

**National Commission on Hunger
Face-to-Face Meeting**

Monday, December 8, 2014

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1. Attendees

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

Not in attendance: Cherie Jamason, Commission Member; 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 December 11, 2014.

Time Frame	Request Date	Action Item	Responsible Party	Status	Notes
Immediate	December 8, 2014	Set up meetings with Regional USDA Directors	Co-chairs	New	
Immediate	December 8, 2014	Change the icon for the “Commission Members” section of the website	RTI (Wellard)	Complete	
Immediate	December 8, 2014	Add a topic on the Commission discussion forum for January meeting agenda suggestions	RTI (Council)	Complete	
Immediate	December 8, 2014	Determine number for quorum that was specified in a previous meeting	RTI (Council)	Complete	A quorum is 8 members
Immediate	December 8, 2014	Confirm that a March 2, 2015, meeting will work for all Commission members	RTI (Council)	Complete	
Immediate	December 8, 2014	Send meeting invitations for January 13 and February 12, 2015	RTI (Council)	Complete	
Immediate	December 8, 2014	Offer assistance to Commissioners with website navigation and use of webcams for conference calls	RTI	In progress	
Two weeks	December 8, 2014	Make the public-facing portion of the website public	RTI (Wellard)	In progress	
Immediate	December 8, 2014	Change the DNN icon on the website to the Hunger Commission logo	RTI (Wellard)	In progress	
Immediate	December 8, 2014	Create notifications within the internal Commission website to indicate when new items have been posted or edited since the last login	RTI (Wellard)	In progress	
Immediate	November 11, 2014	Review and approve September, October, and November meeting minutes via the website.	Commission	In progress	A 2 nd email has been provided with directions
Ongoing	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	In progress	

Time Frame	Request Date	Action Item	Responsible Party	Status	Notes
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

- Continue to evaluate recommendations (see below) for consideration for the final report.
- A subgroup of commissioners will discuss the role and operationalization of public engagement of the Commission.
- RTI will conduct research on recommendations as guided by the Commission.
- Make public the public-facing section of the website.
- Hold phone conferences on January 13 and February 12, 2015.
- Move the March 9, 2015, face-to-face meeting date to March 2, 2015.

4. Meeting Minutes

Recommendations for Addressing VLFS

Commissioners divided into three working groups of three members each to discuss the recommendations: 1) non-food assistance programs, 2) SNAP and child-food assistance programs, and 3) food and nutrition assistance programs (not including SNAP or child-focused programs). The goal of each group was to determine 1) the recommendations they were interested in continuing to consider and 2) the recommendations they felt required information gathering by RTI. Following the working group meetings, the full group came back together to discuss the smaller set of recommendations prioritized for information gathering by each of the working groups. All members then indicated with green or orange dots which recommendations they 1) considered highest priority (green) and 2) felt could benefit from RTI research activities (orange). Below are the recommendations selected for consideration and the number of votes each recommendation received regarding priority and need for additional research. (Key: R = could benefit from additional research; P = high priority recommendation).

Non-food Assistance

- Policies that encourage more employment and better wages (R=3, P=7)
 - Demonstrate relationship between employment, wages, and VLFS.
- Targeted employment opportunities for the disabled (could include other groups, such as Native Americans and veterans) (R=2, P=1)
- Make current levels of earned income tax credit and child tax credits permanent (R=0, P=3)
- Encourage coordinated application process for multiple benefit programs (R=2, P=1)
- Encourage community-based organization public assistance application gathering with technical support (R=0, P=1)
- At the federal and state levels choose an existing entity to coordinate response to very low food security (VLFS) population (e.g., USDA, faith based, and community partnership office or Extension service) (R=3, P=3)
- Investigate impacts of increased food security on long-term health care costs (particularly decreased VLFS) (R=7, P=0)
 - Model health care costs (e.g., diabetes, asthma) to potentially link decreased VLFS to Medicaid and/or Medicare savings (e.g., number of hospitalization stays and duration). “If VLFS is reduced by 1% the savings to Medicaid and Medicare would be X.”

Food Assistance

- Extend WIC to age 6 to cover children during the gap between eligibility for WIC and school meals (“WIC to SIX”) (R=6, P=2)
 - RTI to conduct research assessing costs savings, including questions such as:
 - How much would it cost to implement?
 - How many more kids would be included in WIC?
 - Cost savings in Medicaid/CHIP?
 - What would be the reduction of VLFS?
 - How many 5-year-old children are in school?
 - Determine 1) cost, 2) number of children that would be included as a result of policy change, 3) cost savings in Medicaid/CHIP, and 4) reduction in VLFS.
- Provide summer electronic benefit transfer (EBT) for all children participating in school meals and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (R=2, P=6)
- Improve SNAP allotment calculation based on results from pilot-tested programs that test options such as (R=8, P=5):
 - Low-cost food plan
 - Benefit reduction rate
 - Excess shelter deduction
 - Earned income disregard
 - Cash out low benefits
 - SSI benefits

Describe each pilot test and how they would be implemented by USDA. Evaluate pilot test findings. Determine effect of pilot testing on VLFS.

- Improve SNAP access for active military and veterans (R=0, P=0)
- Raise the resource (i.e., liquid assets) limit for SNAP participants (R=3, P=0)
- Improve coordination among food hubs sharing best practices or key states (R=3, P=0)
- Maintain tax incentives for donations of food and encourage all states to adopt liberal good Samaritan laws for out-of-date and prepared foods (R=1, P=1)
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) should better align purchases for nutritious food and not purchase food because it is surplus (R=0, P=1)
- Pilot a program to consider nutritional requirements/restrictions to SNAP purchases (R=1, P=4)
- Establish nutrition education and/or interventions focusing on food security for older Americans (R=1, P=0)
- Streamline and standardize WIC administration among states, retailers, and manufacturers (R=1, P=5)
- Enhance private community-based summer programs (R=0, P=0)
-

All recommendations will be considered at this time while the Commission and RTI work together to gather additional information.

Administrative Items

Commission members will review the September, October, and November meeting minutes via the website and approve/reject the minutes using the online voting polls available. RTI presented a demo of the updated website, and Commissioners provided feedback for additional modifications. The Commission discussed future meeting dates and confirmed the following meeting dates: January 13, February 12, and March 2, 2015. Going forward, Commissioners may conduct more frequent face-to-face meetings, including hearings and listening sessions. A subcommittee of Commissioners will develop a public engagement plan to review with the full Commission.

Annex 1: Meeting Agenda

Monthly Meeting December 8, 2014 (8:30 am-4:10 pm)

RTI International DC office (above Macy's)
701 13th St NW Suite 750
Washington, DC 20005

8:30 am	Welcome (light breakfast)—Review agenda and goals for the day
9:00 am–9:10 am	Status of travel funding (Scott)
9:10 am–9:20 am	Discuss recommendations rankings process
9:20 am–11:20 am	Break into groups and develop list of highest priority items (take breaks as needed)
11:20 pm–1:15 pm	Presentations from working groups (working lunch at 12 pm)
1:15 pm–1:45 pm	Voting and break
1:45 pm–2:45 pm	Further discussion of top ideas, second round of voting, as necessary
2:45 pm–3:00 pm	Break
3:00 pm–4:00 pm	Administrative issues and other topics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approving September, October, and November meeting minutes• Website demo• Agenda suggestions for January meeting
4:10 pm	Summary—Action items