

Approved FSTF Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2024

Present: Paula Jones (SFDPH – Food Security/Office of Anti-Racism & Equity); Anne Quaintance (Conard House); Guillermo Reece (San Francisco African American Faith-Based Coalition); Jade Quizon (API Council); Mei Ling Hui (SF Rec and Park/Urban Agriculture); Raegan Sales (Children’s Council of SF); Tiffany Kearney (Department of Disability and Aging Services); Chester Williams (Community Living Campaign); Geoffrey Grier (SF Recovery Theater); Jennifer LeBarre (SFUSD); Jeimil Belamide (Human Service Agency/CalFresh), Priti Rane (Department of Public Health/Nutrition Services)

Also Present: Asha Chirackal (Vouchers4Veggies/EatSF); Ashley Rodwick; Cathy Huang (HSA); Caycie Hill; Cindy Lin (HSA); Danielle Lundstrom (SFDPH – SNAP-Ed); Ellen Garcia (EatSF); Emmy Miller (TNDC Food & Nutrition); Eric Chan (SFDPH/Office of Anti-Racism & Equity); Fredah Rajab; Haley Nielsen (Farming Hope); Hannah Grant (Meals on Wheels); Jay Harrell (EatSF/Vouchers4Veggies); Kaela Plank (SFDPH – Center for Data Science); Kalil Macklin (Anthem Blue Cross); La Rhonda Reddic (SFDPH/Office of Anti-Racism & Equity); Leah Walton (DAS); Lura Jones (Leah’s Pantry); Marina Gad; Rebeca Flores (SFDPH/Office of Anti-Racism & Equity); Sandhyarani Gullapalli (UCSF School of Pharmacy); Tiffany Lei (DCYF); Timothy Kein (UCSF School of Pharmacy); Tommy McClain (HSA)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Next Steps
1. Call order to order 1:00 p.m.	Call to order at 1:09 p.m.	None.
2. Land Acknowledgment 1:00 p.m.	Eric Chan recited the Land Acknowledgement.	None.
3. Welcome, member roll call, introductions, Paula Jones (Vice Chair, OARE/SFDPH) 1:05 p.m.	Paula Jones did roll call and introduced the agenda. Public Comment: None.	None.
4. Approval of minutes from November 1, 2023 1:10 p.m.	Raegan Sales makes motion to approve minutes. Anne Quaintance seconds the motion. None opposed. One abstained. Motion is passed.	None.
5. General Public Comment 1:15 p.m.	None.	None.
6. Review FSTF Member Application – Lura Jones, Paula Jones (Vice Chair, OARE/SFDPH) 1:20 p.m.	Paula Jones: We will review a member application for Lura Jones. The application is on the website for viewing. Lura applied months ago. The application came to my inbox while I was on vacation. Thank you for still being	

interested in joining the task force. Would you like to make a few comments about your application and your experience with the task force?

Lura Jones: I'm the program manager for Leah's Pantry. Leah's Pantry is a statewide organization that runs trauma-informed nutrition security initiatives at varying levels. I oversee the San Francisco programs. When I started working for them in April, I started attending task force meetings and I really enjoyed coming to the task force meetings, particularly the in-person special meeting doing lots of data analysis. Right now, I'm working on a project to do community outreach with older adults and specific neighborhoods of the city to try and uplift their voices and bring them into things like this to talk about food security issues. I'm Hoping to become a member because the task force is doing great things.

Jennifer LeBarre: Since you do work with the statewide agency, what's your ability to bring information from different communities and be able to share that information with the task force?

Lura Jones: Probably easy to bring information in. We sit on a lot of committees statewide, our director and director of programs run statewide meetings on food security and nutrition issues.

Anne Quaintance: In case members have any questions or comments, it would be great if you tell us more about Leah's Pantry?

