

FSTF Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2025
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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Task Force Members Present: Priti Rane (DPH/Nutrition Services); Tiffany Kearney (DAS); Michelle Kim (DCYF); Marion Sanders (HSH); Jennifer LeBarre (SFUSD); Cissie Bonini (UCSF/Vouchers 4 Veggies – EatSF); Anne Quaintance (Conard House); Katie Jackson (Project Open Hand); Guillermo Reece (SFAAFBC); Jade Quizon (FAACTS); Noriko Lim-Teppe (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: Jeimil Belamide (HSA/CalFresh); Mei Ling Hui (SF Park & Rec); Chester Williams (Community Living Campaign)

Also Present: Alex Raffanti (SFMFB); Beth Bodner (SF Environment); Cathy Huang (HSA); Cindy Lin (SFHSA Food Access); Claudia Llanos (HOMEY-SF); Danielle Lundstrom (SFDPH/SNAP-Ed); Eric Chan (SFDPH – Office of Anti-Racism & Equity); Fiona McBride (SF HSA Food Access); JP Hailer (Food Connect); Margaret Borst; Marianne Szeto (SFDPH); Marina Kan (HSA); Melinda Gordon (Leah’s Pantry); Priscilla Rodriguez (SFDPH – Office of Anti-Racism & Equity); Serena Ngo (Hirsch Philanthropy Partners); Kaela Plank (SFDPH – CDS); Susie Smith (SFHSA); Tommy McClain (SF HSA Food Access); Yuki Shimoto; Leah Walton (DAS)

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, Eat SF/Vouchers 4 Veggies) 1:35 p.m.	Cissie Bonini did roll call and introduced the agenda. Cissie introduced Marion Sanders who replaced Emily Cohen. Marion is the new Food Security Task Force (FSTF) member representing the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing. Public Comment: None.	None.

4. Approval of minutes from September 3, 2025 1:40 p.m.	<p>Hannah Grant makes motion to approve minutes. Lura Jones seconds the motion.</p> <p>11 approved. 0 opposed. 0 abstained. Motion is passed.</p> <p>Public Comment: None.</p>	None.
5. General public comment 1:45 p.m.	None.	None.
6. San Francisco food coordination structure, Cissie Bonini (Chair, Eat SF/Vouchers 4 Veggies) 1:50 p.m.	<p>Please refer to the recording for this presentation, linked here. This agenda item starts at the 6:24 minute mark and ends at the 15:00 minute mark.</p> <p>Priscilla led the discussion on the San Francisco (SF) food coordination structure. Meetings have been set up between FSTF members and the Board of Supervisor (BOS) offices. Meetings with Chen's office, Fielder's office, and Mahmood's office have been scheduled. A group of FSTF members have been meeting to discuss the food coordination structure in SF and have agreed to move forward with advocating for the proposal that was produced by the Reimagining Food Coordination subcommittee. During BOS meetings, the focus is to 1) understand the plans for food structure in SF and 2) discuss potential reauthorization of the FSTF which is slated to sunset on July 1, 2026.</p> <p>Cissie provided additional information on the recommendation for the food coordination structure in SF. Based on the Reimagining Food Coordination subcommittee's proposal, the FSTF is advocating for an Office of Food and a community advisory body. Cissie is interested in examining the Dignity Fund Oversight and Advisory Committee as a model for a food advisory body. The second option would be to keep the structure of the FSTF when creating a new food advisory board. Cissie shared the FSTF bylaws to summarize the makeup of the FSTF and the process for choosing seats.</p>	None.

	<p>When meeting with BOS offices, the FSTF is interested in learning more about the Supervisor's interest in food security and what type of structure they would recommend. Following the scheduled meetings, Cissie will provide an update on what was discussed during the calls.</p> <p>A discussion/Q&A followed with additional notes below.</p> <p>Katie Jackson mentioned federal changes and the discontinuation of the report on hunger. She suggested it be brought up during meetings with BOS offices and highlight the importance of local work and the need for local food security data.</p> <p>Cissie reiterated the importance of local food security work and noted the need to prioritize this issue in response to the lack of resources and data at the federal level.</p> <p>Public Comment: None</p>	
<p>7. Commission Streamlining Task Force October 15th meeting, Cissie Bonini (Chair, Eat SF/Vouchers 4 Veggies) 2:10 p.m.</p>	<p>Please refer to the recording for this presentation, linked here. This agenda item starts at the 15:00 minute mark and ends at the 29:15 minute mark.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini led the discussion on the Commission Streamlining Task Force meeting, which is scheduled for October 15, 2025, at 1pm. The Commission was created to review public bodies in SF and determine whether they should be kept, eliminated, or combined. The FSTF drafted a letter to the Commission that will be submitted as written comment. Cissie requested that individuals submit written comments to the Commission in support of the FSTF. The FSTF is pushing for an Office of Food along with a community public body. Until then, the FSTF feels that they should be reauthorized until there is a suitable replacement.</p> <p>The FSTF is slated to sunset on July 1, 2026. When meeting with BOS offices, the FSTF will highlight the need to reauthorize the FSTF until there is a suitable replacement.</p> <p>Eric Chan informed FSTF members that the draft letter will be sent out for review and feedback.</p>	<p>None.</p>

