Comment: None.	
7. Food Security Task Force Annual Recommendations, Cissie Bonini (Chair, EatSF/Vouchers 4 Veggies) 2:30 p.m.	<p>Please refer to the recording for this presentation, linked here. This agenda item starts at the 24:40 minute mark and ends at the 1:15:45 minute mark.</p> <p>The Food Security Task Force reviews the 2025 recommendations slide deck. Members vote on a graphic design for the recommendations. FSTF members provide feedback before finalizing the slide deck. A discussion was held throughout the presentation. Additional notes can be found below.</p> <p>Eric Chan: I can share first on the design and then Priscilla if you want to share the PowerPoint after. I</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: Last month we talked about threats, opportunities, and challenges. We tried to integrate this into the recommendations. Today we're going to show an outline of the graphic design and then we're going to go into some draft slides. The slides are very wordy and they're more concepts. We are asking for feedback and making sure we're getting the general theme out. Then we are hoping for a vote on this to approve the next step of editing, cleaning up, and finalizing the final PowerPoint. Again, this will be presented to the Board of Supervisors, Mayor's office, and City department heads. The general theme that we agreed on from last time was that it's heavy on education because we have a new mayor and new supervisors. We would also spend a little bit more time than normal on the proposal for a community-led food body plus a community advisory board.</p>	Priscilla, Eric, and Cissie will make the necessary edits to the deck and finalize the slides.

	<p>Eric Chan: We want to get this done by the end of March. We want to get this published before the end of March, so we decided to move forward graphically with a refresh of a design from just a couple years ago. Our graphic designer sent over what she considered different designs but they're all pretty much the same. This is the look and feel of a refreshed update from the 2023 task force recommendations.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: What we're doing is reprising this one, so we wanted to look a little different from the other one.</p> <p>[Chat provides feedback on the three designs.]</p> <p>[Group selects design #3.]</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: [Goes into recommendations slide deck] Okay, let's go into the content. Just some brief background on the Food Security Task Force. Next one. Current landscape. We may use this or another chart that we've used. It may be hard to see on this but basically the theme of this is the incredibly high cost of Living in San Francisco. We may have a title that talks about that. What we're comparing are the differences in household income by race/ethnicity. We also have a chart that has the self-sufficiency standard for 2024 which is like 60 or 59,000 a year compared to the SSI which is like 10,000 annual San Francisco minimum wage. There are different ways that we can highlight the big difference between what low-income folks are receiving and the high cost of living in San Francisco which explains a lot of the food security needs and the racial disparities in San Francisco. There's also this increased food cost since the 2020 pandemic. Overall, there's been a 25% increase in food costs nationally.</p>	
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	<p>One point is somebody who is at 200% federal poverty line would basically have to double their income to make the self-sufficiency standard.</p> <p>Jennifer LeBarre: On the next slide, should we mention anything about a family of four not being able to make more than \$57,000 to qualify for free or reduced-price lunches. If you have two parents working full-time and two adults in the house working full-time San Francisco minimum wage jobs, you don't qualify for free or reduced. Maybe that can be somewhere else I mean because part of the current landscape is yes, we have universal meals in California but if they do anything that they're talking about doing at the federal level that's going to really impact us.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: I think that if you are \$1 over the 200% federal poverty line you are not eligible for SNAP.</p> <p>Jade Quizon: Since we introduce the self-sufficiency standard, do we know how many people live below that annual income?</p> <p>Priscilla Rodriguez: I believe I came across that data, but I can double check that and send it out if I find it.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: [Map slide] What we are looking at right now is the correspondence of health disparities, low income, and food insecurity. There are higher concentrations in particular zip codes.</p> <p>Nancy [D11]: The recent census found that there were quite a few people who are now wealthy living in this neighborhood but that had no impact on the people who are in this food line right now. So, understanding that you are looking at data coming from the Census but understanding also that there is poverty in D11 and other places that are not on this list even though</p>	