Lura Jones: There's a lot of stuff going on. Leah's Pantry started out bringing food into the bridge housing sites in the Bay Area and then expanded to doing more nutrition education and then grew to start doing statewide training of facilitators, developing curriculum related to nutrition education. Right now, we're working on a curriculum related to substance use disorder and how nutrition can support substance use and people in recovery. We manage the CalFresh Healthy Living website at Calfresh.org. I manage direct programs in SF

	<p>for older adults and adults with disabilities. We also have a contract with Self Help for the elderly CalFresh Healthy Living Initiative.</p> <p>Paula Jones: Members of the Task Force speak or raise your hand if you are in favor to nominate Lura to the Board of Supervisors rules committee. 10 members are in favor. 0 members oppose. 0 members absents.</p> <p>Eric Chan: The next steps are to forward Lura’s application to the Clerk of the Board. Applicants Lura and Hannah will appear. An email will be sent with instructions for the location and time. Once the Board approves you, you will officially start work as a member of the Food Security Task Force.</p> <p>Public Comment: None.</p>	
<p>7. City budget updates, Paula Jones (Vice Chair, OARE/SFDPH) 1:40 p.m.</p>	<p>Please refer to the recording for this presentation, linked here. This agenda item starts at the 16:09 minute mark and ends at the 18:45 minute mark. Please also find the presentation slides located on the webpage.</p> <p>Paula Jones gave a presentation on the San Francisco City budget updates.</p> <p>Paula Jones: Does anybody have any comments on the budget, have any intel or information?</p> <p>Raegan Sales: Does the first slide with the calendar that includes the window for when food security task force members would make their recommendations and when we would be potentially meeting with stakeholders?</p> <p>Paula Jones: No. That was the calendar of the budget. We are going to talk about that after we give the update in the biennial food security and equity report.</p> <p>Paula Jones: Jennifer, when is the San Francisco School District budget and what is your timeline and process?</p>	

	<p>Jennifer LeBarre: Unfortunately, I don't have an update on that. But I do anticipate a February timeline. The Governor's budget just came out and those types of things have implications on what our budgets will look like. Good news is universal meals will continue. The sugary drinks distributor tax commission is starting the process right now on our recommendations. We already made a two-year recommendation but we're reviewing it again at this point. The committee will meet January 17, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. And again, in February for those that cannot come tonight.</p> <p>Paula Jones: We know that there was a mid-year budget cut, and some programs were set to be cut because they were badly funded. I don't have a list, but I did see a few that were on the list.</p> <p>Public Comment: None.</p>	
<p>8. Update and presentation on the Biennial Food Security & Equity Report, DPH Project Team 1:55 p.m.</p>	<p>Please refer to the recording for this presentation, linked here. This agenda item starts at the 23:15 minute mark and ends at the 1:13:55 minute mark.</p> <p>On behalf of the San Francisco Department of Public Health, Paula Jones presented on the recently published 2023 San Francisco Biennial Food Security & Equity Report and went over progress made since the 11.6.23 special meeting, gave an orientation to the report, provided high level findings, discussed equity issues, and went over next steps. A discussion/Q&A followed, with those notes below.</p> <p>Guillermo Reece (online comment): Where is the funding for Vouchers4Food??</p> <p>Paula Jones: That was classified in the financial resources table, so some of the data would be in the city-wide food access team from HSA's grocery voucher program, and some of it would be in the healthy food purchasing supplement.</p>	

Anne Quaintance: I think the report is excellent to see the data that's there, and the way it's shown is really digestible, so really appreciate that. In the report, you can see the number of people being served and the revenue coming in. The initial slide showing the increase in food insecurity – what is hard to include is what should it be, when we're looking at the information by zip code it's great, but I don't know if it's good or not. Having some sort of indicator, like color (red, yellow, green) because if you look at the report, it just looks like we're serving a lot of people and a lot of food with the resources we currently have. It doesn't necessarily scream out the number of unserved people, how much more money we need, or where the gap is. But I really appreciate seeing the information that's there.

