

**Attendance and Minutes of
The SNAP Task Force Meeting of June 21st, 2018**

ATTENDANCE SHEET

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| 1) Milagros Rodriguez – HRA-SNAP Outreach Services | 13) Adriana Mendoza – UJC |
| 2) Brenda Williams – HRA SNAP Outreach Services | 14) Veronica Solano- Riseboro |
| 3) Derek Singh – FIA HRA SNAP | 15) Tom Furstenberg-Carroll – Met Council |
| 4) Ellen Vollinger – FRAC
<i>(via teleconference)</i> | 16) Marta Mychak - NYLAG |
| 5) Nicole Acevedo – John Single Stop | 17) Saima Akhtar – Empire Justice Center <i>(via teleconference)</i> |
| 6) Damaris Delgado – Lenox Hill Neighborhood House | 18) Miguelina Diaz – Hunger Free NYC |
| 7) Kiana Davis – Urban Justice Center | 19) Nick Posada – Fortune Society |
| 8) Ana Sarabia – Single Stop USA | 20) Colleen Donovan - Hunger Solution New York |
| 9) Vanessa Mendez – Single Stop USA | 21) Benson Chen – Hunger Free NYC |
| 10) Jen Schumurcher-Kicik – Single Stop USA | 22) Dawn Secor – Hunger Solutions New York |
| 11) Long Ho – Live-On NY | 23) Joyce Williams - FBNYC |
| 12) Ailin Liu – Public Health Solutions | 24) Emanuel Negron - FBNYC |
| 13) Anne Krasser – Citi Bike | 25) Blair Brence - FBNYC |
| 14) Susan Salari – NYC DSS | 26) William Kioble - FBNYC |
| 15) Yessenia Mendez - Brooklyn Legal Services | 27) Sayma Reza – Queens Community House |
| | 28) Ariel Salazar – NYC DSS |
| | 29) Fernando LeBron - Queens Legal Services |
| | 30) Josef Aguilar – Part of the Solution |
| | 31) Evalevi Lopez – Fifth Avenue Committee |
| | 32) Nancy Miranda - FBNYC |

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) who presented national updates.

I. Outlook in Congress on SNAP and National Updates

Ellen Vollinger with national updates.

- Ellen (FRAC)
 - Farm Bill moving through Congress, voted down in May
 - Would take \$20 million out of SNAP
 - Bill being voted on again today
 - Everyone who writes about farm bill thinks it will be close bill
 - If it passes vote, will go to senate
 - Senate bill is different from house bill, cuts less than the house bill
 - Wouldn't be as close of a vote without advocacy work in NY
 - Two primary things to watch
 - 1. Immigrant access to public benefits
 - No policy has been announced
 - 2. Trump admin wants to reorganize government and combine/move departments
 - Move SNAP from USDA to HSS (change name to welfare)
 - Merging departments would mean taking jurisdiction away from committees that have power and most legislatures don't like having their power taken away

I. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

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

- Press Release: H-2A Agricultural Worker Visa Modernizations Joint Cabinet Statement

The Departments of State, Agriculture, Labor and Homeland Security are embarking on a process to modernize the H-2A visa program by clarifying and improving regulations governing the program.

- Retailer Sanctions – Debarment of Disqualified Firms

¹ See pgs. 3-4, June 2018 Research Packet (RP) for full summaries of all USDA items covered

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) published guidance regarding the criteria for initiating government-wide debarment actions against retailers that have been disqualified from SNAP.

- Request for Information: SNAP Quality Control Integrity and Modernizations.

USDA has invited State government and other stakeholders' perspectives as the agency considers how best to proceed with reforming the SNAP Quality Control system.

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 4-6 of the June 2018 Research Packet (RP).

- 18-INF-08: Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
- GIS 18 TA/DC018: Social Service District Responsibility for Timely Submission of Voter Registration Forms
- New York State Participation and Benefit Value March 2018

IV. Human Resource Administration (HRA)

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

- Policy Bulletin #18-30-OPE: Renaming of the Mandated Job Center Signage (M-98C) and Revisions to the M-98C and Mandated Non-Cash Assistance Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (NCA SNAP) Center Signage (M-98D)
- Policy Directive #18-09-SYS: Revisions to the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE)
- Policy Directive #18-10-OPE: Serving Limited Proficient (LEP) Individuals

- Mediation

Mediation Analysis Report for June 2018

Emanuel Negrón (FBNYC) highlights from June 2018 Mediation Analysis Report. The report is based on 91 mediation requests submitted by Mediation Model participants in the month of May. Emanuel thanked the 8 organizations represented in the report for submitting their issue logs, and opened the floor to discussion for Task Force participants.

Questions/Concerns –

Application Related Issues:

Vanessa (Single Stop USA) reported many partners seeing cases that are not being rejected or approved within 30 day period. Four cases in Brooklyn and the Bronx.

Cases are showing up as pending. In addition, applications submitted via POS are not being seen on HRA's end when clients call to complete the telephone interview.

Ana (Single Stop USA) reported cases submitted via POS are still being seen in the POS Que. Ana has reached out to Help Desk to resolve the issue.

Vanessa (Single Stop USA) asked if it is faster to go through the Help Desk to assist clients with phone interviews. Derek (FIA-HRA SNAP) requested that these issues should be sent to him as soon as it happens.

Sayma (Queens Community House) reported that clients that have missed the phone interview are being put in a status of "pending rejection". Called to reschedule an interview and was advised by an HRA worker that the interview could not be rescheduled. Derek (HRA-FIA) reported that Queens has not moved into on-demand interviews as of yet. S-53 clients are on-demand for phone interviewing.

Derek (FIA-HRA SNAP) announced that as of July 1st Queens will be moving into on-demand interviewing.

IV. Reports and Notable Items from Other Sources

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

- Report From Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP): Administration Actions Against Immigrant Families Harming Children Through Increase Fear, Loss Of Needed Assistance
- Report From Economic Policy Institute: Countries Investing More in Social Programs Have Less Child Poverty

Emanuel Negrón (FBNYC) introduced Anne Krasser (Citi Bike) who announced the extension of NYCHA resident discount of \$5 per month to SNAP recipients. Citi Bike provides a way for residents to save money on transportation while providing physical activity. Signup for the Citi Bike will be online and will require a credit or debit card. The initiative is aiming to launch in mid-July.

The Meeting Adjourned at 2:35 PM