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	<p>the median income improved in this area it improved because rich people gentrified this area not because the makeup of the people who are in this line changed at all. I think that there needs to be an amendment or addendum to this clarifying that this is very skewed.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: Good point. Thank you.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: [Nutrition sensitive health disparities slide] This is a big part of what came out of the biennial food security report. We wanted to emphasize the connection between health and food insecurity. One of the gaps is the city has eight food programs addressing this. We spend a tremendous amount on health care for diet sensitive chronic disease that can be ameliorated with food security intervention. This is some of the return on investment. If we don't take care of food security now you end up spending it later in healthcare costs.</p> <p>Anne Quaintance: I'm not sure I understand what we mean when we say the city has eight food programs. mean</p> <p>Eric Chan: They're programs focused specifically on addressing nutrition sensitive medical conditions. So, food pharmacies through DPH. It's all listed in the biennial report but there are only eight programs that focus on food as nutrition whereas there are a bunch of other programs that are focused on food access.</p> <p>Anne Quaintance: That makes sense. I just don't think it reads like that. When I'm reading this, it doesn't say positive or negative. I just don't think we're saying it's a gap. You might need to call that out.</p>	
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	<p>Cissie Bonini: [Reduction in food funding slide] We wanted to call this out specifically. This is the cuts to our local budget saying that there has been a reduction in local city funds.</p> <p>Anne Quaintance: Speaking about reductions can be very sensitive. We can be more specific about those cuts and what programs. Are we referring to covid-related programs that ended?</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: Eric, these were from mostly HSA?</p> <p>Eric Chan: I think it's a mixture of both the ending of covid funding programs and then the city's massive budget deficit. So, every year we've just been cutting funding. This is data from 23 and 24 so we don't have what happened in 23 24. This was just the projected.</p> <p>Anne Quaintance: So, I don't think we can use projections for past things. These are the last two years. If we know there's been cuts, I think you need to list them and the programs. We don't want to put out something that's not accurate.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: [Threats and challenges slide] We want to make sure that we're not missing any of the bigger threats or challenges that people brought up in the last Food Security Task Force meeting. There are the food bank cuts that came from the presentation from the San Francisco Marin Food Bank. There's HSA budget cuts including grocery access and meal support. We know that it's gone from 20 million to 10 million this year. There's the Safeway in the Filmore, of course. This is a potential bigger issue than just the Safeway. We know that the other Market on midmarket</p>	
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	<p>closed. There's Walgreens closing. This is generally a constriction in the retail environment that may impact our low-income residents.</p> <p>Jennifer LeBarre: Is this the place where we want to say anything about the House Ways and Means budget that was approved by the House? Some of it's a little bit wonky because it gets into operations but one of the proposals would impact how California is doing universal meals and really could threaten it. Another proposal is that they're going to mandate anytime a family submits a free and reduced-price meal application it must be verified. Right now, we only have a 3% verification rate. They want to move it to a 100% verification rate. Then, a senator from Utah proposed a bill that would automatically disqualify children with various immigrant backgrounds and immigrant statuses and any child that's on parole which really impacts our county schools. They would not be able to qualify for free or reduced [meals] automatically.</p> <p>Anne Quaintance: There may be a solution slide coming but on here I just wanted to say something about the bullet point regarding the San Francisco Marin Food Bank. Will there be a 40% reduction that is going to happen no matter what or is this a place where we would say without increased support there would be?</p> <p>Noriko Lim-Tepper: I believe the cuts have happened so let me look back to our programs team just to confirm.</p> <p>Anne Quaintance: That's helpful, thank you yeah. Then, also just listing out San Francisco Marin Food Bank just in case people don't know what SFMFB is.</p>	
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	<p>Cissie Bonini: Great, moving on. There may be hiring delays which impacts efficiency in services for food programs. What we don't want to happen is hiring freezes that impact people's ability to get SNAP or any other programming. Jeimil, I just read it in this same House Ways and Means that there might be some SNAP cuts.</p> <p>Jeimil Belamide: We get our communication about that from the state, so we haven't heard anything from CDSS at this point. We would get that and then we would assess how it would impact us and how we would implement it.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: We can massage the language on this to make it a little more clear but so far so good.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: [Opportunities and threats slide] We wanted to include here that there's opportunities around food waste. We can take some opportunity around that to maximize that.</p> <p>Raegan Sales: On that last slide, there's a question in the chat about why the D10 is being referenced as an HSA program. Is it HSA funded? Should we specify that because it was brought as a supervisor initiative originally.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: Thank you for that correction. It was a legislative action, but I don't know who's funding it. We'll check on that. Again, we said that we wanted to spend some time talking about the new food coordination so we may use this [ordinance overview slide] as a refresher that there was an ordinance that many of the supervisors may not know or may know about. Going into the recommendations. So, the recommendation for community-driven food coordination office and public body. This still needs some roughing up and we'll have actual proposal that we can include when we</p>	