Paula Jones: I think in the summary tables that Kaela was talking about, we have that demographic data, how many people are below 100% FPL in each zip code, how many kids are below 200% FPL, and we also have which zip codes are seeing the most people ending up in the hospital with uncontrolled diabetes, hypertension, etc. So, I think once we have these summary tables completed, we still won't know all the gaps, but we will be able to start digesting the information more. Kaela do you have anything you would like to add?

Kaela Plank: Thank you for that feedback and we agree, that is something we struggled with. One of the things that came up in the public meetings that we would love to work with the task force on is – someone brought up that some programs only give one meal or only one grocery per week, is that a very secure, reliable source of resources versus other programs that are a lot more comprehensive and provide a lot more to people, quantifying the different programs and how effective they are. We could definitely use this group's expertise on how do we decide a program is a really strong program at addressing food insecurity versus not. I love the idea on how we quantify how many people are food insecure in the city because there isn't a city wide survey right now, and we know San Francisco is unique in that it's not just people under 100% FPL that struggle with food insecurity because it's so expensive to

live here, so we have a unique situation that isn't quite captured in the standard surveys that are administered by the state or the nation. There's a lot we're trying to figure out and would love this group's ideas on data sources and analyses that might be able to capture what you need to make your recommendations.

Raegan Sales: I had a question about the groceries slide. Some of the Alemany Farms stuff was separated out in another place, and I was wondering if anyone was funding CSA programs or other things that connect farmers to San Francisco communities, and if so would that be captured under those grocery dollars or somewhere else?

Paula Jones: I did not see anything that was a CSA, but to be honest I wouldn't know. If a department gave us their portfolio name, but it might be lots of different contracts. Let's just say congregate meals, it's just one line as a program but there's probably a lot of contracted vendors and models for that. I don't think we have visibility into that. We have visibility on things like Market Match, or like the city -wide food access team funded a food production program, and I think it has a couple different components, one is kitchen capacity, but the other side is growing food. We did not get full detail, we asked each program how many vendors, but we did not get the level of what each program does or how it functions. We were already drowning in data, but I think it's a good question and I don't have a ton of good answer. For the tables we separated out Alemany from the others because of the type of data we got. I had to look at what we can compare and what we can say about the data we got. We got data in a lot of different ways, even though we had a standardized format, but not everyone had the same data points for their programs.

Priti Rane: Thank you so much for putting this report together, kudos to you, so much gratitude. It really helps put everything together, and message the urgent need for support for food resources, especially in San Francisco. Was there any thought put into, especially with the increase in food insecurity rates, the drop

in resources but also the cost of food, is so much different than what it was even a couple years ago. For example, the EatSF vouchers we give out to WIC folks, it's been 40 dollars for a long time. We have been struggling with the fact that there are more people enrolled because there is such a high need, and because there is such a high need, we can't think about increasing the amount. We know 40 dollars doesn't go far. Is there any thought given to how this plays into the increasing food insecurity rate?

Paula Jones: It's a really good point. It's something the task force should probably highlight when we make our recommendations. We were pretty much under the gun to summarize what we had, we know that the cost of living has increased. There's a lot more that could be said in this report but it already became doubled of what we hoped. We were hoping to release a 10 page report, but it's more like 20 now. We can talk more about this in the task force recommendations and how we're going to use this report moving forward.

Priti Rane: I understand, it can turn into a big book of the reasons why. I do think that's something we hear a lot in the clinics with the families. With the chances of WIC benefits decreasing, people are worried about not having enough resources to purchase food in the current food market.

Paula Jones: I think it's more important than ever that we uplift these community voices. We have a lot of data but the people that are being impacted, their stories really need to be lifted up.

Chester Williams: Wonderful job to everybody for the fine work that you've done. My question is: how do you feel city departments are going to react to this? I think the big thing is you have done a fantastic job breaking down the reality, is there going to be a need to sell this to the city/city departments?

