

**Attendance and Minutes of  
The SNAP Task Force Meeting of October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**ATTENDANCE SHEET**

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|---|--|
| 1) Leslie Molina – CSS  | 15) Long Ho – LiveOn NY                      |
| 2) Brenda Williams – HRA-SNAP<br>Outreach Services                | 16) Joyce Williams - FBNYC                   |
| 3) Milagros Rodriguez – HRA-SNAP<br>Outreach Services             | 17) Brady Koch – FBNYC                       |
| 3) Jane Coyne – Benefits Data<br>Trust                            | 18) Helen Strom - UJC                        |
| 5) Miguelina Diaz – HFNYC   | 19) Aitan Groener – LHNH                     |
| 6) Ellen Vollinger – FRAC<br>(via teleconference)                 | 20) Emanuel Negrón - FBNYC                   |
| 7) Emma Lopez-Riseboro  | 21) Ana Chen - UWNYS                         |
| 8) Melissa Brito - Single Stop QCC                                | 22) Melissa Brito – SSUSA QCC                |
| 9) Derek Singh – HRA-FIA  | 23) Roseanne Rodriguez –                     |
| 10) Cecilia Riera - Bronx Defenders                               | 24) Yessenia Mendez - Brooklyn Legal Service |
| 11) Nicauly Awelujar – Bronx Defenders                            |  |
| 11) Marta Mychak – NYLAG  |  |
| 12) Julia Elhai - NYLAG   |  |
| 13) Jane Coyne – Benefits Data Trust                              |  |
| 14) Mathew Mobley – Empire Justice<br>Center (via teleconference) |  |

**The meeting began at 1:15 PM**

Emanuel Negrón opened the meeting by welcoming the participants and introducing all attendees. After giving an overview of the meeting's agenda, Emanuel introduced Ellen Vollinger from the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) who presented national updates.

I. Outlook in Congress on SNAP and National Updates

- Ellen Vollinger (FRAC) with national updates.
  - Public Comment period has begun regarding the DHS proposed rule to include public benefits i.e. WIC and SNAP. Public Charge rules have not changed
    - FRAC will be providing technical assistance and resources
  - Continued consideration of the Farm Bill
    - Reviewed every 5 years. Congress will continue to look at the bill and make adjustments. SNAP is permanently authorized and benefits will continue until December
    - Senate is posing to building on the current benefits already there
- Advocates should pace themselves for things are happening behind the scenes:
  - For more information go to FRAC.org regarding to campaign Protect and Strengthen SNAP in the farm bill process

II. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Emanuel Negrón presented the following updates<sup>1</sup> from the USDA Food & Nutrition Service.

- A Short History of SNAP

USDA has released a summary of the history of the SNAP program.

- Press Release: USDA Provides Additional Food Options for SNAP Participants Impacted by Hurricane Florence

USDA FNS has approved the waiver that will allow participants in SNAP in North Carolina to buy hot foods with their benefits through October 31, 2018.

- Press Release: USDA Eases Program Rules for South Carolina SNAP Participants Impacted by Florence

USDA granted flexibility to allow South Carolina residents to replace food purchased with SNAP benefits that was lost due to power outage or flooding caused by Hurricane Florence.

- Press Release: USDA Invest in Customer Service Modernization Projects for SNAP

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<sup>1</sup> See pgs. 3-8, October 2018 Research Packet (RP) for full summaries of all USDA items covered

USDA FNS has announced \$5 million of investments in customer service projects to improve and modernize application processing in SNAP.

- Press Release: USDA Announces Approval of D-SNAP for North Carolina Disaster Area

USDA announced that North Carolina residents recovering from Hurricane Florence could be eligible for disaster food benefits through Disaster SNAP (D-SNAP).

### III. New York State Office of Temporary Assistance (OTDA)

Emanuel summarized policy items released by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA). Full summaries of each of these items are available on pages 8-11 of the October 2018 Research Packet (RP).

- General Information System 18TA/DC032: 2018-2019 Home Energy Assistance Program Forms Ordering and Availability
- General Information System 18TA/DC034: Release Revised LDSS-4943 "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits Categorically Eligible Desk Guide"
- General Information System 18TA/DC033: Abled-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Work Activity Letter
- General Information System 18TA/DC035: Reminder of Claim Policy and Administration
- General Information System 18TADC036: Treatment of Hurricane Evacuees Applying for Temporary Assistance (TA), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid
- New York State Snap Participation and Benefit Value in July 2018

### IV. Human Resource Administration (HRA)

Emanuel Negrón (FBNYC) summarized the following policy bulletins released by HRA in September 2018 RP on pages 9-14.

- Policy Bulletin #18-61-OPE: Announcement of Changes to Extended Hours at Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Center
- Policy Bulletin #18-65-ELI: October 2018 Changes for NYSNIP Households
- Policy Bulletin #18-15-ELI: October 2018 Changes IN Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Standards
  - Mediation

## Mediation Analysis Report for September 2018

Emanuel Negrón (FBNYC) highlights from September 2018 Mediation Analysis Report. The September report is based on 76 mediation requests submitted by Mediation Model participants. Emanuel thanked the 10 organizations represented in the reports for submitting their issue logs, and opened the floor to discussion for Task Force participants.

### Questions/Concerns –

#### Application Related Issues:

Emma (Riseboro) reported that new applications and recertifications are experiencing delays in processing time because of the closing of the Brooklyn centers (S20 and S26). Ongoing cases are not being issued. Derek (HRA-FIA) reported that the center closings should not impact cases submitted via POS or Access HRA and will be monitoring issues reported.

Helen (UJC) reported client cases are in AP status for several months. There has been a spike in Brooklyn cases with issues i.e. pending cases. The cases are at the East New York site. In addition, clients are experiencing 2 hour wait times when contacting on demand.

Miguelina (HFNYC) reported that clients are waiting over an hour on hold for an interview when contacting on demand before the call drops.

Melissa (SSUSA QCC) reported a case where the work student was categorized as an ABAWD. Derek (HRA-FIA) requested the case be forwarded to him for assistance.

Helen (UJC) reported client denials due to submitted employment letters without the number of hours worked. Helen stated that clients need to know specifically why a document was rejected. Clients submit a change report but it was not processed and was not made aware that they were missing a document.

Long (LiveOn NY) reported Bronx cases are not being processed within 30 days. The issue has been prevalent in late September and early October.

Cecilia (Bronx Defenders) reported a SSI client that was miss-budgeted. Household of three being told they are not eligible for ongoing. Derek asked that the case be forwarded to him for review.

#### V. Reports and Notable Items from Other Sources

Emanuel Negrón (FBNYC) summarized the following report included in the October 2018 RP on pages 13-16.

- Report from Pew Research Center: Facts on U.S. Immigrants – Statistical Portrait of Foreign-born Population in the United States

***The Meeting Adjourned at 2:53 PM***