

**Attendance and Minutes of
The SNAP Task Force Meeting of December 20th, 2018**

ATTENDANCE SHEET

- 1) Long Ho – *LiveOn NY*
- 2) Brenda Williams – *HRA-SNAP*
- 3) Brady Koch – *FBNYC*
- 4) Milagros Rodriguez – *HRA-SNAP*
- 5) Adnana Mendoza - *UJC*
- 6) Nicholas Posada - *Fortune Society*
- 7) Nancy Miranda – *FBNYC*
- 8) Ellen Vollinger – *FRAC*
- 9) Colleen Donovan – *Hunger Solutions NY*
- 10) Derek Singh – *HRA-FIA*
- 11) Dawn Secor – *Hunger Solutions NY*
- 12) Leah Starbuck – *Sanctuary for Families*
- 13) Jeff Lin - *FBNYC*
- 14) Ana Chen – *United Way of NYC*
- 15) Maria Perez – *NY Presbyterian Hospital*
- 16) Martino Desir – *Public Health Solutions*
- 17) April Torres – *HRA*
- 18) Miguelina Diaz – *Hungerfree NYC*
- 19) Alma Xhemalallari – *HRA-DSS*

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.

Ellen Vollinger (FRAC) with national SNAP updates:

1. Farm Bill Passage – A bipartisan Farm Bill passed, avoiding any cuts to SNAP.
2. Public Charge - Public Comment is now closed and we await feedback on next steps for public charge.
3. ABAWD Legislation Proposed Changes – Breaking news the morning of the SNAP Task Force outlining a national change to ABAWD waiver policy. The new rules would change how areas qualify for ABAWD waivers based on unemployment rates. These new changes would affect an estimated 1.1 M SNAP recipients.

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 November 2018

Brady (FBNYC) shared highlights from November 2018 Mediation Analysis Report. The November report is based on 89 mediation requests submitted by Mediation Model participants submitted by 7 Organizations.

Questions/Concerns –

- Calls for new interview still have 30 minutes waiting time.
- HRA staff are requesting clients to fax documents if the App is not working. Discusses fax is still an option, but the App is better because the case can be worked on by multiple SNAP centers.
- No immigrant eligibility cases were identified as mediation barriers this month. There is a concern that this is not the result of no cases to mediate, but that immigrants may not be applying for benefits.

SNAP Task Force Activity

Brady let the group in an exercise to identify common pushback and education points for clients concerned about public charge. Here is a summary of the group's feedback:

- Common concerns immigrants have about applying for SNAP Benefits:
 - If I apply for SNAP . . .
 - I will not be able to become a US citizen."
 - My family and loved ones will not be able to become a citizen."
 - I and/or my children will not be able to apply for or renew my Green Card.
 - I will be deported."
 - My address will be shared with ICE."
 - I will not be able to get a waiver for a TVISA.
 - I will not be able to leave and return to the US.
 - Many are getting incorrect immigration information from media and legal aid.
 - There is confusion on what programs are affected by Public Charge. WIC and School Lunch Program are rumored to also be affected.
- Helpful information sources and strategies to combat Public Charge misinformation:
 - Reinforce that benefits are available for everyone.
 - HRA notice on Public Charge
 - Understanding a proposal versus a regulation and the requirement to publish notices about changes.
 - Referral to legal experts like Catholic Charities New American Hotline.
 - Provide outreach fact sheets in a variety of languages like the resources on HungerSolutionsNY.org
 - Additional websites for information:
 - USCIS
 - NY Immigration Coalition
 - Immigrant Family Campaign.

AccessHRA Presentation on Website Upgrade

Alma Xhemalallari (HRA-DSS)) presented a preview of the new customer and community organization tools in AccessHRA.

The Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 PM