Paula Jones: I'm speaking from the Department of Public Health right now, we published the report that we were required to publish. We can ask some of the

other city agencies on the call that are task force members right now if they have heard anything or any reactions. We got some feedback on drafts that we did our best to incorporate what we could. I don't know how they're going to react. I know some of this information is already being updated. Does any other task force member know of any reaction from their agency?

Tiffany Kearney: DAS is doing their best to keep as many services at the levels they were last year. We certainly do not have as much funding available for next year or the year after at this point. We're doing our best to utilize savings, but that's across the entire department. We're doing the best we can with the current budget situation. For anyone's interested, DAS's budget will be presented at the February 7 commission, and there was a very good presentation on the landscape of our budget at the commission on January 10 if you're interested. It's towards the beginning.

Paula Jones: Thank you, and what Priti brought up is probably what you're struggling with to, is that your vendors' costs of goods are going up, and everyone's funding isn't going as far.

Tiffany Kearney: That is true, and a large chunk of our programs has voluntary contributions, not for groceries but for congregate meals and home delivered meals. Part of the Older Americans Act, we're required to ask clients participating to make a voluntary contribution, which is a revenue source for all of our grantees, and that is significantly down. It's another revenue stream that providers used to be able to count on that is now significantly less, like 75 – 80% less.

Emmy Miller (online comment): As an operator of services, we report on numbers served, however not on how many people are on waitlists to receive services that we do not have capacity to serve. Would that type of information be helpful?

	<p>Paula Jones: Yes, thank you Emmy. It's actually one of the things that came out of our last special meeting, we need to figure out how many people are on waitlists. That's getting at what Anne was asking, how many people aren't being served, what are the gaps. If you're able to share, I'll put my email in the chat, thank you.</p> <p>Raegan Sales: I would also say that's a great question. I would recommend that as part of the process next year.</p> <p>Paula Jones: We did ask that and it is in the report, there is table in the report. We didn't see a lot of waitlists from reporting departments, but CBOs may have them. I do remember being surprised that there wasn't a large amount.</p> <p>Kaela Plank: You're right, we didn't get too much waitlist data and it was hard to compare because we asked about number of people on waitlist and how long and people provided different time frames. It was a little harder to aggregate.</p> <p>Paula Jones: It's Appendix E, Table 2A, page 139-141.</p> <p>Jade Quizon: I wanted to ask about the OEWD companion report, do they have plans to come speak so that we can provide some feedback?</p> <p>Paula Jones: That is a great idea, I will reach out to them and ask. We did invite them to come to before as they were making their report, their consultant did attend a special meeting. I will reach out to them to see if they can present their report.</p> <p>Public Comment:</p> <p>Ellen Garcia (online comment): On behalf of EATSF, plus one to Jade's comment!</p>	
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	<p>Paula Jones: I just want to thank all the reporting departments again for all your data, the task force and the members of the public who attended our special meetings or gave us any kind of input and to the CBOs that provided data. We really appreciate it, and thank you Kaela and Eric for working tirelessly on this report too, appreciate all of you.</p>	
<p>9. Food Security Task Force annual recommendations, Paula Jones (Vice Chair, OARE/SFDPH) 2:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Please refer to the recording for this presentation, linked here. This agenda item starts at the 1:13:55 minute mark and ends at the 1:20:50 minute mark.</p> <p>Paula Jones: I didn't have any slides or anything but what the task force does is make annual recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, and in the past we haven't had the kind of data we have now to at least go through. I know there's a lot of holes in the data but there are some insights also from the data so I wanted to kind of just open it up and what we have done in the past is do our recommendations. Generally, they would come out in January. Our recommendations this year are going to take a little bit longer because we have a lot of data to go through. What we have done in the past is make recommendations, get them nicely designed and then have meetings with the department heads as well as Board of Supervisors, as well as the mayor's budget office. We ask members who wants to work on this – this year. We need help from members of the public or non-task force members are also to help with this. To get a group of people that wants to really dig in and help design how we're going to do the recommendations and the timeline for doing this.</p> <p>Raegan Sales: This is Reagan, you can put me on that list. I am being cautious about overextending myself in the next couple of months but I would love to be a part of that conversation and you know that I will help with proof reading.</p> <p>Hannah Grant: Same. Yeah, me too. My confirmation with the Board of Supervisors is on Monday so as long as that goes well you can count on me.</p> <p>Paula Jones: We got Jade now.</p>	

Paula Jones: Who else? Chester is raising his hand.

