

**National Commission on Hunger  
Conference Call**

**Tuesday, November 11, 2014**

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## 1. Attendees

| <b>Name</b>            | <b>Type</b>               |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Mariana Chilton</b> | Co-chair                  |
| <b>Spencer Coates</b>  | Commission Member         |
| <b>Jeremy Everett</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>Ricki Barlow</b>    | Commission Member         |
| <b>Andrea Anater</b>   | Project Director (RTI)    |
| <b>Coleen Northeim</b> | Project Facilitator (RTI) |
| <b>Mary Council</b>    | Project Support (RTI)     |

Not in attendance: Robert Doar, Co-chair, Scott Carter, 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 November 18, 2014.

| Time Frame        | Request Date      | Action Item  | Responsible Party                                 | Status      | Notes |
|-------------------|-------------------|--|---|-------------|-------|
| <b>Immediate</b>  | November 11, 2014 | Organize for flowers to be sent or a donation to be made to an organization of the Doar family’s choice  | Commission Chair (Chilton), RTI                   | New         |       |
| <b>Immediate</b>  | November 11, 2014 | Work with Congress members to get language in the next omnibus to provide travel funding for Commissioners   | Commission Chairs                                 | New         |       |
| <b>Immediate</b>  | November 11, 2014 | Create work order for RTI to move forward with researching administrative efficiencies   | Commission Chairs, RTI (Anater)                   | New         |       |
| <b>Immediate</b>  | November 11, 2014 | Review and approve September, October, and November meeting minutes  | Commission  | In progress |       |
| <b>Two months</b> | November 11, 2014 | Update the website and logo design   | Commission Chairs, RTI (Wellard)                  | In progress |       |
| <b>Immediate</b>  | November 11, 2014 | Revise evaluation criteria for the recommendations and create an online voting/rating process for each Commission member to score recommendations using the evaluation criteria                | Commission Chairs, RTI (Council, Anater, Wellard) | In progress |       |
| <b>Immediate</b>  | November 11, 2014 | RTI will update the Commission website so the mandate serves as the mission statement  | RTI (Wellard)                                     | In progress |       |
| <b>Two months</b> | October 9, 2014   | RTI will plan a social for the evening of December 7, 2014   | RTI (Anater)                                      | In progress |       |
| <b>One month</b>  | September 8, 2014 | RTI will develop logos   | RTI   | In progress |       |
| <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   | In progress |       |
| <b>Immediate</b>  | November 11, 2014 | Develop online meeting minute approval tool for website  | RTI (Wellard)                                     | Complete    |       |
| <b>Immediate</b>  | September 8, 2014 | Mr. Lucas will provide the grocer study looking at what people buy once the study is available   | OPS (Lucas)                                       | Ongoing     |       |
| <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 Commission will keep the current March 9 and June 8, 2015, face-to-face meeting dates.
- The Commission website will be objective in nature, including design aspects, that is, pictures will be eliminated.
- A messaging strategy was approved and is posted to the Commission website.
- The full mandate will be used in place of developing a separate mission statement.
- Evaluation criteria will be developed to assess Commissioner recommendations and prioritize recommendations for further research.
- A mechanism for an online rating system will be developed for Commissioners to evaluate recommendations using the evaluation criteria.
- The Commission will request that RTI move forward with research on potential cost savings of administrative efficiencies for federal nutrition assistance programs.
- The December meeting will focus on solidifying recommendation areas to investigate.

### **4. Meeting Minutes**

#### **Administrative Items**

Commission members will review the September and October meeting minutes that were posted to the website and approve the minutes via email. Going forward, RTI will create a tool for Commissioners to approve meeting minutes online. There was no update to provide Commissioners regarding travel funding. The Commission recommended that efforts be made to strengthen the relationship with the USDA. The USDA Senior Counsel confirmed that Commissioner communications are private and not subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

RTI continues to address concerns with the website regarding functionality and design. Commission members can submit feedback on the website, using the website. Lastly, RTI is planning a Commission social event for the evening of December 7, 2014.

#### **Communications Strategy**

The Co-chairs and RTI are working together to develop a comprehensive communications strategy for the Commission. At this meeting, the Commission provided feedback on the messages section, which is now posted to the internal Commission website. Additional sections will be shared with the Commission as they are ready for review.

#### **Recommendations for Addressing VLFS**

RTI provided a brief presentation summarizing Commissioner recommendations into broad themes to facilitate discussion. Commissioners provided feedback on evaluation criteria to assess which recommendations should be prioritized. The Commission discussed the importance of economic influences on household food security, as well as the importance of improving access to sufficient food. At this time, the Co-chairs and RTI will create a work order for RTI to move forward with researching cost savings from administrative efficiencies.

