

# APPROVED

## San Francisco Food Security Task Force Special Meeting- Older Adults Working Group

Minutes from September 5, 2007  
3:30-5:00, City Hall, First Floor Cafeteria

### In Attendance

**Working Group Members:** Diana Jensen, Linda Lau, Anthony Nicco, and Meredith Terrell

**Public:** (All Working Group Members listed above are members of the public.)

Agenda Topic	Discussion	Action Item
1. Call to Order	Meeting was called to order at 3:50pm.	None
2. Discuss policy recommendation #1: "Support DAAS' efforts to consider older adults' food issues and programs holistically. Policy discussions should take into account all programs in the City offering food services to older adults, including those supported by DAAS, those supported by government entities other than DAAS, and those offered by nonprofit"	<p>The group discussed a variety of common problems that seems to reflect weaknesses in the current older adults nutrition program systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ IHSS social workers sometimes find that a client has a freezer full of home-delivered meals that the client hasn't eaten. This could occur for a variety of reasons:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The client may have created a small stockpile in order to be prepared for an emergency or a stoppage of service. The group discussed the fact that it is difficult to determine how much of a "stockpile" might be too much, given that people are encouraged to have three days of food available in their homes in the case of an emergency.</li><li>○ The client may not like the food that is being provided, which leads to waste.</li><li>○ The client may not need the meals as frequently as they are provided, leading to waste.</li></ul></li><li>▪ Similarly, people sometimes do not use all of the food that they receive in their monthly food boxes, which can lead to waste.</li></ul> <p>Both of these examples suggest that it is important to find ways to ensure that clients receive food when they need it, and not when they do not, which would allow for more efficient allocation of scarce resources. The Commodity Supplemental Food program takes some steps toward this goal by not requiring clients to pick up the box every</p>	

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<p><b>organizations without the support of public funding.”</b></p>	<p>month, but the problem seems to persist anyway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Some older adults do not make healthy choices about the foods that they eat. One method for addressing this issue is through peer-led health promotion programs, which are being newly funded by DAAS in 2007-08. One of the health promotion topics in the program is nutrition and exercise.</li> <li>▪ Some meal providers have complained that it is difficult to “follow” a client who becomes temporarily ill and transitions from needing a congregate meal to a home-delivered meal. Linda Lau indicated that congregate meal providers can offer “take-out” meals when a client is in acute circumstances, which should solve this problem. A proxy must bring the meal to the client. If an agency provides both congregate and home-delivered meals, they can provide a home-delivered meal in those circumstances and count it as a “take-out” meal. Diana Jensen agreed to follow up with Julie from Project Open Hand to see if the “take-out” meal concept fails to address the issue in some other way.</li> <li>▪ The group discussed the fact that isolated, frail older adults have very few options for acquiring low-cost food outside of the home-delivered meal program. The group brainstormed a variety of options for addressing this gap in services, which             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Leverage the resources of IHSS independent providers (IPs), who are often already paid by the city to provide grocery shopping and meal preparation services. Options for leveraging this resource included:                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Encourage IPs to pick up free groceries for their clients at local food pantries. IPs, who are often low-income themselves, may also want to pick up groceries for themselves, which could require coordination with food pantry staff to ensure that IPs could pick up for themselves and for another person as a proxy.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<p>Meredith Terrell agreed to flesh out in more detail before the next meeting of the group.</p> <p>Tony agreed to provide Meredith with further information about the role of the IHSS program, should she need it.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. IHSS social workers may be able to assess clients for a higher number of “shopping” hours in order to account for the IPs time waiting in line at a local food pantry.</li> <li>c. IPs could act as proxies for clients to pick up CFP boxes.</li> </ul> <p>2. Pilot a direct, home-delivered grocery program targeted at isolated, frail seniors. Different possible methods for doing this included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Using existing vehicles during current down-times, including possibly the DAAS “Info-Van,” if it is still available for use.</li> <li>b. Work with existing food bank agencies to pilot a home-delivered grocery system.</li> <li>c. Work with organizations that currently provide home-delivered meals to incorporate grocery deliveries.</li> <li>d. Provide home-delivered groceries directly through the San Francisco Food Bank.</li> <li>e. Work with existing home visiting programs (e.g., Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly) or volunteer programs to incorporate a grocery delivery element into their programs</li> <li>f. Work with a private organization to provide delivery services (e.g., Safeway, UPS, FedEx, etc.)</li> <li>g. Contact other Area Agencies on Aging in California to see what other kinds of “mobile pantry” programs may already exist</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The group discussed the potential for leveraging the broader community as a funding source for a home-delivered grocery program, once a program design is developed. One idea was to work with a grocery store to make an opportunity for shoppers to “Buy a bag of groceries for a low-income senior.”</li> <li>▪ There was also a concern that the home-delivered meals providers may or may not have the most efficient geographic distribution of consumers, though the issue is complicated by the needs for special or ethnic meals.</li> </ul>	<p>Meredith agreed to follow up on that idea.</p> <p>Linda Lau agreed to follow up with AAA nutritionists about this question.</p> <p>Diana Jensen agreed that it may be possible to conduct a mapping exercise of the</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Finally, the group agreed to request input from the rest of the older adults workgroup participants in order to prepare for the next meeting's discussion.</li></ul> <p>Public Comment:</p>	home-delivered meals data in order to research this question further, if it would be useful in the future.
<b>3. Set agenda for next meeting</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Discuss policy recommendation #1: "Support DAAS' efforts to consider older adults' food issues and programs holistically. Policy discussions should take into account all programs in the City offering food services to older adults, including those supported by DAAS, those supported by government entities other than DAAS, and those offered by nonprofit organizations without the support of public funding."</li><li>Set agenda for next meeting</li><li>Public Comment</li></ol>	
<b>4. Public comment</b>	Public comment is incorporated above.	None.
<b>5. Adjournment</b>	The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.	None.