Attendance and Minutes of
The SNAP Task Force Meeting of July 19th, 2018

ATTENDANCE SHEET

1) Vilma Santos – Mosholu Montefiore Community Center
2) Brenda Williams – HRA-SNAP Outreach Services
3) Damaris Sorrentini – HRA-SNAP Outreach Services
4) V. Ramos – Bronx Defenders
5) Ellen Vollinger – FRAC
6) Merble Reagon – WCECA
7) Frances Rodriguez – Fortune Society
8) Radhames Tejada– CUCS
9) Emanuel Negron – FBNYC
10) Blair Brence – FBNYC
11) Robert Rodriguez – FBNYC
12) Joyce Williams - FBNYC
13) Kiana Davis – Urban Justice Center
14) Vanessa Mendez – Single Stop USA
15) Adriana Mendoza - UJC
16) Long Ho – Live-On NY
17) Colleen Donovan – Hunger Solutions New York
18) Jane Coyne – Benefits Data Trust
19) Susan Salari – NYC DSS
20) Ariel Salazar – NYC DSS
21) Yessenia Mendez - Brooklyn Legal Services
22) Bridget Gibbson – Benefits Data Trust
23) Younji Kim – MinKwon Center
24) Ana Chen – UNWY NYC
25) Claire Sanfilippo – Part of the Solution
26) Cecilia Riera – Bronx Defenders
27) Miguelina Diaz – Hunger Free NYC
28) Langina Pena – Met Council
29) Jessica Hughes-Andrade Met Council
30) Sayma Reza - Queens Community House
31) Juoya Chao – Queens Community House
32) Mathew Mobley – Empire Justice Center (via teleconference)
The meeting began at 1:08 PM

Emanuel Negron 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.

1. **Outlook in Congress on SNAP and National Updates**

   - Ellen Vollinger (FRAC) with national updates.
     - Organizations trying to strengthen SNAP
     - Farm bill due for reauthorization by Sept. 30th
     - SNAP won't expire if bill doesn't get voted on
     - Attempt to work out deal between house bill (cut $20B over 10 years, cut families off of SNAP, remove relationship between school meals, add work requirements for people 18-60—have to report every month that they are working certain hours) and senate bill (small tweaks)
       - Don’t know who is appointed for Senate members of the joint committee - likely 3 democrats and 4 republicans
       - Leader of Senate agriculture committee does not agree with bill that was passed by house
     - Status has not changed much over the past year and a half
     - Two New York members of the house on the committee
     - Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) has posted a few things recently
       - Request for comments about quality control process of SNAP
       - July 31 deadline
       - What kind of client contact should there be?
       - Thinking about adding education at each point of application and recertification
       - Clients may be pestered more times to give interview
       - Elderly simplified application - has gotten good reviews around the country
       - 10 work requirements required under last farm bill (employment training for SNAP benefits)
         - No evaluation yet
         - Preliminary information shows a lot of challenges
           - Staff turnover
           - High participant exit rates before it ends
             - People can’t afford to stay in training program when they need a job now

1. **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)**
Emanuel Negron presented the following updates\textsuperscript{1} from the USDA Food & Nutrition Service.

- **Press Release: USDA Statement on SNAP Access at Farmers Markets**

  In response to recent news about a major provider of mobile Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) technology discontinuing its service, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Administrator Brandon Lipps offered a statement reiterating the important role farmers play in nutrition and communicating great concern as there are few providers in the marketplace. USDA has been exploring all available options in an attempt to avoid disruption and mitigate the impact on program participants as well as farmers.

- **What is An Improper Payment**

  United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) published guidance regarding improper payments which include overpayments and underpayments of SNAP benefits.

- **FY2015 Measurement Issues**

  In 2014, USDA identified concerns with data quality issues in the SNAP Quality Control (QC) process and began a thorough review of quality control systems in all 53 State agencies. Due to data quality issues uncovered in 42 of 53 States during the reviews, the State-reported error rates derived from that data could not be validated, hence USDA was unable to calculate a national error rate for FY15.

- **USDA Corrects Error Reporting Issues: Release FY2017 SNAP Payments Error Rates**

  For the first time in three years USDA released new data on improper SNAP payments. The data reflects an improved reporting process that will better enable USDA and State partners to make informed decisions to improve program integrity.

**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 5-7 of the July 2018 Research Packet (RP).

- GIS 19TA/DC019: Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) TA/SNAP Pre-Autopay Vendor Information Report

- GIS 18 TA/DC024: 2018-2019 Disaster Plan Local Emergency Contacts

- New York State Participation and Benefit Value April 2018

**IV. Human Resource Administration (HRA)**

\textsuperscript{1} See pgs. 3-5, July 2018 Research Packet (RP) for full summaries of all USDA items covered
Emanuel Negron (FBNYC) summarized the following policy bulletins released by HRA in June 2018 RP on pages 7-8.

- Policy Bulletin #18-36-OPE: Schedules for July – December 2018
- Policy Directive #18-11-OPE: Recertification Improvement Project (RIP)
- Mediation

**Mediation Analysis Report for July 2018**

Emanuel Negron (FBNYC) highlights from July 2018 Mediation Analysis Report. The report is based on 58 mediation requests submitted by Mediation Model participants in the month of June. 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:**

Miguelina (HFNYC) reported applicants are not getting approved within 30 days. Tip sites are taking 45 days to make a determination.

Tom (Met Council) reported that periodic reports are being processed correctly at home centers.

Langina (Met Council) reported changes are not appearing on change report submissions.

**Budget Related Issues:**

Long Ho (Live-On NY) reported issues with applicants being incorrectly budgeted. Seniors are not being budgeted with large medical expenses.

Kiana (UJC) reported households are being improperly budgeted when a new born enters the household.

IV. **Reports and Notable Items from Other Sources**

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

- Report From Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP): House GOP Budget Retains Tax Cuts for the Wealthy, Proposes Deep Program Cuts to Millions of Americans

- Report From Pew Research Center: The Share of Teen with Summer Jobs Has Plunged Since 2000, and the Type of Work they Do Has Shifted
Emanuel Negron (FBNYC) introduced Tom (Met Council) who made the following announcement. July 27th will be Tom’s last day with Met Council. In addition, Bridget (Benefits Data Trust) introduced Jane Coyne colleague who will be attending the SNAP Task Force.

The Meeting Adjourned at 2:20 PM