



Income Maintenance Branch

Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
Washington, DC 20503

To Kathi Way
FY1
Belle

Please route to:

Keith Fontenot ^{SW}
Barbara Selfridge ^{RM}
Belle Sawhill

Decision needed _____
Please comment _____
For your information x
Per your request _____
Take necessary action _____

Subject: Welfare Simplification Report

From: Chris Ellertson ^{CE}

With informational copies for:

KF, SW, CE, Chron

Phone: 202/395-4686
Fax: 202/395-3910
Room: #7026

Attached is a summary of the Welfare Simplification and Coordination Advisory Committee report, issued June, 1993. The report asserts the current welfare system is "in danger of collapse" and "current programs should be scrapped" in favor of one comprehensive program. It recommends that a single program handle all claims by needy individuals and apply unified eligibility rules, but acknowledges this could be costly. The report suggests details such as financing of such changes and which eligibility/benefit rules to adopt should be worked out by the Administration and Congressional working groups.

A welfare simplification taskforce headed by Kathi Way of the White House Domestic Policy Council is currently examining the same issue and developing options papers for the welfare reform taskforce. We'll continue to provide updates on the progress of this group.

Definition of Welfare
Food Stamps, AFDC, Medicaid + Housing

Welfare Simplification Advisory Committee Report

The Welfare Simplification and Coordination Advisory Committee issued its final report in June, 1993. The Committee was created by a 1990 farm bill provision and charged with examining the major assistance programs (AFDC, food stamps, Medicaid and housing assistance) to identify barriers to participation. Committee members are a diverse group—most members are from State and local posts, e.g. a State Senator, a county legislator, local welfare program administrators, client advocates. Imparting a tone of crisis, the report asserts the current welfare system is “in danger of collapse” and “current programs should be scrapped” in favor of one comprehensive program. Although the report acknowledges that program changes could be extremely costly in a time of fiscal crisis (raising the AFDC asset limit to the Food Stamp limit, for example, would have increased AFDC costs by \$135 million in FY1992) it nevertheless recommends conformance measures. The report notes that the Nixon, Carter and Reagan Administrations each studied and tackled simplification with little result, but is hopeful that the welfare reform effort underway will take on the issue.

Two sets of recommendations are made in the report, primary and interim. Interim recommendations are considered immediate steps that could reduce access barriers, while the primary recommendations are more complex and difficult to achieve.

Major Primary Recommendations:

- One comprehensive, family-focused and client-oriented program should replace programs that currently serve the needy. The unified program, which would have unified eligibility rules, would serve short-term, intermediate and long-term needy, with a single case manager for each family. Administration at both State and Federal levels would be centralized within a single agency, although actual service delivery could be done through separate State and local agencies and private organizations.
- There would be a single point of entry for clients, and one application form.
- Jurisdiction for this program would be limited to a single committee in each chamber of Congress.
- Benefits would be contingent on progress toward self-sufficiency.

Major Interim Recommendations:

- Form a work group composed of relevant committee chairs to coordinate legislative and oversight activities for the reform effort.

- Ensure all low-income Americans have access to quality health care.
- Establish uniform rules in making eligibility determinations for countable income, resources, definitions of a household. Convert food stamps “to a flat allowance for AFDC families” and establish a standard shelter and medical deduction under the Food Stamp Act for non-AFDC households. Coordinate with non-needs based programs like Social Security.
- Expand demo project authority for all programs. Cost neutrality should not be an “overriding criterion for Federal approval.”
- Combine employment and training programs for the low-income into one.
- Make eligibility information more available in public places and permit sharing of client information among agencies.

Citing lack of time and resources, the report does not address details such as whether eligibility/resource/income standards should be raised or lowered among the various programs. Unaddressed financial issues—how (or whether) to change State-Federal match rates, how to pay for program costs increases, whether liberalized eligibility standards and resource tests be adopted, whether States would pay uniform benefit rates to recipients. The report suggests that the Administration tackle such questions.

Definition of Family under the United States Housing Act of 1937
(42 U.S.C. 1437, et. seq.)

Covers Public Housing, Indian Housing and all Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments programs.