	<p>Cissie asked participants on the call to submit letters using their own language and letterheads to highlight the work of the FSTF such as reports and recommendations to BOS, the Mayor's office, and community and their impact on combatting food insecurity in SF.</p> <p>A discussion/Q&A followed with additional notes below.</p> <p>Katie Jackson: I would say that one thing Project Open Hand has used was the biennial report that this body puts together. We've used that to secure grant funding for programs. That data helps us eliminate the issues that we're hoping to address through our programming. That could be a call to attention. This information is being used in that way or could be.</p> <p>Jade Quizon: I have a question on the timeline for the letter we're planning on sending next week. As members of the FSTF, what is the process for us?</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: Good question. This is optional but we're highly encouraging folks to support the FSTF. If you believe in what we do, and you have shown up to meetings we're hoping that you will support the continuation of this important group. On the day itself there'll be an opportunity for public comments. I'm really encouraging organizations to send in their information as soon as possible. Send letters of support. I don't know how this committee works, and I want to make sure that they receive information before they make decisions. Sometimes they go in and already have the decision made so that comment is not as you know timely. I don't know if anyone else has any opinions on that. I'm not sure how this committee works but I encourage participation in the event.</p> <p>Jade Quizon: I meant the FSTF letter. Are we going to have a chance to review the letter before it is sent to the Commission?</p> <p>Eric Chan: Yes, I am going to send a final version of the letter to Cissie. Once edits are made, we will send it out to the FSTF. It's not necessarily a letter of support. It's more like here are the reasons why we still want to keep the task force intact until there's an evolution of another public body that can come to replace it. It really highlights the importance of cross-sector collaboration. This is really the only space here in the City that focuses on food security and</p>	
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	<p>practices transparency, information sharing around food security related issues, and plays a role in developing the biennial food security equity report. The letter lists a few accomplishments that the task force has done over the last two decades. We're not saying that the task force is perfect but if nothing is here to replace this work that really engages the community, then we should not be sunseting it next year.</p> <p>Jade Quizon: I agree with all of that. I was just wondering about the process and if the letter was going to be shared with the FSTF for review and feedback.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: I just worry about the time frame. If the group would like to see it, I'm happy to do that. We can send it around to the task force but the latest it should get out is Friday. We can send it around and then if anyone has any feedback, if they could get it back by Thursday, we could get out Friday, that would be great.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: To reiterate, the task force members will receive the draft letter. If you have any comments, you'll need to turn that around quickly because we're going to get that out Friday. Everyone else from the list serv, we ask you to write a letter with your own letterhead or if you're an individual just write that letter recommending the continuance of the task force in your own words and why you think it was helpful for you or has been helpful.</p> <p>Public Comment:</p> <p>Beth Bodner: Can departments not formally in the task force sign the letter?</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: You should check with your own departments.</p>	
8. Updates and Emerging Issues 2:30 p.m.	<p>Please refer to the recording for this presentation, linked here. This agenda item starts at the 29:15 minute mark and ends at the 49:19 minute mark.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: A couple of announcements for upcoming meetings. We were going to hear from the Human Services Agency (HSA) today but it's our understanding that there will be a presentation next month by both the Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAS) and HSA. Is that correct?</p>	None.

