

**Attendance and Minutes of  
The SNAP Task Force Meeting of April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**ATTENDANCE SHEET**

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|--|--|
| 1) Derek Singh – NYC HRA-FIA                       | 12) Langina Pena – Met Council   |
| 2) Brenda Williams – HRA SNAP Outreach Services    | 13) Tom Furstenberg-Carroll – Met Council                              |
| 3) Jonson Glover – NYC HRA-FIA                     | 14) Marta Mychak - NYLAG   |
| 4) Damaris Delgado – Lenox Hill Neighborhood House | 15) Saima Akhtar – Empire Justice Center ( <i>via teleconference</i> ) |
| 5) Caridad Pow – Queens Legal Services             | 16) Miguelina Diaz – Hunger Free NYC                                   |
| 6) Sayma Reza - Queens Community House             | 17) Nick Posada – Fortune Society                                      |
| 7) Kiana Davis – Bronx Defenders                   | 18) Colleen Donovan - Hunger Solution New York                         |
| 8) Cecilia Rera – Bronx Defenders                  | 19) Nancy Miranda - FBNYC  |
| 9) Long Ho – Live-On NY                            | 20) William Koible – FBNYC   |
| 10) Ailin Liu – Public Health Solutions            | 21) Emanuel Negrón - FBNYC   |
| 11) Susan Salari – NYC DSS                         | 22) Jesus Abreu - FBNYC  |
| 12) Yessenia Mendez Brooklyn Legal Services        | 23) Nicholas Beuss - FBNYC   |
|  | 24) Flara Yamin – NYC DSS  |
|  | 25) Sherry Moss – NYC HRA-FIA  |
|  | 26) Alex Jackson – Met Council   |
|  | 27) Chris Wimer – Columbia University                                  |
|  | 28) Sophie Collyer – Columbia University                               |

## **The meeting began at 1:10 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 Nicholas Beuss, Community Mobilization Manager, Food Bank for New York City who provided national update.

### *I. Outlook in Congress on SNAP and National Updates*

Nicholas Beuss from Food Bank with national updates regarding the proposed farm bill.

- Federal Legislation; controls farm and agriculture policy
  - Also nutrition assistance programs 5 year schedule, rewritten this year (last one took two years so because its due this year doesn't mean it will be done this year)
- Committee introduced legislation behind closed doors
  - Bad legislation; want to increase administration cost by millions and cut billions for SNAP for the next 10 years
- Three bad areas
  - Eligibility will be changed by removing state broad based category eligibility, the eligibility will be increased (people who are close to poverty but are still in need will be cut out) - if you are in this area you can be cut out
  - Cutting connection between SNAP and LIHEAP/HEAP
    - Requirement was raised from 1\$ to \$20; they now want to remove that connection
  - This bill is not a cut to emergency food but only because you aren't cutting here doesn't mean it is right to cut another area.
  - This proposal expands the ABAWD/work requirements to anybody who works from 18-60 instead of 18-50.
    - One strike gets you off for one year, second strike gets you off the program for 3 years. (Strikes are given for not working as supposed to for the benefit – from what I understood??)
      - Unless you have a child under 6 then you are subject to the work requirement
  - Program is being designed to fail and kick people off the benefits
  - Increase funding for employment and training (\$30 per person) an insufficient amount (600,000 people will be subject to these work requirement in NYS); (400,00 won't be able to walk through the door to receive benefits)

### *II, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)*

Emanuel Negron introduced Chris Anna Nisbet from the USDA Food & Nutrition Service to present updates<sup>1</sup> from the agency.

- The Food Assistance Landscape: 2017 Annual Report

The report examines trends in the fifteen food and nutrition assistance programs through fiscal year FY 2017.

- Press Release: USDA Expands Focus on Program Integrity Across All Nutrition Programs

USDA has announced an enhanced focus on program integrity that will include renewed attention to transparency, payment accuracy, fraud and waste prevention, and improved quality control.

Emanuel introduced Christopher Wilmer and Sophie Collyer, Columbia Population Research Center (CPRC) who covered the following report: [https://robinhoodorg-production.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/2017/12/PovertyTracker\\_FULLREPORT.pdf](https://robinhoodorg-production.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/2017/12/PovertyTracker_FULLREPORT.pdf)

- III. Robin Hood Report, Going Hungry: Which New Yorkers are Leaving Food on the Table? – presented by Christopher Wimer and Sophie Collyer, Columbia Population Research Center (CPRC)

- IV. 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 4-5 of the April 2018 Research Packet (RP).

- New York State Participation and Benefit Value January 2018
- Press Release: OTDA Highlights Nutrition Programs for Older New Yorkers as part of “March for Meals” Campaign
- GIS 18 TA/DC010: Home Energy Assistance Program Nominal Benefit Advance Payment.

- V. Mediation

#### Mediation Analysis Report for April 2018

Emanuel Negron (FBNYC) highlights from March 2018 Mediation Analysis Report. The report is based on 140 mediation requests submitted by Mediation Model participants in the month of March 2018. Emanuel thanked the 12 organizations represented in the report for submitting their issue logs, and opened the floor to discussion for Task Force participants.

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<sup>1</sup> See pgs. 3-4, April 2018 Research Packet (RP) for full summaries of all USDA items covered

IV. Human Resource Administration (HRA)

Emanuel Negrón (FBNYC) summarized the following policy bulletins released by HRA in April 2018 RP on pages 6-8.

- HRA Community Partners Webpage Launch Announcement
- PB #18-05-SYS: Welfare Management System (WMS) Software Release Version 2018.1
- PB #18-20-OPE: Access HRA SNAP Periodic Report.

V. Reports and Notable Items from Other Sources

Emanuel Negrón (FBNYC) summarized the following reports included in the April 2018 RP on pages 8-10.

- Bridging the Gap: Ending Student Hunger with Breakfast After the Bell – Hunger Solutions of New York
- Most Working-Age SNAP Participants Work, but Often in Unstable Jobs for Low-Income Peoples

Emanuel announced the next Food Bank SNAP Intensive Eligibility will take place on April 30<sup>th</sup>. An email will be sent to all those that are listed on Food Bank's training list serve.

***The Meeting Adjourned at 2:57 PM***