Paula Jones: Okay we know you're in. Anne, you want to get back in the ring?
Guillermo?

Guillermo Reece: Sorry I was trying to unmute. Yeah, I will volunteer some time I don't know how much time I'll have but whatever time I have I'll be happy to help out.

Paula Jones: Anyone else? I see that Jennifer just joined us again. We're talking about task force recommendations, who on the task force or of the public would like to help us start to go through the data and really decide what recommendations are going to look like this year and the timeline and process for that. Okay, if anyone wants to we will make sure that everybody knows when we're meeting so that we can get as many people helping as possible. Thank you. Is there any public comment on this item?

Raegan Sales: Yeah, is it possible to structuralize a mechanism to get feedback from the public about recommendations? Is there can we like post a Google form on the website or you know is there anything that we can do to try and get that information from the public?

Paula Jones: Yeah, we could do that. In the past a couple of years ago we did put out a survey that we did get pretty good feedback from the public from non-task force members or anyone on our list serve so we could think about having that as part of our process and it's just about how we're to do it. But yeah, who's going to do it and how are we going to do it, but it is a very good point, and it helped a lot when that was done. It just got staffed by UCSF. So that's how we were able to get that. So I don't know if that's going to be available to us. I think we can convene a meeting to kind of figure how we're going to do

	<p>this and will try to jump on that pretty quickly after this meeting to get our first meeting organized.</p> <p>Rebeca Flores: I can create the Google form.</p> <p>Paula Jones: Oh, thank you Rebeca for that, I appreciate that.</p> <p>Public Comment: None.</p>	
<p>10. Update on subcommittee on Reimagining Food Coordination, Jade Quizon (Subcommittee Chair, API Council) 2:45 p.m.’</p>	<p>Please refer to the recording for this presentation, linked here. This agenda item starts at the 1:20:55 minute mark and ends at the 1:27:40 minute mark.</p> <p>Eric Chan and Jade Quizon gave an update on the Reimagining Food Coordination subcommittee from the last time they met on November 28, 2023 until now and to give a refresher on the timeline and the process of what has been done.</p> <p>The goal of the next subcommittee meeting is to finalize the list of criteria and its definitions so all can vote on it at February 7th Task Force meeting.</p> <p>Public Comment: None.</p>	
<p>11. Updates and emerging issues 2:55 p.m.</p>	<p>Jeimil Belamide: The Cal Fresh interview requirement is very, very likely to come back starting in April. We’ve been under a waiver of the interview requirement since the pandemic CDSS, our state agency has indicated that FNS is very likely to not approve an extension of that waiver, so it very much looks like that interview requirement for applications and for recertifications will return for Cal fresh households and applicants. So, we are kind of gearing up and figure out how staff are going take on that work. In terms of case load we switched over to a new system back in October, so our reporting team and IT team are still in the process of reformatting some reports so take this data with a grain of salt. Right now, it looks like our case load is sitting at about 74,000. We are working on our reports to be as accurate as they can be. We don’t have the individual counts.</p>	

Paula Jones: How will the interview requirements impact application or recertifications, how does that historically look like?

Jeimil Belamide: Yeah, I think generally anytime. Any time you add back a requirement or multiple requirements to get approved or be reapproved it is an additional barrier for folks. Folks may not be able to make their interview, they have opportunities to reschedule. We offer over the phone interviews or in-person interviews, but anytime you add a requirement like that it is going to kind of lead to less approvals so I think it is something that we will have to keep track of and see where the actual number is.

