

**Attendance and Minutes of
The SNAP Task Force Meeting of February 22, 2018**

ATTENDANCE SHEET

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| 1) Lori English – NYC HRA-FIA | 12) Marta Mychak – NYLAG |
| 2) Brenda Williams – HRA SNAP Outreach Services | 13) Tom Furstenberg-Carroll – Met Council |
| 3) Milagros Rodriguez – HRA SNAP Outreach Services | 14) Evalevi Lopez, Fifth Avenue Committee |
| 4) Damaris Sorrentini – HRA SNAP Outreach Services | 15) Saima Akhtar – Empire Justice Center (<i>via teleconference</i>) |
| 5) Ellen Vollinger – Food Research & Action Center (<i>via teleconference</i>) | 16) Miguelina Diaz – Hunger Free NYC |
| 6) Sayma Reza - Queens Community House | 17) Nick Posada – Fortune Society |
| 7) Adriana Mendoza – Urban Justice Center (UJC) | 18) Claire Sanfilippo – Part of the Solution (POTS) |
| 8) Long Ho – Live-On NY | 19) Kiana Davis – Bronx Defenders |
| 9) Ailin Liu – Public Health Solutions | 20) Cecilia Riera – Bronx Defenders |
| 10) Yessenia Mendez – Brooklyn Legal Services | 21) Emanuel Negrón - FBNYC |
| 11) Chris Anna Nisbet – USDA Food & Nutrition Service (<i>via teleconference</i>) | 22) Muhammad Al. Amin – New York Common Pantry |
| | 23) Juo Yu Chao – Queens Community House |
| | 24) Lauren Phillips – FBNYC |
| | 25) Hersh Posner – Together We Are |
| | 26) Colleen Donovan – Hunger Solutions NY |

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) to present national update.

I. Outlook in Congress on SNAP and National Updates

Ellen Vollinger from FRAC with national updates

- Proposed Budget 2019 cut snap over \$213 billion over 10 years
 - FRAC website with details
 - Does not expect congress to pass
 - Congress will consider some proposals while considering farm bill, less likely for budget resolution
- Harvest Box (federal food package) delivered in some way
 - Number of negative proposals
 - Regulatory developments in USDA that don't involve congressional action
- Notice that USDA put out today of its intention to seek public comments on ABAWD time limits
 - On the public comment docket, SNAP taskforce could add comments
 - Ways area waivers are being denied
 - Information to share in public comment period (45 days)
- Two new research pieces
 - FRAC updated SNAP recipients with 2016 data
 - Urban institute published this morning talks about gaps for low-income meals that could get people through the month
 - What that costs and what the SNAP benefit amount is
 - On average the benefit falls woefully short to meet the cost of a low cost meal
 - Manhattan: \$2.23 gap for every meal
 - Second biggest gap nationwide, number 1 in urban counties
 - 19 counties in NY with particularly sizable gap

II. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Emanuel Negrón introduced Chris Anna Nisbet from the USDA Food & Nutrition Service to present updates from the agency. Full summaries of each of these items are available on pages 3-4 of the February 2018 Research Packet (RP).

- Press Release: Perdue Announces USDA'S Farm Bill and Legislative Principles for 2018

- Comments Request – SNAP Waivers Under Section 6(O) of the Food Nutrition Act
- USDA Economic Research Service: Design Issues in USDA's SNAP Program by Looking Back

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 5-6 of the February 2018 Research Packet (RP).

- Press Release: Billions in Valuable Tax Credits Available to New Yorkers
- SNAP Participation and Benefits Value for December 2017

Emanuel introduced German Tejada, VP of Anti-Poverty Programming at FBNYC to provide a presentation on Food Bank's Free Tax Assistance Program for New York City 2017 tax season. Please refer to the Food Bank For New York City web page (www.foodbanknyc.org) and select the "Find Help" option for more information on free tax preparation.

IV. Mediation

Mediation Analysis Report for January 2018

Emanuel Negrón (FBNYC) highlights from February 2018 Mediation Analysis Report. The report is based on 147 mediation requests submitted by Mediation Model participants in the month of January 2018. Emanuel thanked the 10 organizations represented in the report for submitting their issue logs, and opened the floor to discussion for Task Force participants.

Document Issues:

Hersh Pozner (Together We Are) reported the issue of a client who completed the application submission via POS but when contacting HRA the application was not located. Tom Furstenberg (Met Council) experienced the same issue with clients and suggested using the strategy of recording POS notes reminding workers to look in both viewers.

Kiana Davis (Bronx Defenders) reported having a clients who hit the five year mark for legal permanent residency (green card holder)during recertification and asked whose job it is to make the client an active member on the case and when should the client get retroactive benefits. Lori English (HRA) stated it is not the client's responsibility for with SNAP cases generally have a contact once a year, and in between is the periodic mailer and in between those two occasions they come upon the five year mark they can notify the agency or during periodic mailer during five year period. Case worker should review documents and based on that information explore and revisit that line

even if they are on the case or not with that being said this person had a recent recertification and to determine if there would be eligibility for benefits one would need to know if recertification was the same month as the five year mark. If they came in for a recert in January and the five-year came up in October and there was no communication the worker should review that for the month of reporting if that individual had reported a change form when the five year mark occurred.

Kiana Davis (Bronx Defenders) asked if it is not the client's responsibility, and they did not report the change in immigration status, will retroactive benefits be issued for legal permanent residents who recertify.

Customer Service Related Issues:

Cheryl Love (CAMBA) reported issues with clients calling for a telephone interview. No one answering hence Cheryl encourages clients to take their time and keep calling. Emanuel (FBNYC) stated the issue is a very prevalent and HRA is trying to expand phone banks. Cheryl suggested calling the line at different time of the day.

Sayma Reza (Queens Community House) reported an issue regarding a client who became a green card holder for five years, and was informed by HRA during her interview that she was in receipt of public assistance and her SNAP case would be rejected. The case will be sent to Derek (HRA) for review.

Long Ho (LiveOn NY) reported issues with two clients who applied but were never issued a benefit card despite being approved. These cases were included in the January 2018 Mediation Analysis.

IV. Human Resource Administration (HRA)

Emanuel Negrón (FBNYC) summarized the following policy bulletins released by HRA in January 2017 RP on pages 7-8.

- Policy Bulletin #18-02-OPE: Introduction of the Desk Guide for Indexing Documents by Document Submissions
- Policy Bulletin #18-03-OPE: Promoting The Use of Access HRA Website and Mobile App

V. Reports and Notable Items from Other Sources

Emanuel Negrón (FBNYC) summarized the following reports included in the January 2018 RP on pages 9-10.

- SNAP is Linked with improving Nutritional Outcomes and Lower Health Care Cost – Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

The Meeting Adjourned at 2:58 PM