

**APPROVED**

**San Francisco Food Security Task Force (FSTF) Minutes**

**June 1, 2022**

**Members Present:** Emily Cohen (Homeless and Supportive Housing); Geoffrey Grier (SF Recovery Theatre); Paula Jones (DPH Food Security); Cissie Bonini (EatSF/Vouchers 4 Veggies); Guillermo Reece (SF AAFBC); Jeimil Belamide (Human Service Agency/Calfresh); Kim Madsen (Project Open Hand); Meg Davidson (SF Marin Food Bank); Mei Ling Hui (Rec and Park/Urban Agriculture); Meredith Terrell (Meals on Wheels San Francisco); Tiffany Kearney (DAS); Rita Mouton-Patterson (Hospitality House); Jennifer LeBarre (SFUSD)

**Also Present:** Lea Troeh (EatSF/UCSF); Janna Cordeiro (Food as Medicine Collaborative); Anthony Khalil (Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates); Emily Pham (HPP); Michael Pon (EatSF/UCSF); Haley Nielsen (Farming Hope); Jordan Brown; Jamie Stark (Farming Hope); Kelly Gaherty (SF Environment); Saadhana Deshpande (FAMC); George Gundry (Glide); Nancy Pili; Saoirse McLaughlin; Aarya C; Alex Maykowski (Children’s Council); Anthony Macaulay (Meals on Wheels SF); William; Leah Walton (DAS); Cathy Huang (HSA); Susie Smith (HSA); Linda Huerta (Homeless Prenatal Program); Cindy Lin (HSA); Patricia Barraras (James Denman Beacon, Urban Services YMCA), Nancy Hernandez (Excelsior Strong), Oscar Grande, Jennifer Navarro-Marroquin (Community Well), William Ortiz-Cartagena (CLECHA), Hai Chi Vu (Chinese Progressive Association); Dejanelle Bouvelle (SFDPH); Tommy McClain; Beth Bodner; Erin Huie (API Council); Tommy McClain (HSA);

<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action Item</b>
<b>1. Call to order</b>	Declared Quorum. Cissie called meeting to order 1:35pm.	None
<b>2. Land Acknowledgement</b>	Cissie recited the land acknowledgement for the Task Force.	None
<b>3. Welcome, member roll call, introductions, Cissie Bonini (Chair, EatSF/Vouchers4Veggies)</b>	Cissie welcomed all and read the member roll call. Agenda added to the chat.	None
<b>4. Approval of minutes from April 6, 2022</b>	Motion made to approve with the two mentioned spelling corrections made by Meredith and Meg; Jeimil Belamide abstained. Motion passed.	Post approved meeting minutes with corrections.

<b>5. General Public Comment</b>	None	None
<b>6. Special meeting update: Reimagining Food Security in San Francisco</b>	<p>Presentation covered different ways cities organize around food security given by Jade Quizon. Purpose of presentation: To educate and move SF towards a proposal that requires input and leadership from community.</p> <p>Paula shared that the presentation session was well attended with a rich discussion that was also recorded. Discussion is currently being summarized to be brought back to the FSTF in July/August.</p> <p><b>Task Force Member Comments:</b></p> <p>Meg Davidson highlighted the engaged/robust discussion that took place after the Reimagining Food Security presentation; excited to have direction; Meg suggested the task force prepare something ready for the next meeting to uphold momentum.</p> <p><b>Public Comment: N/A</b></p>	As stated.

