

**San Francisco Food Alliance Meeting**  
**January 28, 2004**  
**San Francisco Food Bank**

Introductions:

Larry Bain (Jardinière, Acme Chophouse, Mijita, Next Course), Susana Hennessey-Lavery (SFDPH Tobacco Free Project), Paula Jones (San Francisco Food Systems), Amy Kern (independent), Cheryl Magid (Children's Council), Sraddha Mehta (Department of the Environment), Bu Nygrens (Veritable Vegetable), Stacey Parker (Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council), Gail Priestley (St. Anthony Foundation), Leah Rimkus (San Francisco Food Systems), Zoë Rossing (San Francisco Food Bank), Levi Strom (Global Exchange), Sue Trupin (independent), Mark (United Council of Human Services), Sharon Williams (United Council of Human Services)

The purpose of this meeting was to gain familiarity with and understanding of the San Francisco Food Bank, to have a discussion of the goals that the SF Food Alliance could work towards as a group in 2004, and to discuss the possibility of a second SF Food Alliance conference in 2004.

Presentation by Zoë Rossing, San Francisco Food Bank:

- The Food Bank is creating Hunger Profiles specific to 14 San Francisco neighborhoods using information from the 2000 Census. The sheets will include demographic information on the number of people eligible for food assistance as well as a map with the various pantry locations in the neighborhood.
- The Food Bank uses 150% of the poverty line to gauge who is eligible for food assistance. Using this guideline, 150,000 individuals are in need of food assistance in San Francisco (one in four children and one in five adults).
- The Food Bank distributes produce, USDA commodities, dry, refrigerated, and frozen grocery goods, as well as non-food items like soaps and cleaning supplies.
- There are two people working in education and advocacy at the Food Bank. They have an advocacy list-serve and do workshops on hunger (“Hunger 101”) for child and adult groups.
- The Food Bank currently has 400 agency partners (e.g. senior centers, food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, after-school programs).
  - To be eligible to be a Food Bank partner, an organization must be a non-profit with 501(C)3 status or a congregation. Must serve low-income clients and be located in either San Francisco or Marin County.
  - 125 pantries receive regular deliveries from the Food Bank.
    - 51 pantries serving specific neighborhoods
    - 30 pantries serving seniors
    - 27 pantries serving low-income housing communities
    - 10 pantries serving families with children
    - Seven pantries serving immigrants
  - The Food Bank already exceeded its goals for this fiscal year in terms of opening new pantries to increase accessibility.

### Discussion of SF Food Alliance Goals for 2004:

- Leah introduced this item by suggesting that the SF Food Alliance identify goals to focus its efforts on in 2004. To guide the discussion, she suggested that the group consider the presentations that had been given in previous meetings, the capacity of the group, and what is needed in San Francisco that the SF Food Alliance could provide.
- Brainstorm
  - Access to healthy food in District 10
  - Plan and host a SF Food Alliance Conference
  - Increase utilization of food assistance (food stamps, school lunch, school breakfast, WIC)
  - Provide food education, nutrition education
  - Develop the SF Food Alliance identity and awareness
  - Create media awareness
  - Additional recruitment
  - Educate ourselves with presentations, legislative updates at meetings, etc.
  - Create website with all organizations represented, policy updates, monthly newsletter format with article attached from presenting organization
  - Compile library of resources for community like Peter Jennings' obesity special
  - Develop and influence policy
- We ended up summarizing these bullets into the following five Working Groups:
  - Developing the SF Food Alliance (structure/identity, recruitment, media attention)
  - Conference planning
  - Healthy food access in District 10
  - Public education (providing info to community on nutrition, food assistance programs in order to increase utilization, sustainable agriculture, global food issues)
  - Developing and influencing policy (locally, statewide)

### Update from Sue Trupin on the District 10 Working Group:

- In order to increase access to fresh/healthy food in the Bayview, there was an initial idea to open an indoor/outdoor produce market for the community.
- New plan is to develop a produce market/deli takeout in Bayview combining fresh produce and healthy prepared foods.
- Mother Brown of United Council Human Services (Hunters Point Multi-Service Drop In Center is open five days/week and serves 1500 families per month) has stepped in and shown an interest in taking on this project.
- Redevelopment is offering the chance to use a vacant site at 4800 Third Street but it is still unclear how long this will be available before an affordable housing unit is built (9 months – 2 years).
- Site may need substantial clean up due to being abandoned and unkempt. It is still unclear how much support Redevelopment is willing to provide.
- Group hopes to throw together a business plan, make a bid for the site, and continue to aggressively seek funding to sustain the project, moving to a different site if needed.

- A suggestion was made to create an executive summary of the business plan and send this out to the sffoodsystems email list and then to subsequent lists to seek out additional support and funding

Discussion around conference planning:

The group decided to postpone the discussion around a SF Food Alliance conference until next time. A comment was made that the identity of the group will ultimately inform the conference planning, for example, whether the goal might be to recruit more members, to attract media attention, or to expose some of the problems or gaps in the local food system. Members of the group suggested that we survey the sffoodsystems list regarding conference goals and ideas and then continue the discussion at the next meeting.

Announcements:

- California Hunger Action Coalition has an annual day of lobbying in Sacramento. The date is now set for May 12<sup>th</sup>. St. Anthony Foundation is a CHAC member and attends, bringing the people they serve.
- Literacy for Environmental Justice hosted a launch party for Youth Envision's Good Neighbor project on Friday, December 19, showing how the Super Save on Third Street has committed to stock healthy food for the community of Bayview Hunters Point. Changes have been well received and the store owner has said that fresh produce is one of the top selling items.
- Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council is accepting applications for its Gardening and Composting Educator Training Program (GCETP, formerly run by SLUG) which is scheduled to start February 21<sup>st</sup>. Contact HANC for details (Phone: 415.731.5627).

Next meeting:

- The next meeting of the SF Food Alliance will be on **Thursday, March 11**.
- Discussion and planning of a SF Food Alliance conference
- Update on interest level in different working groups and any recent activity