

**National Commission on Hunger  
Conference Call**

**Tuesday, April 7, 2015**

**Contents**

1. Attendees..... 2

2. Action Items..... 3

3. Group Decisions..... 5

4. Meeting Minutes ..... 5

    Commission Hearings & Field Visits ..... 5

    Administrative Items..... 5

    Other ..... 5

Annex 1: Meeting Agenda ..... 7

## 1. Attendees

<b>Name</b>	<b>Type</b>
<b>Mariana Chilton</b>	Co-chair
<b>Robert Doar</b>	Co-chair
<b>Spencer Coates</b>	Commission Member
<b>Susan Finn</b>	Commission Member
<b>Deborah Frank</b>	Commission Member
<b>Cherie Jamason</b>	Commission Member
<b>Billy Shore</b>	Commission Member
<b>Russell Sykes</b>	Commission Member
<b>Richard Lucas</b>	USDA Point of Contact
<b>Julia Druhan</b>	USDA Contracting Officer's Representative
<b>Andrea Anater</b>	Project Director (RTI)
<b>Coleen Northeim</b>	Project Facilitator (RTI)
<b>Mary Council</b>	Project Support (RTI)

Not in attendance: Ricki Barlow, Commission Member; Jeremy Everett, Commission Member

## 2. Action Items

Action items will be retained for the current meeting, as well as any “older” action items that have not yet been completed. The table below reflects the status of all items as of April 16, 2015.

<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Request Date</b>	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Immediate</b>	April 7, 2015	Review the research findings summary report and provide feedback to RTI by April 17, 2015	Commission	New	
<b>Immediate</b>	April 7, 2015	For the Little Rock field visit, determine if it is possible to visit the Children’s Hospital feeding program	Shore	New	
<b>Immediate</b>	April 7, 2015	For the Albany hearing, determine if there are opportunities to learn about the relationship between exposure to violence and food insecurity	Sykes	New	
<b>Immediate</b>	April 7, 2015	Revise the writing prompt for the context papers and send to RTI to share with the Commission	Sykes	New	
<b>Immediate</b>	April 7, 2015	Draft a standard press release and then share it with the full Commission for feedback before sending it to the media	RTI	New	
<b>Immediate</b>	April 7, 2015	Revise 4 research summaries based on Commission feedback presented at meeting	RTI	New	
<b>Immediate</b>	April 7, 2015	Select final report writer	Co-chairs	Complete	
<b>Immediate</b>	April 7, 2015	Contact colleague (Kate Carnes) to assist with Maine planning	Sykes	Complete	
<b>Immediate</b>	March 3, 2015	Request a white paper from experts in the Southeast	Everett	In process	
<b>Immediate</b>	March 3, 2015	Connect RTI with Erin Nolen at the Texas Hunger Initiative to collaborate on research regarding public-private partnerships	Everett	In process	

<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Request Date</b>	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>As needed</b>	March 3, 2015	Provide biographies and photos of speakers for upcoming hearings	RTI	In process	
<b>Immediate</b>	March 3, 2015	Compile and organize all recommendations provided to the Commission	RTI	In process	
<b>Immediate</b>	February 12, 2015	Develop short context papers describing the individual Commissioners' understanding of social, political, and economic context of very low food security (VLFS) in the US	Commissioners	In process	Due July 15
<b>Immediate</b>	January 13, 2015	Share information on existent research regarding policies that encourage more employment and better wages	Sykes	In process	
<b>Immediate</b>	January 13, 2015	As available, share information on research regarding summer feeding programs	Everett	In process	
<b>Ongoing</b>	April 7, 2015	Work with USDA and partner organizations to coordinate media efforts (e.g., Rockefeller Institute, Share Our Strength, Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, Texas Hunger Initiative, etc.)	RTI	Ongoing	
<b>Ongoing</b>	January 13, 2015	Work with Commissioners and local site-specific contacts on organizing field visits	RTI	Ongoing	
<b>Ongoing</b>	July 21, 2014	Draft a Commission communications framework including website and social media mock-up, suggestions for effective field visits and public hearings, and general responsibilities to the public	RTI	Ongoing	
<b>Ongoing</b>	December 8, 2014	Provide bi-weekly summaries of public feedback received from the "Contact Us" portion of the website	RTI	Ongoing (as relevant)	
<b>Ongoing</b>	June 24, 2014	Provide ideas to RTI on research needs or areas where RTI could support the Commissioners	Commission	Ongoing	

