

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

ATTENDANCE SHEET

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| 1) Vilma Santos – Mosholu
Montefiore Community Center | 22) Bridget Gibbson – Benefits Data Trust |
| 2) Brenda Williams – HRA-SNAP
Outreach Services | 23) Younji Kim – MinKwon Center |
| 3) Damaris Sorrentini – HRA-SNAP | 24) Ana Chen – UNWY NYC |
| 4) V. Ramos – Bronx Defenders | 25) Claire Sanfilippo – Part of the Solution |
| 5) Ellen Vollinger – FRAC | 26) Cecilia Riera – Bronx Defenders |
| 6) Merble Reagon – WCECA | 27) Miguelina Diaz – Hunger Free NYC |
| 7) Frances Rodriguez – Fortune
Society | 28) Langina Pena – Met Council |
| 8) Radhames Tejada– CUCS | 29) Jessica Hughes-Andrade Met
Council |
| 9) Emanuel Negrón – FBNYC | 30) Sayma Reza - Queens Community House |
| 10) Blair Brence – FBNYC | 31) Juoya Chao – Queens Community House |
| 11) Robert Rodriguez – FBNYC | 32) Mathew Mobley – Empire Justice
Center (<i>via teleconference</i>) |
| 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 | |

The meeting began at 1:08 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 (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

I, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Emanuel Negrón presented the following updates¹ 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)

¹ See pgs. 3-5, July 2018 Research Packet (RP) for full summaries of all USDA items covered

Emanuel Negrón (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 Negrón (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 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): 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 Negrón (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