

**Attendance and Minutes of  
The SNAP Task Force Meeting of January 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 Negrón – *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 – *NYP*
- 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 20<sup>th</sup>
- The Reserve Fund will distribute money for SNAP recipients that haven't revived their benefits by January 20<sup>th</sup> (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**