

Update on Efforts to Address Food Insecurity in San Francisco

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POPULATION HEALTH DIVISION
SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**OFFICE OF EQUITY
& QUALITY IMPROVEMENT**

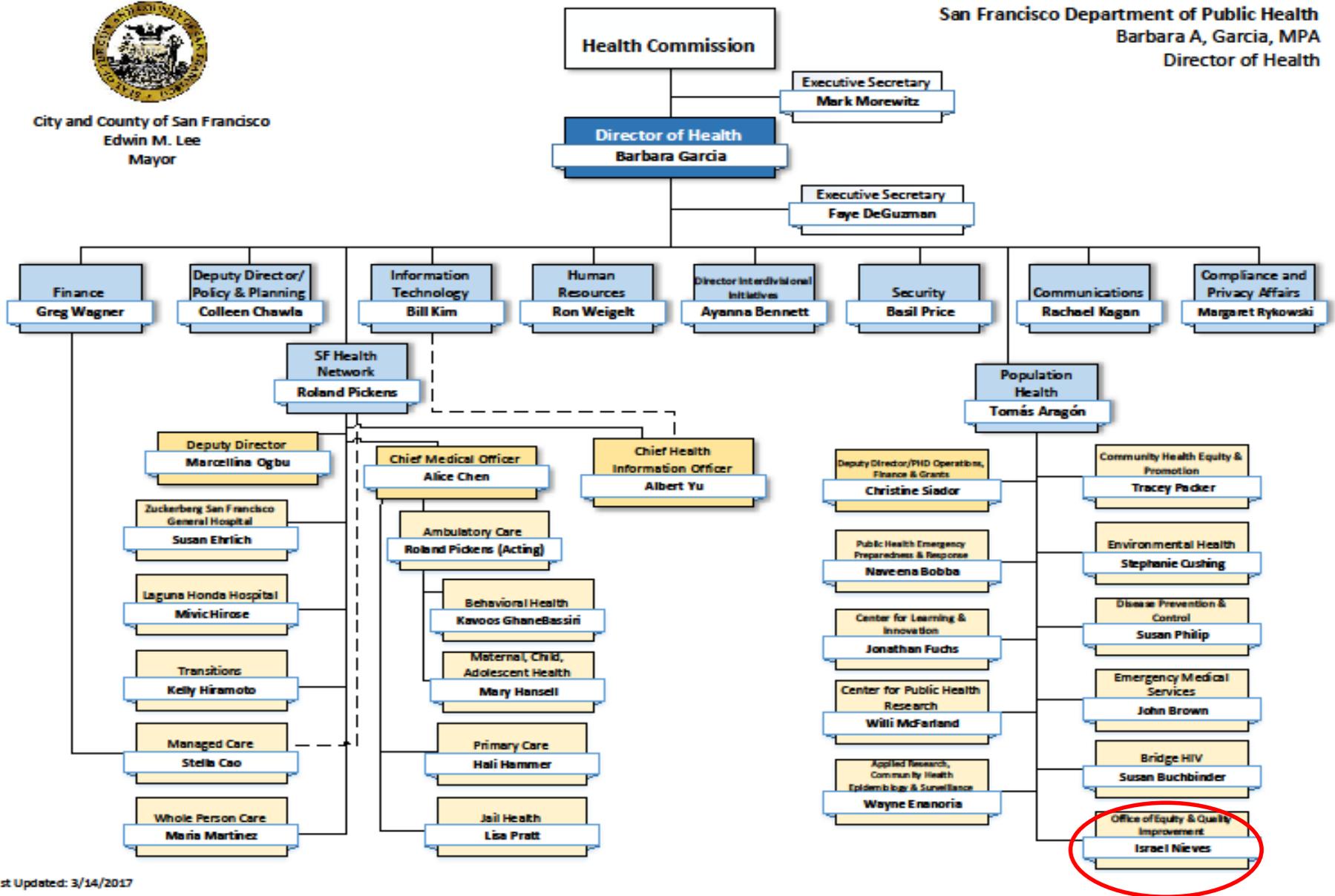
Outline

- Food insecurity in SF
- Alignment with Population Health priorities
- San Francisco Food Security Task Force
- Update on food vouchers
- Hunger in the faith community



City and County of San Francisco
Edwin M. Lee
Mayor

San Francisco Department of Public Health
Barbara A. Garcia, MPA
Director of Health



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Food Insecurity in San Francisco

- Definition:
 - Food *Insecurity* exists when the ability to obtain and prepare nutritious food is uncertain or not possible
- Food *insecurity* results in poorer health:
 - Poorer nutritional intake
 - Extreme anxiety and distress
 - Cost-related medication underuse
 - Eating behaviors that persist for decades after food insecurity experiences
 - Higher health care costs
- < 200% of poverty – highest risk for food insecurity
 - 27% of San Francisco population live below 200% of poverty**

Alignment with Population Health priorities

- National: Healthy People 2020 goal
 - *Reduce household food insecurity*
 - *Reduce very low food security among children*
- SFHIP
 - *Healthy Eating and Physical Activity is a top priority*
 - *Indicator for improvement:*
 - *Pregnant women who are food insecure*
 - *Seniors waiting more than 30 days for a home delivered meal*
- SFDPH: Population Health Division Strategic Plan
 - *Improving food security is a priority*

San Francisco Food Security Task Force

- About:
 - Established in 2005
 - 15 members: City agencies, SFUSD & nonprofit providers
 - Staffed by SFDPH (DPH has 2 seats – Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health and Office of Equity & Quality Improvement)
- Current work:
 - Food security report 2018
 - Developing city wide recommendations and for each supervisorial district
 - Communicate information to elected officials and stakeholders

Update on food vouchers

- Target populations
 - Pregnant women
 - Seniors, people on Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Voucher program partner – EatSF
- Food insecurity rates:
 - SSI recipients (83% - low and very low; 8% marginal)
 - Pregnant women on Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (59% low and very low: 16% marginal)



Results to date

Reach:

- Distributed vouchers to more than 2,300 unduplicated households
- Partnered with WIC to provided vouchers to over 700 pregnant women

Community:

- Partnered with 50+ distribution sites, including community-based organizations and clinics
- Grew the vendor network to 19+, adding more convenient grocery chains and corner stores

Hunger in the faith community

- SFHIP convened 17 Bayview churches around congregants' health priorities
- Number one priority – Hunger
- Other priorities included: diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, all cancers
- Pastors were not aware of health resources available

Hunger in the faith community

- Pastors identified representatives from each church to be health liaison
- Coordinated training and connected liaisons to existing resources
- Liaisons conducted research on hunger using USDA food security screening tool
- Initial results confirm high rates of hunger
- Next steps: 1. Developing priorities to increase food resources in Bayview, 2. Informing decision makers of their community's needs and priorities

Thank you and Questions

