

**Attendance and Minutes of
The SNAP Task Force Meeting of May 17th, 2018**

ATTENDANCE SHEET

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| 1) Milagros Rodriguez – HRA-SNAP
Outreach Services | 12) Adriana Mendoza – UJC |
| 2) Brenda Williams – HRA SNAP
Outreach Services | 13) Veronica Solam - Riseboro |
| 3) Adriana Cabrera – NYC DSS | 14) Tom Furstenberg-Carroll – Met
Council |
| 4) Ellen Vollinger – FRAC
<i>(via teleconference)</i> | 14) Marta Mychak - NYLAG |
| 5) Nicholas Beuss – FBNYC
<i>(via teleconference)</i> | 16) Saima Akhtar – Empire Justice
Center <i>(via teleconference)</i> |
| 6) Ana Chen – UWNYC
<i>(via teleconference)</i> | 17) Miguelina Diaz – Hunger Free
NYC |
| 7) Kiana Davis – Bronx Defenders | 18) Nick Posada – Fortune Society |
| 8) Cecilia Riera – Bronx Defenders | 19) Colleen Donovan - Hunger
Solution New York |
| 9) Long Ho – Live-On NY | 20) Nancy Miranda - FBNYC |
| 10) Adriana Mendoza – UJC | 21) Emanuel Negron - FBNYC |
| 11) Susan Salari – NYC DSS | 22) Jesus Abreu - FBNYC |
| 12) Yessenia Mendez - Brooklyn Legal
Services | 23) Mathew Mobley – Empire Justice
Center <i>(via teleconference)</i> |
| | 24) Ariel Salazar – NYC DSS |
| | 25) Alex Jackson – Met Council |

The meeting began at 1:07 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 with national updates.

- Amendments are not looking well and are still being argued:
 - Removing broad based category eligibility and using the 130% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) was raised
 - Nicholas (FBNYC) – Staten Island Democrat Congressman Dan Donovan's vote is significant because they need 280 votes and 17 are missing to go against the bill, he is undecided but advocacy in Staten Island is paying off.
 - Mathew (Empire Justice Center) removing 150%-200% FPL below poverty would be most affected because those people won't be able to walk through the doors and apply
 - 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

II. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Emanuel Negrón presented the following updates¹ from the USDA Food & Nutrition Service.

¹ See pg. 3, May 2018 Research Packet (RP) for full summaries of all USDA items covered

- Retailer Eligibility - Restaurant

USDA FNS published clarification regarding the implementation of the final rule, "Enhancing Retailer Standards in SNAP" which amends regulations related to businesses that are ineligible to be SNAP authorized because they are restaurants.

- USDA Seeks Comments on Proposed Rule for National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard

USDA has invited public comments on the proposed rules to establish the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard mandate by Congress in 2016.

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

- GIS 18 TA/DC013: Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program: Paperless Processing
- GIS 18 TA/DC014: Home Energy Assistance Program Regular and Emergency Benefit Component Closing Date
- New York State Participation and Benefit Value February 2018

IV. Human Resource Administration (HRA)

- Access HRA Release 5 Demo – Alma Xhemalallari, Office of Business Process Innovations

Emanuel (FBNYC) introduced Alma Xhemalallari, Office of Business Process Innovations who provided a presentation on Access HRA Release 5. Alma stated the current website is not mobile friendly and they noticed that many people are using devices. HRA partnered with IBM to make the website mobile responsive (coming in December) Alma then presented a sample of what is almost complete:

Landing page

- Easier to use, can login, apply or create account on main page right in the front (this is new)
- Can request a case change online now to add people or etc. (for SNAP only)
- Clients can do CASH request online by application; citywide if approved (currently being piloted in their center to then go city wide)
- Rent subsidy people can renew on their website (new)
- Trying to build everything online so that people don't have to go to centers for everything
- CA application is piloted, the CA special grant is a request (goal for both is be city wide)

- City wide means they want to make it available to be done by home
- “What’s new” – they will let clients and partners know what’s new
- Access HRA User Guide
- There will be an app link on bottom so people can download the app

Apply now

- New look and field so that people can login and if they clicked that by accident there is a “create new account” button;
- Find my case page
 - A lot of clients didn’t connect their account to application (in last update) so this is why this update was made
 - This page will ask for CIS, SSN or DOB to connect with POS so if people applied already they can’t apply again because some people keep applying and it makes the wait longer.
 - Getting rid of eldest child page
 - This page can be skipped if they don’t have CIN or SSN and never applied, after they apply cases will be linked if necessary

Benefits page

- Finish setting up your account and search for your case if you have one
- Renew Medicaid
- Rent subsidy
- SNAP
- Start a new application
- Submit recertification

Profile

- Can update account (username, password, number and etc.) – can update once every 24 hours and it will be updated over night
- Can link to partner if wanted

When you put your SSN or CIN

- Gives you an update on your application and gives you your case number if you don’t know it
- Next appointment date
- Recent activity (pages client hasn’t checked and should look at)
- FAQ’s
- Documents you need to submit and view all documents

Case Details

- Tell you your case status

- Also a “I need to ...” table

Language will change on website automatically and you won't have to leave application like you do now (available in 7 languages)

E-Notices

- Clients will be de-enrolled from paperless if they don't look at their notices

Documents

- Will show what you submitted and deadlines for documents that need to be submitted
- Documents have to be reviewed 1 by 1 to make sure it meets requirements

Payments

- Show payment made, payment cancelled, and payment received

Appointments

- Past Appointments - clients can see if they missed or kept the appointment and can reschedule and see upcoming appointments

Partners

- Can connect with partners

Other page

Benefits will end on ... popup once you sign in (so you can file recertification right away if wanted)

IV. Human Resource Administration (HRA)

Emanuel Negrón (FBNYC) summarized the following policy bulletins released by HRA in April 2018 RP on pages 5-6.

- Policy Bulletin #18-23-ELI: SNAP Application Question Set (FIA-1199) and Demand Information Services/Interview Agent Daily Activity Sheet (FIA-1208)
- Policy Bulletin #18-26-OPE: Revisions to Forms M-90C, M-90D and M-90E
- Policy Bulletin #18-27-OPE: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Deferral Desk Guide
 - Mediation

Mediation Analysis Report for May 2018

Emanuel Negrón (FBNYC) highlights from May 2018 Mediation Analysis Report. The report is based on 120 mediation requests submitted by Mediation Model participants in the month of April 2018. Emanuel thanked the 14 organizations represented in the report for submitting their issue logs, and opened the floor to discussion for Task Force participants.

Questions/Concerns –

Veronica (Riseboro) reported seeing confusion with documents being submitted by applicants that are being asked to submit one thing but FIA is asking for everything that has been submitted already. Clients are confused as to why they are being asked for things that were already submitted. She also added that they are duplicating cases making a new number. Emanuel (FBNYC) requested to see some case examples to investigate possible glitches.

Kiana (Bronx Defenders) asked if there will be something that can show if certain documents were submitted and received. Alma (HRA) took notes and said she will try to see if they can post this as an alert.

V. Reports and Notable Items from Other Sources

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

- Report from Food Research and Action Center (FRAC): Cutting Food Assistance is a Bad Deal for Women and families,

The Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 PM