<p><b>7. Presentation – Mi Mercado, by Excelsior Strong with support from The Latino Task Force and DPH, Patricia Barraras (James Denman Beacon, Urban Services YMCA), Nancy Hernandez (Excelsior Strong), Oscar Grande, Jennifer Navarro-Marroquin (Community Well), William Ortiz-Cartagena (CLECHA), Hai Chi Vu (Chinese Progressive Association)</b></p>	<p>Patricia Barraza provided an overview of the work being done as well as Mi Mercado's vision for the Excelsior community.</p> <p>Transformative Vision for Mi Mercado:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mi Mercado works for Families, Small Businesses &amp; Community. They invest in small businesses; Identify families in need, connect them to resources (ex: kitchen space/appliances to store and cook food received); support efforts to remove the fear of “Public Charge” by not requesting ID; and address root causes by providing collaborative supportive services.</li> </ul> <p>Mi Mercado’s Current Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mi Mercado distributes to at least 1,000 families in the excelsior; receiving 6,000 + 8,000 lbs.; 1 bag of produce, form of milk, and protein (varies).</li> <li>- Recently implemented an intake form to identify needs: food, CalFresh, public benefits, employment, and law services.</li> </ul> <p>Overview of Mi Mercado’s Excelsior Food Empowerment Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides a monthly stipend (~\$400.00) for families who need healthy food security using USIO/AKIMBO Cards; The funds are available for SF low-income households who live, work, or go to school in District 11; This program is operated by Excelsior Strong, a collaboration of community-based organizations whose mission is the wellness of our most vulnerable Excelsior neighborhood families; The program was born out of the neighborhood Covid-19 food security response that provides healthy, culturally relevant groceries and goods to families in D11.</li> </ul> <p>How it Works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Debit Cards are issued by member organizations (I.e. Community Well, Casa De Apoyo, Excelsior Works and Denman Beacon); Personal information are not disclosed to any third parties; Cards can only be used at participating local mom &amp; pop businesses; Funds may not be used for sugary drinks, alcohol, or tobacco; Required monthly check-ins with staff;</li> </ul>	<p>Follow up with William from Small Business Commision</p>
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	<p>and optional participation in monthly wellness classes hosted by Community Well Program runs from December 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.</p> <p>Jennifer (Community Well) shared information about a few restaurants/business owners in partnership with Mi Mercado.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Business Owners Mentioned: Café Guatemalteco, Manila Oriental Market, San Francisco Farmers Market</li> <li>- The food empowerment program is bringing resources into the eco-system pilot program. Program exists only because CBOs took charge to provide sovereignty, choice, and empowerment to community members and families.</li> <li>- Mi Mercado Offers wrap around services; ‘I feel Good’ Free monthly cooking classes to bring fun and connection to the community.</li> </ul> <p>Nancy Hernandez (Excelsior Strong), discussed the Participant Surveys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Program needs facilitation; checking in with families (1x month frequency) proved fruitful.</li> <li>- As a result of the program clients reported: Increase in fruits/vegetables; Enriched bread vs. white bread; Fresh fish &amp; meats vs. cold cuts; Decrease in the number of days per month they were without adequate food; Reduced stress over food security</li> <li>- 90% of people saw an increase in wellness as result of program; 100% of people are satisfied with diverse options of fresh cultural foods; Program is easy to use; The local businesses “speak our language &amp; are in our neighborhood” Utilized partnership coordinating resources</li> </ul> <p>Patricia Barraza (James Denman Beacon, Urban Services YMCA), discussed Food Task Force Alignment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Empower non-profits to ensure programs like the Food Empowerment Program can come to fruition.</li> <li>- Food insecurity caused by the pandemic was associated with an increased risk of mental illness.</li> <li>- A recent study examining the association between food insecurity and mental health during the pandemic showed that food insecurity is</li> </ul>	
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	<p>associated with a 257% higher risk of anxiety and a 253% higher risk of depression.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comparatively, the study found that losing a job during the pandemic is associated with a 32% increase in risk for anxiety and a 27% increase in risk for depression. (Fang et al. 2021) (Food Security Task Force Report 2022)</li> <li>- Subsequently, D11 has submitted a Mental Health Budget ask of \$6,048,056</li> </ul> <p>2022-2023 Funding Being Requested</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- \$840,000 to sustain this program for 200 families + \$70,000 Funding for Coordinator Position</li> <li>- \$4,000,000 to sustain this program in Excelsior for 1000 families in our LTF/ Foodbank pantries</li> </ul> <p>Public Comment:</p> <p>How was this program has been funded thus far? SFDPH through the San Francisco Public Health Foundations</p> <p>William Ortiz-Cartagena (Small Business Commission): Shared the program supports the economic corridor. For every dollar spent, 68 cents stays in community and gets recycled 8 times. Programs like this are efficient at creating income, wealth and jobs.</p> <p>Task Force Members Comments:</p> <p>Tiffancy Kearny asked a clarifying question about how the Public Health Foundation's Covid Response funds this program through SFDPH; Oscar Grande (Excelsior Strong) responded to the question: It took a lot of convincing and political work to move these agencies through bureaucracy while the community innovates; Oscar expressed hope that the public money doesn't leave the community too quickly.</p>	
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Janna Cordeiro (Food as Medicine Collaborative): Do other businesses come to you?; Nancy (Excelsior Strong) responded: No, but we advertise information on storefronts. Since the program is not open to new restaurants or additional community members, they've received feedback that increasing capacity would be greatly beneficial.

Patricia Barraras added that the economic impact especially impacted women; and that women are most of the people working on this.

