

**Attendance and Minutes of  
The SNAP Task Force Meeting of June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**ATTENDANCE SHEET**

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| 1) Sherry Moss - NYC HRA-FIA   | 16) Robert Simmons – Health Leads NY                               |
| 2) Derek Singh – NYC HRA-FIA   | 17) Miguelina Diaz - Hunger Free NYC                               |
| 3) Brenda Williams – HRA SNAP Outreach Services  | 18) Susan Sternberg – Legal Aid Society                            |
| 4) Milagros Rodriguez – HRA SNAP Outreach Services                                       | 19) Long Ho – LiveOn NY  |
| 5) Chris Anna Nisbet – USDA FNS ( <i>via teleconference</i> )                            | 20) Tom Furstenberg-Carroll – Met Council                          |
| 6) Ellen Vollinger ( <i>via teleconference</i> )   | 21) Juana Almonte – Part of the Solution (POTS)                    |
| 7) Saima Akhtar – Empire Justice Center ( <i>via teleconference</i> )                    | 22) Ailin Liu - Public Health Solutions                            |
| 8) Dawn Secor – Hunger Solutions NY  | 23) Veronica Solano – RBSCC  |
| 9) Colleen Donovan – Hunger Solutions NY   | 24) Ariel Savransky – UJA-Federation ( <i>via teleconference</i> ) |
| 10) Kiana Davis – Bronx Defenders  | 25) Ed Ortiz – Urban Justice Center                                |
| 11) Shani Hernandez – Bronxworks   | 26) Emanuel Negron – FBNYC   |
| 12) Gia Mui – Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)                                    | 27) Anaeltzin Sarabia – FBNYC                                      |
| 13) Suyin Mui – CPC  | 28) Mark Herreros – FBNYC  |
| 14) Evalevi Lopez - Fifth Avenue Committee   |  |
| 15) Lori Andrade – Health & Welfare Council of Long Island ( <i>via teleconference</i> ) |  |

## **The meeting began at 1:10PM**

Emanuel Negrón (Food Bank For NYC) 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) to present national updates.

### I. Outlook in Congress on SNAP and National Updates

- The FY 2018 federal budget process is not underway yet because the House is split on how they want to approach the resolution.
- President Trump's FY2018 budget proposal includes \$193 billion in cuts to SNAP, much of it by shifting some of its costs to the states, as well as eliminating the "Heat and Eat" connection and ending the minimum SNAP benefit
- An even larger cut to SNAP/TANF has been floated by the conservative caucus
- The Senate and House Agriculture Committees are on track to complete the new Farm Bill by September 2018
- FRAC has published several resources regarding the 2018 Farm Bill on its website at <http://frac.org/action/snap-farm-bill>, including SNAP support letters signed by national organizations/coalitions, government officials and entities, and city councils/local municipalities
- Agriculture Secretary Purdew has not yet nominated an Undersecretary, an important USDA role to fill from a policy perspective
- There has been no movement on a draft executive order that would change public charge policy for immigrants

### II. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Chris Anna Nisbet presented the following policy items released by USDA FNS. Full summaries of each of these items are available on page 3 of the June 2017 Research Packet (RP).

- USDA FY 2018 Budget Summary
- Comment Request - Evaluation of Alternatives To Improve Elderly Access
- Comment Request – Assessment of States' Use of Computer Matching Protocols in SNAP

## II. Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)

Mark Herreros (FBNYC) presented the following directives released by the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA). Full summaries of each of these items are available on page 5 of the June 2017 RP.

- GIS 17 TA/DC024: Revised EBT Forms: LDSS-5066 and LDSS-5004
- Informational Letter 17-INF-09: Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Susan Steinberg (Legal Aid Society) asked if outreach materials for this year's SFSP have been made available in New York City. Sherry Moss (HRA) said that the city was just starting to receive SFSP materials, and offered to share her point of contact with the SNAP Task Force so members could also request materials.

## III. Mediation

### Mediation Analysis Report for May 2017

Anaeltzin Sarabia (FBNYC) reviewed highlights<sup>1</sup> from the May 2017 Mediation Analysis Report. The report is based on a total of 161 mediation requests submitted by Mediation Model participants in the month of May 2017. Ana thanked the organizations represented in the report for submitting their issue logs.

Tom Furstenberg-Carroll (Met Council) commented that the On-Demand hotline has been working well, both for English and Spanish language calls. Ana Sarabia noted that there was only one case reported via the Mediation Model related to an On-Demand case. Sherry Moss (HRA) asked for the case details. She said she wanted to know if the client was unable to get through to an interviewer, or if there was a long wait time. Ana offered to follow-up with the mediating agency and forward the case details to Sherry.

Emanuel Negrón (FBNYC) informed Task Force members that HRA will be rolling out the ACCESS HRA Provider Portal in Fall 2017. The portal is a case management tool, enabling approved community-based organizations to access real-time information about their clients' cases. Partners are invited to participate in one of two separate demonstrations of the Portal in the month of July, and must sign up by July 21<sup>st</sup> to join the first cohort of participating organizations in the Fall.

A Task Force member discussed an issue with a client who did not receive her SNAP benefit in the month of May. The client was due for recertification, and claimed that HRA informed her that if she did not process her recertification a month before the deadline, her SNAP benefits would be cut off temporarily. Derek Singh (HRA) asked for the case details, commenting that it would be unusual to disapprove a person a month

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<sup>1</sup> See pg. 3, May '17 Mediation Analysis Report, for full highlights

before the deadline. He said this would only occur for reasons other than recertification, such as an Intentional Program Violation or discovery in the data match that the client is ineligible for SNAP.

Kiana Davis (Bronx Defenders) said that she continues to send mediation requests for TIPS 42 for recertification-related issues. She added that the liaisons respond indicating that the case has been assigned, but there is no follow-up if the case been resolved. Sherry Moss (HRA) said that she would communicate this issue to staff.

#### IV. Human Resources Administration (HRA)

Mark Herreros (FBNYC) presented the following updates released by the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA). Full summaries of each of these items are available on page 7 of the June 2017 RP.

- Policy Bulletin #17-50-OPE: Forms Revised to Reflect the Rebranding of the HRA Online Portal
- Policy Bulletin #17-55-OPE: SNAP On Demand Telephone Recertification (BRC-901e); Obsolescence of the BRC-901D
- Policy Directive #17-10-OPE: Revisions to the Mail Application Referral Unit (MARU)
- Policy Bulletin #17-49-ELI: Revisions to Forms for Requesting a Clearance from the Office of Refugee and Immigrant Affairs (ORIA)
- Policy Bulletin #17-51-EMP: Revisions to the NYC Workforce 1 Career Centers Flyer (W-300A)
- Policy Bulletin #17-53-EMP: Introduction of the Good Cause Notice

Kiana Davis asked for clarification about instances where a Good Cause Notice might be issued. Derek Singh (HRA) said that in the case of inclement weather, a client would receive verification that he/she had good cause for missing a required appointment.

Susan Steinberg (Legal Aid Society) noted that HRA policy directives are helpful for community-based organizations to review, and they have been archived on the Empire Justice Center's website as part of a longstanding FOIL request. Emanuel Negrón said that Food Bank For New York City reviews and highlights updates for the SNAP Task Force, commenting that the directives can be very technical and should generally not be shared with clients.

***The Meeting Adjourned at 2:15PM***