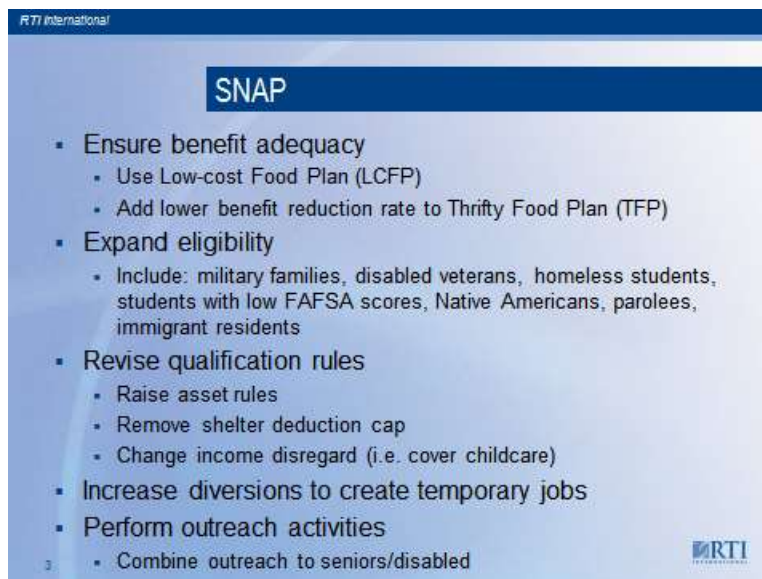
The next Commission meeting on December 8, 2014, will continue discussions about Commissioner recommendations and work toward further prioritization of recommendations. The New York state Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Director will also make a 15 minute presentation (with a 15 minute discussion) on the importance of SNAP reforms. Commission members can provide suggestions for the December meeting agenda on the website.

## Annex 1: Meeting Agenda

**Monthly Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 11, 2014 (4:00–6:00 pm ET)**  
(Mariana to facilitate call)

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 4:00 pm–4:05 pm   | Welcome and roll call (Mariana)   |
| 4:05 pm–4:15 pm   | Updates from the Co-chairs (Mariana)  |
| 4:15 pm–4:20 pm   | Review/approve September meeting notes (Mariana)  |
| 4:20 pm–4:35 pm   | Administrative issues (Mariana) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Status of travel funding (Mariana)</li><li>• Update on December social event (RTI)</li><li>• USDA Senior Counsel’s response regarding the FOIA (RTI)</li><li>• Challenges with website (RTI)</li><li>• Confirmation of F2F meeting dates—March 9 and June 8, 2015 (Mariana)</li></ul> |
| 4:35 pm – 4:50 pm | Draft communications strategy—Messages (Mariana)  |
| 4:50 pm–5:10 pm   | Presentation of submitted recommendations and Q&A (RTI)   |
| 5:10 pm–5:35 pm   | Discussion of recommendations   |
| 5:35 pm–5:45 pm   | Agenda for December F2F (Mariana and RTI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update on availability and interest from SNAP administrators in presenting at the December meeting (Sykes)</li><li>• Continue discussion of Commissioner recommendations</li></ul>  |
| 5:45 pm–5:50 pm   | Summary—Action Items  |
| 5:50 pm–6:00 pm   | Anything else? (Mariana)<br>Executive session (Mariana, NO RTI or USDA)   |

## Annex 2: Presentation of Submitted Commissioner Recommendations



## Federal child-focused programs

- Expand eligibility in WIC
- Expand eligibility for school meals
  - Increase availability of school breakfast and/or lunch
- Increase reimbursement for school meals
- Increase availability & participation in summer meals
  - Expand EBT
  - Reform congregate feeding requirement
- Increase availability of CACFP
- Authorize grants for school food equipment purchases

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## Private food providers

- Create resource/food hubs to integrate services
- Incentivize charitable donations
- Strengthen The Emergency Food Assistance Program
  - Modify "bonus buys"

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## Non-food assistance

- Expand eligibility for TANF
  - Immigrants with legal status, parolees
- Encourage employment opportunities & increased wages
- Improve the affordability of housing
- Improve the affordability of health insurance
  - Immigrants with legal status
- Expand paid family leave/sick days
- Develop/maintain financial incentives targeted to low income residents

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## Non-food assistance (cont.)

- Expand medical deductions
- Protect against predatory banking and lending practices
- Conduct demonstrations that permit "cashing out" food benefits

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## Encourage administrative efficiencies

- Streamline Federal program applications (food and non-food), nutrition, reporting requirements and information databases
  - Encourage Community Eligibility Options
- Streamline contracting
- Promote provider capacity building
- Promote collaborations both among and within public and private service providers to coordinate resources
  - Provide outreach to link clients to safety net programs
- Transition WIC vouchers to an EBT system nationwide

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## Encourage administrative efficiencies (cont.)

- Mandate increased TANF funds be used for "payment to families"
- Relax requirements for SNAP waivers and demonstration authority

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## Healthful foods

- Limit SNAP purchases
- Establish nutrition standards for foods included in food assistance programs
- Establish nutrition standards for educational programs targeting food security
- Re-evaluate National Farm Subsidies for healthfulness

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## Possible evaluation criteria

- Can reduce VLFS
- Grounded in empirical evidence or feasible for demonstration project????
- Supported by quorum
- Uses existing programs and funds to address domestic hunger and food insecurity
- Has the potential to reduce the need for government nutrition assistance programs
- Clear measures for accountability
- Does no harm/no increase in hunger
- No increase in Federal cost overall????

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