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	<p>send out the recommendations. The second recommendation is to invest in adequate city resources. I think we'll move that language around regarding sustaining existing funding.</p> <p>Anne Quaintance: I just wanted to clarify what we mean by funding food programs for residents of permanent and SRO housing. I think are we saying supportive housing and affordable housing. I would say residents of supportive and affordable housing.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: I wanted to ask the folks in housing a question. We know that there's the mayor's goals around the fentanyl emergency and stabilizing individuals. Is there a specific connection we need to make around any new housing or stability supports to include in food security?</p> <p>Anne Quaintance: I think it'd be great. There's been no mention of food. There's almost no mention of food anywhere in these conversations.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: I think it's a specific thing when you're considering this funding and making sure you're including the food piece.</p> <p>Anne Quaintance: There still no dedicated funding for food in supportive housing.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: Okay, number three: focus on Health Equity in funding opportunities. This is a major piece of the biennial report. To continue funding for populations and neighborhoods that suffer the highest impact of nutrition sensitive medical conditions.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: Recommendation number four is looking at grocery access and under resourced communities. We may want to recommend a specific</p>	
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	<p>one around the Safeway in Filmore like ensure that there's both a short-term and long-term intervention for the lack of grocery access.</p> <p>Jade Quizon: When we were looking at the threats and challenges, Janna in the chat dropped a note about the tariffs impacting food costs so I just wanted to make sure that got captured in the notes.</p> <p>Public Comment: None.</p> <p>Jennifer LeBarre makes motion to approve the recommendations slide deck with corrections.</p> <p>Chester Williams seconds the motion.</p> <p>None opposed. None abstained. Motion is passed.</p> <p>Deck will move on to be finalized.</p>	
<p>8. Updates and emerging issues 2:45 p.m.</p>	<p>Please refer to the recording for this presentation, linked here. This agenda item starts at the 1:15:45 minute mark and ends at the X minute mark.</p> <p>Food Security Task Force members provide updated and discuss emerging issues.</p> <p>Jeimil Belamide: I just wanted to share the case load volume for us as of December has been holding steady. We're around 111,000 individuals on the case load and that equates to about 82,000 households or cases for us. Another is on the ABAWD time limit waiver. It was set to expire October of this year, but it looks like it was extended through January 2027.</p>	<p>None.</p>

	<p>Jade Quizon: This morning, FAACTS had their general meeting, and we asked about potential impacts from federal funding freezes and cuts, and we had Ayah come from Our Family Coalition to speak on the impacts on our LGBTQ+ families in the city. It's important for these families to have a place where they feel safe and comfortable to get food and anti-trans laws and anti-immigration laws have really impacted them. I know HSA has on their website a list of places where all the food distribution programs are. I'm going to build upon that so if anyone can offer or if your program has any capacity to help folks and help families let me know. I can add it to the list. We also did some resource sharing because they were saying that it could be helpful that they have a space to do cooking classes for families. The other one that I wanted to flag that's emerging and urgent is Alemany Farm is doing a whole Save the Farm campaign right now. They've been really impacted. They were recipients of USDAs Community Change Grant which is frozen. They're not getting any funding from that. They have had to put their farmer apprenticeship program on pause and a lot of their staff are taking pay cuts so it's on their website and Instagram page.</p> <p>Michelle Kim: I have two updates. DCYF released our annual nutrition application. For sites that are interested in serving their youth program, we have released it, so I'm copy and pasting the link into the chat. Applications are due February 14th. I think shapeup just sent out this email, but they are partnering with the People's Budget Coalition. It's a free training on how to unlock the power of storytelling and budget advocacy. They just released that the training is Wednesday March 19th from 12 to 2 pm. There's a link to register. I can forward that email to Eric, and he can send it out to the group. The application will end March 14th.</p>	
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	Public Comment: None.	
9. Adjournment 3:00 p.m.	Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.	None.