	<p>Priscilla Rodriguez: It will be in December.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: We also received one new application for a task force seat. We're just holding off on that for now. We will be getting back to that person with a process for filling that seat, but we've just got a couple of other things we need to attend to right now. We're holding off on that. I am now opening it up for other updates or emerging issues.</p> <p>Geoffrey Grier: My question is how do we deal with the issues from our little government shutdown? Any plans? Any thoughts? Any considerations?</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: So, we do not think Medicaid and Medicare are impacted.</p> <p>Susie Smith: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and CalFresh are not being impacted so far. We have enough to cover October.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: Thanks, Susie. Jennifer, anything for the school district?</p> <p>Jennifer LeBarre: No. We have funding at least through October at the state level. It is an entitlement program so in theory we're supposed to be continuing to get those reimbursements, but you know unprecedented times and all.</p> <p>Geoffrey Grier: Do we have a timeline? Is there a point where like after six weeks it's like uh oh, then they start going after everything else or does anybody know?</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: Good question. Jeimil reported on HSA particularly around SNAP cuts. He was going to keep us updated on the activities. It is still being monitored. It is important to the FSTF to know the number of people that might be impacted by federal activities and what that might look like locally. Other big cuts were the SNAP-Ed cuts. I think SNAP-Ed stopped on September 30th. There might be cause for concern around other research projects and all sorts of other things but those are the main issues that we have discussed in prior FSTF meetings.</p> <p>Priti Rane: I wanted to give an update on Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). The state has funds through mid-November. We have a call this afternoon to talk more about any implications. The biggest thing for us is letting families know that</p>	
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	<p>services are continuing uninterrupted. I know with the shutdown always comes confusion and families think everything is closed and that's not the case. We're trying to get that messaging out that we are still open. We're not an entitlement program, but we're continuing to serve families, and it is business as usual at least for right now.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: I want to follow up on Katie's announcement about the hit to the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) economic research study which is really for food security in general. There's many in the food security community who feel that there's a lot of deprioritizing of funding for this and without being able to track food security it becomes a little bit more of an invisible issue. Then there is the local level. I think it may be worth us taking a deeper look into how this might impact us locally. I know that there has been a discussion among this group in the past around how we track food security in San Francisco. It's kind of a tricky thing to track and there's a lot of discussion about the California Health Interview Study (CHIS) and the accuracy of some of that data.</p> <p>Raegan Sales [chat]: There is also the closure of the Lucky Supermarket in Bayview. It is set to close on November 1, 2025.</p> <p>Jade Quizon: This is just a response to Reagan's question about the closing of the Lucky Supermarket at the Bayview location. I reached out to Maggie at the D10 Community Market, and they don't expect more people to use their services than they already do. They did mention that they do need volunteers. I was going to help organize a group to go out there to volunteer and do a volunteer workday at their spot if anyone's interested in joining that. And then kind of related, we've been talking to an organization called RAFI who have recently came out with a tool called the grocery gap in the atlas. It shows market trends over time and how the consolidation of our grocery industry leads to issues in food access and the creation of food deserts. They're going to do a presentation for us at some point.</p> <p>Public Comment:</p> <p>Beth Bodner: I've got a question that I'm sure is frustrating. The food security data citywide in SF has come up in a couple conversations recently at SF Environment. I wanted to ask the group</p>	
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	<p>where you all currently turn for that data. I know it's tricky to capture, but I'm wondering what people lean on right now. I know there's the SF Marin Food Bank report. I'm just wondering if there's others.</p> <p>Cissie Bonini: Big question, Beth. I know there was a big discussion about this before. This was part of that subcommittee around the biennial food report. I think there's a lot of discussion on that.</p> <p>Eric Chan: For the biennial food report, the only metric for San Francisco as a city and county was CHIS level data. Included in the biennial report were a lot of sample populations of people experiencing food insecurity. I can point you to that, but they don't capture SF as a whole.</p> <p>Beth Bodner: Thank you. I will add that there's this organization, C40. It's made up of cities around the world and there's a food and procurement group coming in late October here to San Francisco. There's a couple of different cities. It's like DC, Phoenix, Seattle, Los Angeles. So, if anyone has questions for cities that do have an Office of Food, I could share them with that group.</p> <p>Fiona McBride: In response to Beth, one other resource I've seen is Feeding America's food security data. You can go down to the county level and you can find data for San Francisco. I'll just point out that it's not actually based on survey data. It's based on a formula of indicators like income and healthcare access to try to measure the population's likelihood of being food insecure. So, it's not like a be all end all, but it's one resource to refer to. One thing that's helpful about it is that they've tended to track it over time. You can see those rates going up during the pandemic, for instance. You do have to request the data from them. You just go to their site, and I think you put in your email or something and then you get the raw data files.</p>	
9. Adjournment 2:45 p.m.	Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.	None.