

**National Commission on Hunger
Conference Call**

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

Contents

1. Attendees.....2

2. Action Items 3

3. Group Decisions..... 5

4. Meeting Minutes 5

 Recommendations for Addressing VLFS 5

 Commission Hearings & Field Visits..... 5

 Administrative Items 6

Annex 1: Meeting Agenda 7

1. Attendees

Name	Type
Mariana Chilton	Co-chair
Robert Doar	Co-chair
Ricki Barlow	Commission Member
Spencer Coates	Commission Member
Jeremy Everett	Commission Member
Susan Finn	Commission Member
Deborah Frank	Commission Member
Cherie Jamason	Commission Member
Billy Shore	Commission Member
Russell Sykes	Commission Member
Andrea Anater	Project Director (RTI)
Coleen Northeim	Project Facilitator (RTI)
Mary Council	Project Support (RTI)

Not in attendance: Scott Carter, USDA Contracting Officer's Representative

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 February 9, 2015.

Time Frame	Request Date	Action Item	Responsible Party	Status	Notes
Immediate	January 13, 2015	Share information on existent research regarding policies that encourage more employment and better wages	Sykes	New	
Immediate	January 13, 2015	As available, share information on research regarding summer feeding programs	Everett	New	
Immediate	January 13, 2015	Post December meeting minutes to the public website	RTI (Wellard)	Complete	
Immediate	January 13, 2015	Revise the press release based on Commissioner edits	RTI (Anater)	Complete	
Immediate	January 13, 2015	Publish the updated press release to the public website and distribute it widely to the press	RTI	Complete	
Immediate	January 13, 2015	Email scheduling polls for the next 3 conference calls	RTI (Council)	Complete	
Immediate	January 13, 2015	Develop a research proposal for the four Commission recommendations, including research questions, proposed methods, and a timeline	RTI	In process	
Immediate	January 13, 2015	Submit suggestions on panelists for hearings on March 2	Commissioners	In process	
Immediate	January 13, 2015	Submit suggestion on field visit locations	Commissioners	In process	
Immediate	January 13, 2015	Work with Commissioners on organizing field visits	RTI	In process	
Immediate	January 13, 2015	Provide edits and comments on the Commission Principles document	Commissioners	In process	
Immediate	December 8, 2014	Set up meetings with Regional USDA Directors	Co-chairs	In process	
Ongoing	July 21, 2014	Draft a Commission communications framework including website and social media mock-up, suggestions for effective field	RTI	In process	

Time Frame	Request Date	Action Item	Responsible Party	Status	Notes
		visits and public hearings, and general responsibilities to the public			
Immediate	December 8, 2014	RTI will provide bi-weekly summaries of public feedback received from the “Contact Us” portion of the website	RTI	Ongoing	
Ongoing	June 24, 2014	Provide ideas to RTI on research needs or areas where RTI could support the Commissioners	Commission	Ongoing	

3. Group Decisions

- The Commission approved the December 2014 meeting minutes.
- RTI will focus research efforts on the 4 recommendations (see below) that received the most Commissioner votes at the December meeting for “needing research.”
- The Commission will conduct 3 to 4 sets of field visits to help inform recommendations.
- The March in-person meeting will last for 2 days to allow for a full day of expert testimony.
- The Commission’s public engagement strategy will evolve as appropriate when the Commission has more information to share and has a need to interact with the public.
- Once finalized, the Commission press release will be widely distributed to the press via RTI and individual Commissioners.

4. Meeting Minutes

Recommendations for Addressing VLFS

During the December Commission meeting, each Commissioner voted on which recommendations could benefit from additional research. To help focus RTI’s efforts, the recommendations that received the highest number of research votes were selected for further investigation (see 1–3 below). For the 4th research question, RTI is investigating potential improvements related to SNAP and WIC administrative efficiencies, which was determined to be a research priority during the November Commission meeting.

During the January meeting, Commissioners confirmed that RTI’s research efforts should focus on the following topics:

- Investigate impacts of increased food security on long-term health care costs
- Extend WIC to age 6 to cover children during the gap between eligibility for WIC and school meals (“WIC to SIX”)
- Improve SNAP allotment calculation based on results from pilot-tested programs
- Improve SNAP and WIC program efficiencies

In addition to RTI’s research, Commissioners will share information on existent research articles and studies related to current recommendations.

Commission Hearings & Field Visits

Commissioners will hear from policy and program experts on March 2 and then convene their regular face-to-face Hunger Commission meeting on March 3, 2015. On March 2, experts will provide recommendations for reducing very low food security and respond to questions from the commissioners. Commissioners are encouraged to suggest 2–3 panelists who can speak to issues regarding the current list of recommendations. The Co-chairs will use the list of suggestions to invite speakers.

The Commission plans to conduct 3–4 field visits over the next several months, beginning in April. Commissioners agreed that one field visit will take place in El Paso, TX, hosted by Commissioner Everett. Commissioners will provide suggestions for additional field visit locations.

Administrative Items

The RTI work order with USDA expired on December 31, 2014, and USDA has been delayed in approving a new work order. RTI is currently working at risk; however, USDA hopes to have the issue resolved in the next week. The Co-chairs have requested that the work order be approved and are working with RTI to mitigate any interruption in Commission activities.

The Commission approved the December meeting minutes, which will be posted to the public website.

Annex 1: Meeting Agenda

Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, January 13, 2015 (2:00–4:00 pm ET)
(Robert to facilitate call)

United States: 1-877-309-2070
Participant Code: 323-974-309

2:00 pm–2:05 pm	Welcome and roll call (Robert)
2:05 pm–2:10 pm	Updates from the Co-chairs (Robert and Mariana)
2:10 pm–2:15 pm	Review/approve December meeting notes (Robert)
2:15 pm–2:40 pm	Recap of recommendations and current priority research topics (Robert) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigate impacts of increased food security on long term health care costs• Extend WIC to age 6 to cover children during the gap between eligibility for WIC and school meals (“WIC to SIX”)• Improve SNAP allotment calculation based on results from pilot-tested programs• Improve federal program efficiencies
2:40 pm–3:10 pm	Discussion of field hearings/visits (Robert)
3:10 pm–3:30 pm	Discussion of public engagement strategy and Commission principles (Mariana) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Press release
3:30 pm–3:40 pm	Administrative issues (Robert) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upcoming meetings—February 12 (2–4 pm EST), March 2• Agenda suggestions for February and March meetings
3:40 pm–3:45 pm	Summary—Action items (Andrea)
3:45 pm–4:00 pm	Executive session (Robert)