Chat comments: Thank you for all you're doing to revolutionize what feeding your community can look like!  
Thank you to Excelsior Strong for a great presentation and wonderful model!  
Thank you for inviting us to share about Mi Mercado!

<p><b>8. FSTF Recommendations – update on meetings – Cissie Bonini, EatSF/Vouchers 4 Veggies</b></p>	<p>Cissie B. thanked community and task force members for setting up department and supervisorial meetings, taking notes, and other helpful tasks.</p> <p>Cissie B. shared the topics that resonated with all stakeholders: Food justice and food security high priority issues; Holistic approach to food security; Acknowledge silos and need for coordination; Concerns about rollbacks around funding/impacts (State, federal, and local); Concerns about increased costs; interest in housing + food intersections; food empowerment markets; Successes during covid. Also there is a need for strategy to address cuts in budget after release.</p> <p>Overall: All recommendations were received well. However, the recommendation around reducing data burden on data collectors received some pushback due to the need for data on decision making.</p> <p>Meredith T and Paula J shared overall insights from meetings with stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- People have repeatedly requested the number of food-insecure people in SF (# is currently unknown); strategy for how information is collected and shared going forward will be highly important.</li> <li>- Need to follow up with the departments after the Summer</li> </ul> <p>Supervisor Stephany</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 94109 High need to streamline services; Seniors (outreach to increase awareness of services).</li> </ul> <p>Supervisor Haney</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 100% support of food security + task force; Emphasis on covid successes; concerned over winding down of services</li> </ul> <p>Supervisor Preston</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Areas of responsibility changed in recent election; Interested in housing + food intersection; highlighted Fillmore programs; Smaller organizations; Concern about future federal funding.</li> </ul> <p>Supervisor Ronen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interested in our communication with Mayor's office; Expressed definite concern about food security; Requested we circle back after the budget drops; highlighted importance of distributing funds quickly.</li> </ul>	<p>FSTF members take current recommendations to develop actionable steps for implementation.</p>
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	<p>Supervisor Safai</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus on food (empowerment market and guaranteed income); looking to provide culturally appropriate meals to Asian and Latino families.</li> </ul> <p>HSA/Cindy Lin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussed Food justice and sovereignty; Discussed Mayor's priorities (standing in line and providing services that offer choice and dignity); Concerns expressed about: duplication + collecting data.</li> </ul> <p>DAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 60+ population invisible, concerned about food costs and losing ability to provide services for seniors</li> <li>- Listening sessions focused on the role of tech in isolation</li> </ul> <p>Questions/Concerns/Feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meg Davidson shared update on feedback: need to make the recommendations were more actionable. Effort is being made to dissect the recommendations and pull-out work that can be done—it will be shared once completed.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>9. City budget – department updates on food programs: anticipated changes in service levels, new initiatives and other updates</b></p>	<p>Lea Troeh (EatSF/UCSF) shared the following link to the Mayor’s budget in the chat: <a href="https://sfmayor.org/sites/default/files/FY%202022-23%20and%20FY%202023-24%20Proposed%20June%20Budget.pdf">https://sfmayor.org/sites/default/files/FY%202022-23%20and%20FY%202023-24%20Proposed%20June%20Budget.pdf</a></p> <p>Mei Ling Hui (SFRPD): Reached out for data on summer meal hosts and expecting to report back next month as the person with data currently out of town; 18,000 lbs. of food grown by Alemany Farm /year; 3 community gardens were opened in the last fiscal year (significant increase); 12 were rebuilt; There has been an increase in home gardening. They sponsored a Garden Resource Day: 300 people attended their two events this year (pre-pandemic would have seen 40 people in attendance); They will be building an SF Garden Resource Center. Fundraising, outreach, and design work for all to be ready by the fall of next 2023.</p> <p>Susie Smith (SF Human Services Agency) shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mayoral Budget Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 4 areas received funding: 2 starting later this fiscal year while the other 2 areas for continuing programming. New: Food</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>None</p>

