

**Attendance and Minutes of
The SNAP Task Force Meeting of September 20th, 2018**

ATTENDANCE SHEET

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| 1) Lourdes Cirrasquello – CIIDNY | 16) Long Hi – LiveOn NY |
| 2) Brenda Williams – HRA-SNAP
Outreach Services | 17) Joyce Williams - FBNYC |
| 3) Damaris Sorrentini – HRA-SNAP
Outreach Services | 18) Vanessa Mendez – SSUSA |
| 3) Milagros Rodriguez – HRA-SNAP
Outreach Services | 19) Waleek Boone – Medgar Evers College |
| 5) Miguelina Diaz – HFNYC | 20) Dawn Secor – Hunger Solutions New York |
| 6) Ellen Vollinger – FRAC
(via teleconference) | 21) Emanuel Negron - FBNYC |
| 7) Emma Lopez-Riseboro | 22) Ana Chen - UWNYC |
| 8) Vanessa Mendez – Single Stop USA | 23) Melissa Brito – SSUSA QCC |
| 9) Derek Singh – HRA-FIA | 24) Jane Coyne – Benefits Data Trust |
| 10) Nicholas Posada – Fortune
Society | 25) Yessenia Mendez - Brooklyn Legal Service |
| 11) Marta Mychak – NYLAG | |
| 12) Julia Elhai - NYLAG | |
| 13) Jane Coyne – Benefits Data Trust | |
| 14) Mathew Mobley – Empire Justice
Center (via teleconference) | |
| 15) Colleen Donovan – Hunger Solutions
New York | |

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 (FRAC) with national updates.
 - Farm Bill still in negotiation
 - Senate not changing SNAP and continues as is.
 - Rest of Farm Bill are still funded
 - Funded to early mid-December
- Advocates have the following on its radar and are ready to pivot for:
 - Administrative rule making will have major impact on non-citizens being able to access public benefits without affecting immigration status
 - Administrative rule making will initiate rule changes with SNAP and Work requirements for ABAWDS.

II. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

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

- Trends in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Participation Rates: Fiscal Year 2010 to Fiscal Year 2016

USDA has released data regarding SNAP participation rates for FY16, comparing them to estimates of participation rates for FYs 2010 through 2015.

- Information Collection: Evaluation of Technology Modernization for SNAP Benefits Redemption Through Online Transactions

USDA FNS has invited the general public and other public agencies to comment on testing the feasibility of online purchasing for SNAP through Evaluation of Technology Modernization for SNAP Benefits Redemption through online Transactions for the USDA.

- Request for Extension of a Current Information Collection – Evaluation of SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) Pilots

USDA has extended the collection of information period for the purpose of evaluating the FY2015 Pilot Projects to Reduce Dependency and Increase Work Requirements and Work Efforts. The comment period end date is October 9, 2018.

- Comment Request – Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP)

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

USDA FNS has invited the general public and other public agencies to comment on State agencies request to operate Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP). Comments are due by October 29, 2018.

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 4-9 of the September 2018 Research Packet (RP).

- Informational Letter 19=INF-13: Revisions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Application/Recertification (LDSS-4826) and How to Complete The SNAP Application/Recertification and Applicants/Recipients Rights and Responsibilities (LDSS-4826A)
- Press Release: Governor Cuomo Announces Plan to Protect SNAP Recipients' Access Farmers' Market
- GIS 18 TA/DC027: Updates and NYC-Updated SNAP Standards for October 2018
- LCM 18-LCM-15: FFY2018 Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Pledge Fund Updated
- GIS 18 TA/DC028: Closing of 2017-2018 Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Cooling Assistance Component and Deadline for 2017-2018 HEAP Administrative funds.
- New York State Participation and Benefit Value June 2018

IV. Human Resource Administration (HRA)

Emanuel Negron (FBNYC) summarized the following policy bulletins released by HRA in September 2018 RP on pages 9-14.

- Policy Bulletin #18-13-ELI: Mailer and Match Action Program (MMAP)
- Policy Bulletin #18-31-ELI: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Change Reporting Rules
- Policy Bulletin # 18-43-ELI: Stipend Payments from Child Development Study – Exempt for CA/SNAP Budgeting
- Policy Bulletin # 18-48-OPE: Revisions to the Mandated Poster and Signage List For Job Centers and HRA Express Sites (M-98C) and the Mandated Poster and Signage List for Non-Cash Assistance Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (NPA SNAP) Centers' (M-98D)

- Policy Bulletin # 18-45-OPE: Renewal Process for Home Visits Needed/Homebound (HVNA/HB) Status
- Policy Bulletin @ 18-51-OPE: Reminder About an Applicant's or Participant's Right to a Conference to Challenge an Agency Action
 - Mediation

Mediation Analysis Report for September 2018

Emanuel Negron (FBNYC) highlights from July and August 2018 Mediation Analysis Reports. The July report is based on 75 mediation requests submitted by Mediation Model participants. The August report is based on 73 mediation request submitted by Mediation Model participants. Emanuel thanked the 7 organizations represented in the reports for submitting their issue logs, and opened the floor to discussion for Task Force participants.

Questions/Concerns –

Application Related Issues:

Lourdes (CIDNY) reported issues with homebound clients submitting applications but are not being received by HRA even though a fax confirmation receipts is received. Clients are receiving telephone interviews. Workers are not stating when they will call back. Lourdes asked if phone interviews are still occurring. Derek (HRA-FIA) reported that everyone is on demand as of September 2018 except for disabled populations.

Nicholas (The Fortune Society) asked is HRA will call back a client if the information submitted is not clear or questionable i.e. cannot reach landlord – will HRA contact primary tenant to verify household. Derek (HRA-FIA) reported yes. In addition, Nicholas reported that clients are waiting 45 days to get expedited benefits.

Emma (Riseboro) reported new applicants calling on-demand are not being found in the system. Derek (HRA-FIA) suggested Emma utilize the help desk and copy Derek.

Miguelina (HFNYC) reported applicants are having issues with changing their Access HRA password. Derek (HRA-FIA) suggested utilizing the helpdesk to resolve the issue. In addition, clients have completed the phone interview but are receiving letters stating they did not receive it.

V. Reports and Notable Items from Other Sources

Emanuel Negron (FBNYC) summarized the following report included in the September 2018 RP on pages 9-17.

- Report from Food Research Action Center: How Hungry is America
- Report from Pew Research Center: The American Middle Class is Stable In Size, but Losing Ground Financially to Upper-income Families

Derek (HRA-FIA) reported that S26 SNAP Center closed and all cases go to S28. An updated Brooklyn SNAP Center location will be provided and disseminated.

The Meeting Adjourned at 2:55 PM