

**Attendance and Minutes of
The SNAP Task Force Meeting of February 21st, 2019**

ATTENDANCE SHEET

- 1) Long Ho – *LiveOn NY*
- 2) Brady Koch – *FBNYC*
- 3) Nicholas Posada - *Fortune Society*
- 4) Ellen Vollinger – *FRAC*
- 5) Colleen Donovan – *Hunger Solutions NY*
- 6) Derek Singh – *HRA-FIA*
- 7) Emanuel Negrón – *Met Council*
- 8) Vanessa Mendez – *SingleStop*
- 9) Jane Coyne - *Benefits Data Trust*
- 10) Evalevi Lopez – *Fifth Avenue Committee*
- 11) Ana Minter – *SingleStop*
- 12) Miguelina Diaz – *Hungerfree NYC*
- 13) Kelsey Ferrari – *CUCS Rikers SingleStop*
- 14) Isabel Hellman – *Urban Justice Center*
- 15) Alex Jackson – *Met Council*
- 16) Brenda Williams – *HRA*
- 17) Millie Rodriguez – *HRA*
- 18) Jose Aguilar – *POTS*
- 19) Yessema Mendez – *Brooklyn Legal Service*

AGENDA

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. National Updates – presented by Ellen Vollinger, Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)
- III. Research Packet Overview
- IV. Mediation Analysis Review
- V. Nonprofit SNAP Outreach Survey

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.

- ABAWD Legislation Proposed Changes –The public comment period for ABAWD legislation changes closes on April 2nd. These changes would eliminate SNAP benefits for an estimated 750,000 nationally by changing the state requirements for ABAWD designation.
- FRAC and Feeding America have developed template public comments for advocates to model. Advocates are requested to develop their own public comments for submission and not copy the template documents.

Brady Koch reviewed the month's Research Packet and Mediation Analysis. The full documentation is available at foodbanknyc.org. Issues cited in the discussion throughout the review:

- March benefits will be released a week early to transition back to a normal disbursement cycle in April.
- The new update to AccessHRA is occasionally stating that the login password is incorrect. This can be corrected by establishing a new password.
- Task Force members reported fraudulent SNAP assistance cases occurring in the past month. A bad actor is completing people's SNAP applications and charging for their services. Often the address used for benefits is not accurate and people are not receiving their benefits. HRA requests that these cases are reported to them once they are discovered.
- The Task Force identified that an upcoming presentation topic on SNAP fraud would be beneficial at an upcoming meeting.
- Updated SNAP EBT cards need to be requested at the time of the recertification interview.
- Can outreach workers assist with client's overpayments of benefits? Only the payment department can work with clients to resolve these issues.

Brady Koch introduced Food Bank for New York City's recent research brief "In the Shadow of the Shutdown" as a model the SNAP Task Force can replicate to capture the work of SNAP Outreach charities in NYC. The Task Force participated in an ideation session on what questions they could ask organizations in the research survey. Food Bank will present a sample survey to the Task Force for feedback at the March meeting.

The Meeting Adjourned at 2:15 PM