	<p>Empowerment Market (in contract negotiations - \$5 million over 2 years) Food Sovereignty kitchen activation grants (\$1 million); Existing: 17 million to carry the programs for the next 7 months. DAS funding: \$2.2 million for community food support for the DAS population on top of \$25 million base funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HSA is looking to expand grants to avoid gaps in services.</li> </ul> <p>Meg Davidson asked: What can we expect for program staff funding? Janna Cordeiro (Food as Medicine Collaborative) shared the following question for Susie from chat: ‘what is the budget gap \$\$ to fully support the grants that were awarded this year? the 952/953/954 grants?’ Susie Smith responded: We’re still finalizing, there is more to come.</p> <p>Tiffany Kearny (DAS) shared the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ARPA Funding held back (\$1.8 million will be used to supplement grants this upcoming fiscal year as there are fewer funds in this fiscal year). \$1 million infrastructure grant from the state that they will offer to nutrition partners.</li> </ul> <p>Meredith Terrell (Meals on Wheels San Francisco) inquired about any plans to discuss potential outcomes with community members and businesses; Susie S responded that their office would refer people to other services like CalFresh; As the Mayor submitted her budget and may be able to identify additional funding; Meredith then highlighted the importance of more coordination in planning, execution, messaging of available resources/additional referrals for community members and business.</p> <p>Emily Cohen (HSH) shared the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is no stand-alone food security funding within the new Mayor’s budget, the new investments are tied to housing.</li> <li>- \$57 million investments to increase base pay for staff and reduce case management/tenant ratio; \$5 million in capital funding to improve Permanent Supportive Housing conditions; \$6 million to address housing for TAY homeless community.</li> </ul>	
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	<p>Paula Jones (SFDPH) shared the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No information yet about sugary drinks funding</li> <li>- Congress did not renew funding for Covid-19.</li> </ul> <p>Jeimil Belamide (HSA Cal Fresh) shared the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Budget update: 40 additional staff throughout the next year to rebuild outstations</li> </ul> <p>Jennifer LeBarre (SFUSD) shared the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SFUSD is serving 1 million more meals than in previous years. The increase at some sites is 250%.</li> <li>- Still waiting for the federal government to approve school lunch waivers</li> <li>- State governor expanding reimbursement rates to cover loss in funding from the federal waivers, reimbursement plan now lacks kitchen infrastructure funding.</li> <li>- Schools are facing underfunding, supply chain shortages, inflation, and dealing with the bird flu; summer programs are starting up.</li> </ul> <p>Meg Davidson (SF Marin Food Bank) shared the following update in the chat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pelosi's team was receptive to our advocacy but non-committal about what legislative vehicle the waivers could be folded into</li> <li>- We're supporting a state bill to protect ABAWDs from those work requirements previously mentioned:  <a href="https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB1965">https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB1965</a></li> </ul> <p>Jeimil Belamide (SFHSA Calfresh)</p> <p>A. CF Caseload</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1. Households - 69,093</li> <li>- 2. Individuals - 95,782</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p>B. Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. June Emergency Allotment is approved!</li> </ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Effectively gives all CF households up to the maximum CalFresh monthly benefit amount for their household size.</li> <li>2. Interview requirement waiver is set to expire on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.</li> <li>- Without an extension of this waiver, CalFresh applicants and participants will need to complete an interview with county staff prior to being approved for CalFresh benefits.</li> <li>3. ABAWD requirement waiver is extended to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.</li> <li>- Rules that impose a 3 month limit on receiving CalFresh benefits if a work requirement is not fulfilled are waived.</li> </ul> <p>Tiffany Kearny (DAS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is a gap that they're working through. DAS asked all nutrition providers how many folks they believe they'll serve in the next year. More specifics can be provided in the coming months. Doing their best to get out the funding they currently have. Impacted by food costs and labor shortage.</li> </ul> <p>Public Comment:</p> <p>Janna Cordeiro expressed feeling disillusioned by leadership. Janna discussed feeling the reality of that the pandemic isn't over and food insecurity isn't over. .</p>	
<p><b>10. Food Security Task Force member updates</b></p>	<p>Meg Davidson's Update (SF Marin Food Bank):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- White House Conference on nutrition and hunger has potential to have a huge impact of food security. White House is prioritizing having as many listening sessions as possible. SF Food Bank to host 1-2 listening sessions in order to give more SF residents a chance to provide input on what they want to see. Input gathering now-July. Agency stakeholders will summarize and present information at a conference in September.</li> <li>- More information can be found at the following link:  <a href="https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/05/04/white-house-announces-conference-on-hunger-nutrition-and-health-in-september/">https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/05/04/white-house-announces-conference-on-hunger-nutrition-and-health-in-september/</a></li> </ul> <p>Paula Jones provided the following update for Michelle Kim (DCYF)</p>	<p>None</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DCYF is sponsoring summer meals this summer. Last year they provided 3 meals for sponsored sites (breakfast, lunch, and snack) but this year, they are providing only 2 out of the 3 meals. We have about 70 sites this summer.</li> </ul> <p>Public Comment: N/A</p>	
<b>11. Adjournment</b>	Meeting adjourned 3:25pm	None