### 3. Group Decisions

- The invited speakers for each hearing should include at least one person that has experienced food insecurity or has received nutrition assistance

### 4. Meeting Minutes

#### Commission Hearings & Field Visits

The Commission is planning multiple field visits throughout the US to collect recommendations from experts and the public on how to reduce VLFS. One-day hearings will be in Albany, NY (May 13); Washington, DC (July 14); Portland, ME (July 30); California (TBD); and possibly Indianapolis, IN. The 2-day field visits will be in Little Rock, AR (May 18-19) and El Paso, TX (June 25-26). RTI is working with Commission leads and local partners to coordinate these events. During the meeting, RTI and the lead Commissioner assigned to the visit provided an update on the status of each event.

The 2-day field visits provide an opportunity for firsthand witnessing of particular issues related to very low food security at the household level and allow Commissioners to see programs, meet people, and learn from initiatives that are addressing very low food security. The majority of Commissioners will attend the field visits followed by a day of expert and public testimony from the following sectors:

- Nutrition assistance participant (lay person) that may have experienced very low food security
- Government (local, state, tribal, or federal)
- Social services/nonprofit
- University/research
- Industry/agriculture
- Policy expert

The 1-day hearings will be attended by a smaller group of Commissioners and consist of a single day of testimony. These hearings provide infrastructure for public engagement and the sharing of information.

#### Administrative Items

The Co-chairs are reviewing writer CVs and writing samples. They will interview writers in the coming weeks to select the final report writer.

#### Other

RTI presented preliminary research findings on four research topics (outlined below) and provided white papers to the Commission. Commissioners provided feedback and suggestions for further investigation.

- *Using Pilot Data to Improve SNAP Allotment Allocations*  
The purpose of this research was to summarize what is known about the relationship between the SNAP allotment calculation and the risk of VLFS, program costs, and participation rates. Furthermore, research was used to examine the effects of changes to the SNAP allotment calculation.
- *Examining Administrative Efficiencies in SNAP & WIC*

The purpose of this research was to assess how increased administrative efficiencies can achieve greater program impact without requiring additional funding. In addition, financial cost, administrative burdens, and potential impacts of strategies to improve administrative efficiencies were investigated.

- *Investigating Implications of Expanding WIC Coverage*

The purpose of this research was to explore the potential impact on VLFS and WIC costs of expanding WIC coverage through age 5 and to all eligible infants and children. Researchers created a model to estimate the impact of expanded WIC coverage on VLFS and WIC program costs.

- *Estimating the Potential Impact of Reductions in VLFS on Medicaid & Medicare Costs*

The purpose of this study was to consider the impact of policies to reduce VLFS on Medicaid and Medicare costs. Researchers created a simulation model using estimates from existent studies in the literature and data analysis to estimate the impact of reductions in VLFS on Medicaid and Medicare spending.

## Annex 1: Meeting Agenda

**Monthly Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 7, 2015 (3:00-5:00 pm ET)**  
(Robert Doar to facilitate call)

United States: 1-888-640-7162  
Participant Code: 960-681-053

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|--------------|--|
| 3:00–3:10 pm | Welcome and roll call (Robert)   |
| 3:10–3:25 pm | Updates from the Co-chairs (Robert and Mariana)  |
| 3:25–3:45 pm | Update on field hearings/visits  |
| 3:45–4:30 pm | Research update (RTI)  |
| 4:30–4:40 pm | Administrative items (Robert) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Report writer</li><li>▪ May meetings<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ 13th: Albany, NY, strategic field visit</li><li>○ 14th: Conference call 12–2 pm ET</li><li>○ 18-19th: Arkansas field visit</li></ul></li></ul> |
| 4:40–4:45 pm | Summary of action items (Mary)   |
| 4:45–5:00 pm | Executive session (Commissioners only)   |