Raegan Sales: I just wanted to share that Children’s Council has issued the 2023 Healthy Apple Awards and those recognize childcare educators who are embracing excellence in nutrition and physical activity practices. It was our first time doing the awards since the pandemic and we had a record number of awardees, so it was a big year for us. There were over 77 sites childcare sites that got awarded. Anyone who gets a nutrition award is really going above and beyond making sure they’re serving healthy foods, that they’re regularly available to the kids, and that mealtimes are pleasant, and the food is appealing. So that’s a big win for childcare providers across San Francisco. The awards impacted over 1,500 children. So, we’re going keep doing the work and I just wanted to share the win.

Paula Jones: On behalf of the task force Eric and I were asked to present at the sugary drink meeting, a sugar drink distributor tax meeting in December. We felt that it was a really important group to give some insights on what we’re seeing on the data on food insecurity. I was very well received Chester was there, he welcomed us.

Chester Williams: It was a pleasure having you guys there. We too are in a process of re-evaluating what we need how we want to make changes, what’s

going to be available for the upcoming year and it was good to see that the two programs could correlate each other. So, we are all in the same package, so that was good. So please feel free our meetings and put in your two cents about how you are actually looking at a very important issue in terms of maintaining a low level of sugary drink issues within the community. Particularly poor communities. Thank you Paula.

Jade Quizon: The Food and Agriculture and Action Coalition Towards Sovereignty or FAACTS is organizing a food justice action summit in March it will be on March 3rd and March 4th, it's a Sunday and a Monday. Will share when we have the registration link and everything. We would like to see as many of you all come and participate as much as possible. It's not going to be like a whole bunch of lectures or panels and talks. We want to come out with a policy, SF food policy plan out of the summit so we will have a couple of talks and there will be breakout sessions and workshops as well.

Paula Jones: Do you know where it's going to be?

Jade Quizon: Southeast Community Center in the Bayview. The first day will be until two and then we'll have a long table dinner in the evening and then the next day is an all - day program 9:30 – 4:30. The morning might start with a key note speaker and there'll be a couple of farm visit sites that we'll have for field trips and then we we'll return back to the Southeast Center for the breakout rooms.

Paula Jones: Thank you Jade.

Priti Rane: Quick update on the WIC end. So we, the state and federal are continuing to allow us to do remote services which is different than what it was before the pandemic. However, pretty much all of the requirements around counseling and heart rate and blood work are back so we are fortunate that we have access to our electronic health record system here locally so we're able to

	<p>access that information and so families don't have to make unnecessary trip just to get things done. The one thing we are keeping a close eye on is obviously the congressional budget that's not passed yet. The reason we are a little concerned is because there has been a growth in the WIC case load which is great. We've made the program more accessible and more people are participating but what has happened is that when the budget was initially passed they did not allocate for the increase and so there is a concern around not having enough services for everybody that needs it and the center for policy and budget had did an analysis in December and what they found is throughout the nation there will be about 2 million participants that will be impacted and California. Here it will be about 200,000, so I don't know what the local impact is going to be but that's still a lot of families that are going to be impacted. When I say impacted I mean that we will not be able to serve them so they will be waitlisted. So, this will be the first time in 30 years this is the first time I've ever experienced any talk of any waitlist. It is so hard to just turn a family down because there's not enough money in the budget, so there is a lot of advocacy efforts that are happening around making sure that the work continues to stay funded at the levels that meet the demand and keeping the higher food benefit value. So that is kind of what we are waiting on, and we really don't want to go into the wait list hole because that's going to impact a lot of families and going to cause a lot of anxiety. So, that's what we're watching. The current budget is good until January 19th, but California WIC has money to operate until the second week of May so we're good with our obligation until the second week of May but we're just waiting to see what happens with the funding level with the federal budget.</p> <p>Paula Jones: Yeah, that's serious. Thank you, Priti.</p> <p>Public Comment: None.</p>	
12. Adjournment 3:00 p.m.	Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.	None.