

Our Children, Our Families Council
Summary of Food Security Task Force
April 20, 2015

Goals of the Effort

The Goal of the Food Security Task Force (FSTF) is to raise visibility of food insecurity and eventually alleviate it.

Focal Population of the Effort

The FSTF's focus is city-wide on low-income individuals of all ages.

Impact

One of the first things the FSTF accomplished was supporting the Human Services Agency in receiving a one million dollar grant to start an online portal for food stamp enrollment. Also, the FSTF was instrumental in creating an additional 4.8 million dollars in the last city budget purposed to help food get into poor people's hands. They provide a report each year detailing how much money is being spent on meals for the poor, the amount of resources available to the food insecure population, and how many families are accessing available resources. The information is broken down by populations and by city districts. They update spreadsheets on where the money was spent versus where the money is still needed and conduct public hearings to increase visibility of the issue. They helped the Human Service Agency develop an outreach unit to get people enrolled in food stamps. The Board of Supervisors has also passed a resolution to have a food secure city by 2020.

The groups greatest strength is its alignment amongst its members. The members trust each other, don't rotate in and out much, and attend meetings for years without even being voting members.

Challenges

The group could benefit from more capacity to support the group. More staffing time would be valuable in collecting data.

Origins of the Effort

The Food Security Task Force (FSTF) was established in 2005 by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors through Ordinance 191-12 and charged with the responsibility of creating a city-wide plan for addressing food security.

Leading the Effort

Paula Jones of the Department of Public Health co-chairs the task force with the representative from the food bank. Vice Chair is the head of CalFresh. The members that support the work volunteer their time. The staffing is funded by the city through the Department of Public Health.

Members of the Effort

The Board of Supervisors makes appointments for designated seats on the FSTF and to fill vacancies that occur. Membership is required by ordinance to include:

- (a) Departmental and School District Representatives. The Board of Supervisors shall appoint one member from the Department of Human Services of the Human Services Agency, the Department of Public Health - Nutrition Services, the Department of Aging and Adult Services of the Human Services Agency, the Department of Public Health - Office of Food Systems, the Department of Children, Youth and their Families and the Department of Environment - Urban Agriculture. The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall invite the San Francisco Unified School District to submit a representative for appointment by the Board as a member of the Task Force.
- (b) In addition, the Board may appoint as members of the Task Force up to eight representatives of community-based organizations that provide nutritional support and increase the food security of San Francisco residents.

Such community members shall be nominated by the Task Force and may include but are not limited to representatives from organizations serving food in the following program types: home-delivered meals; congregate meals for seniors; food bank; free dining room; multi-service agency serving families and youth, shelter meals; and faith-based organizations, food retail (farmers markets; grocery stores); hospital and health clinics and a member of the public.

FSTF's current membership includes:

- Paula Jones, Department of Public Health (Food Systems)
- Teri Olle, Associate Director of Policy and Advocacy, SF-Marin Foodbank
- Leo O'Farrell, Director of CalFresh, Human Service Agency
- Anne Quaintence, Deputy Director, Meals on Wheels SF
- Hilary Seligman, Assst. Professor, UCSF Center for Vulnerable Populations
- Karen Gruneisen, Associate Director, Episcopal Community Services
- Charles Sommer, Dining Room Manager, St Anthony's
- Simon Pitchford, Associate Executive Director, Project Open Hand
- Maria LeClair, Director of Nutrition Services, SF Dept. of Public Health
- Linda Lau, Nutritionist, SF Department of Aging and Adult Services
- Orla O'Keeffe, Executive Director-Policy and Operations, SFUSD
- Mei Ling Hui, Urban Agriculture and Urban Forestry Coordinator, SF
- Heather Tufts, Senior Planner, Department of Children, Youth and Their Families
- Deloris McGee, Community Connector, Community Living Campaign

Structure of the Effort

The FSTF meets once a month and is governed by sunshine laws. Almost all members show up to meetings, as well as some of the public. Approximately 20-35 people attend each meeting.

The Role of Data

The FSTF tracks a lot of data and compiles an extensive report by district about demographic food availability. The group tracks data regarding hunger and food security in San Francisco, including the utilization and demand for federal food programs, community-based organizations' meal programs and programs targeting particular populations. The data is used to drive budget requests.

Related Documents

- More information about the FSTF, including reports and meeting minutes can be found at <https://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/knowlcol/meetinggroups/agendasminutes.asp>
- Draft bylaws
- Ordinance Creating FSTS