Attendance and Minutes of
The SNAP Task Force Meeting of January 17th, 2019

ATTENDANCE SHEET

1) Long Ho – LiveOn NY
2) Brady Koch – FBNYC
3) Nicholas Posada – Fortune Society
4) Nancy Miranda – FBNYC
5) Ellen Vollinger – FRAC
6) Colleen Donovan – Hunger Solutions NY
7) Derek Singh – HRA-FIA
8) Leah Starbuck – Sanctuary for Families
9) April Torres – HRA
10) Emanuel Negron – Met Council
11) Langina Pena – Met Council
12) Melissa Brito – SingleStop
13) Greg Wolf – SingleStop
14) Vanessa Mendez – SingleStop
15) Nicole Quinn – CUCS Rikers
16) Kelsey Ferrari – CUCS Rikers
17) Jane Coyne - Benefits Data Trust
18) Maria Melchor – Legal Aid Society
19) Damaris Rodriguez – Lenox Hill Neighborhood
20) M- - - Reagon – Women’s Center
21) Kiana David – Safety Net Project
22) Janiel Murphy – DYCD
23) Susan Bahn – Legal Aid Society
24) Ailin Liu – Public Health Solutions
25) Marta Mychak – NYLAG
26) Annelise Macleod – Common Pantry Queens
27) Evalevi Lopez – Fifth Avenue Committee
28) Maria E. Perez - New York Presbyterian Hospital
29) Cecilia Riera - Bronx Defenders
30) Esther Schwartz - Community Council & Consulting
31) Carmen Perez - Cooper Square Committee Neighborhood NORC
The meeting began at 1:00 PM

Brady Koch (FBNYC) opened the meeting by welcoming the participants and asking that all in attendance introduce themselves. After giving an overview of the meeting’s agenda, Brady introduced Ellen Vollinger from the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) who presented national updates. Given the status and uncertainty of SNAP in the government shutdown the typical updates evolved into a town hall style discussion on SNAP disbursements.

Ellen Vollinger (FRAC) with national Government Shutdown and SNAP Issuances updates:

- Benefits will be distributed to clients by January 20th
- The Reserve Fund will distribute money for SNAP recipients that haven’t revived their benefits by January 20th (including new applicants)
- There is no information concerning what will happen in March (not necessary or recommended to focus on this at this time)
- There is no special time limit as to when the SNAP benefits that are being distributed early can be used. Recipients can use benefits anytime
- There is a rule that states: there shouldn’t be no more than 40 days between a benefit distribution
- 2,500 stores lost their SNAP authorization functions due to the shutdown because, they weren’t able to recertify to continue the functions
- ABAWD Legislation Proposed Changes – With the government shutdown, the public comment period for ABAWD legislation changes has not started. recipients.

Derek Singh (HRA) with NYC shutdown and SNAP Issuances Updates

- Early benefits were issued on 1/16 to affected households.
- Other SNAP benefits are being distributed on the regular timeline.
- There is no updated information available at this time on March disbursements until funds become available
- Clients are advised to apply and recertify as normal
- No special communications are going out to clients from HRA other than general information
- Federal employees can apply for SNAP benefits at this time

CBO SNAP feedback and concerns:

- Clients are hesitant to apply for benefits (ex: WIC) because they aren’t sure if they’ll get benefits
- Can seniors received a letter about the early issuance so that they know the benefit amount they have? They may not be using the online tools to receive updates.
- Working families concern: With the increase of minimum wage increase on Jan 31, they may not qualify anymore for SNAP.
- Also employers may cut hours because of minimum wage increases and more people may gain ABAWD status.
- Clients are asking questions about taxes. Tax season will continue according to the regular schedule.
- Clients are receiving text messages notifying them about the advanced benefits
- OTDA has notifications available in Spanish and English on their website
- Hunger Solutions NY website has an ABAWD section with details, changes and updates

Research Packet Review

Brady (FBNYC) reviewed the full contents of the monthly Research packet. For the full packet, please download from FoodBankNYC.org (https://www.foodbanknyc.org/nyc-snap-task-force)

Mediation Analysis Review For December 2018

Brady (FBNYC) shared highlights from December 2018 Mediation Analysis Report. The November report is based on 76 mediation requests submitted by Mediation Model participants submitted by 7 Organizations.

Questions/Concerns –
- Overall trends remain the same with the majority of mediation cases coming from first time applicants.
- There was a trend of unresolved cases from October reported among multiple Task Force organizations.
- 18 new organizations were trained on Mediation and we should be seeing their results starting in the January Mediation Analysis.

SNAP Task Force Member Profile: The Fortune Society

Nicholas Posada of The Fortune Society presented on the history of the organization as well as the current program offerings. https://fortunesociety.org/

The Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 PM