'(3) PERSONS AND FAMILIES. -

'(A) SINGLE PERSONS. - THE TERM 'FAMILIES' INCLUDES FAMILIES CONSISTING OF A SINGLE PERSON IN THE CASE OF (I) AN ELDERLY PERSON, (II) A DISABLED PERSON, (III) A DISPLACED PERSON, (IV) THE REMAINING MEMBER OF A TENANT FAMILY, AND (V) ANY OTHER SINGLE PERSONS. IN NO EVENT MAY ANY SINGLE PERSON UNDER CLAUSE (V) OF THE FIRST SENTENCE BE PROVIDED A HOUSING UNIT ASSISTED UNDER THIS ACT OF 2 OR MORE BEDROOMS. IN DETERMINING PRIORITY FOR ADMISSION TO HOUSING UNDER THIS ACT, THE SECRETARY SHALL GIVE PREFERENCE TO SINGLE PERSONS WHO ARE ELDERLY, DISABLED, OR DISPLACED PERSONS BEFORE SINGLE PERSONS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE UNDER CLAUSE (V) OF THE FIRST SENTENCE.

'(B) FAMILIES. - THE TERM 'FAMILIES' MEANS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN, IN THE CASES OF ELDERLY FAMILIES, NEAR-ELDERLY FAMILIES, AND DISABLED FAMILIES, MEANS FAMILIES WHOSE HEADS (OR THEIR SPOUSES), OR WHOSE SOLE MEMBERS, ARE ELDERLY, NEAR-ELDERLY, OR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, RESPECTIVELY. THE TERM INCLUDES, IN THE CASES OF ELDERLY FAMILIES, NEAR-ELDERLY FAMILIES, AND DISABLED FAMILIES, 2 OR MORE ELDERLY PERSONS, NEAR-ELDERLY PERSONS, OR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES LIVING TOGETHER, AND 1 OR MORE SUCH PERSONS LIVING WITH 1 OR MORE PERSONS DETERMINED UNDER THE REGULATIONS OF THE SECRETARY TO BE ESSENTIAL TO THEIR CARE OR WELL-BEING.

*'(C) ABSENCE OF CHILDREN. - THE TEMPORARY ABSENCE OF A CHILD FROM THE HOME DUE TO PLACEMENT IN FOSTER CARE SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED IN DETERMINING FAMILY COMPOSITION AND FAMILY SIZE.

'(D) ELDERLY PERSON. - THE TERM 'ELDERLY PERSON' MEANS A PERSON WHO IS AT LEAST 62 YEARS OF AGE.

'(E) PERSON WITH DISABILITIES. - THE TERM 'PERSON WITH DISABILITIES' MEANS A PERSON WHO -

'(I) HAS A DISABILITY AS DEFINED IN SECTION 223 OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT,

'(II) IS DETERMINED, PURSUANT TO REGULATIONS ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY, TO HAVE A PHYSICAL, MENTAL, OR EMOTIONAL IMPAIRMENT WHICH (I) IS EXPECTED TO BE OF LONG-CONTINUED AND INDEFINITE DURATION, (II) SUBSTANTIALLY IMPEDES HIS OR HER ABILITY TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY, AND (III) IS OF SUCH A NATURE THAT SUCH ABILITY COULD BE IMPROVED BY MORE SUITABLE HOUSING CONDITIONS, OR

'(III) HAS A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AS DEFINED IN SECTION 102 OF THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ASSISTANCE AND BILL OF RIGHTS ACT.

SUCH TERM SHALL NOT EXCLUDE PERSONS WHO HAVE THE DISEASE OF ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME OR ANY CONDITIONS ARISING FROM THE ETIOLOGIC AGENT FOR ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME.

'(F) DISPLACED PERSON. - THE TERM 'DISPLACED PERSON' MEANS A PERSON DISPLACED BY GOVERNMENTAL ACTION, OR A PERSON WHOSE

DWELLING HAS BEEN EXTENSIVELY DAMAGED OR DESTROYED AS A RESULT OF A DISASTER DECLARED OR OTHERWISE FORMALLY RECOGNIZED PURSUANT TO FEDERAL DISASTER RELIEF LAWS.

'(G) NEAR-ELDERLY PERSON. - THE TERM 'NEAR-ELDERLY PERSON' MEANS A PERSON WHO IS AT LEAST 50 YEARS OF AGE BUT BELOW THE AGE OF 62.

Note: Regulations and handbooks have not been updated to incorporate the provisions of these definitions which were enacted in October 1992. There is concern that the definition of family excludes families of two or more persons under the age of 62 where there are no children in the family. It seem unlikely that the Congress intended to exclude a married couple without children; HUD is proposing a technical amendment.

Typical regulatory implementation: 24 CFR Part 912.2 (applies to public housing; similar provisions applying to Indian Housing are at 24 CFR 905. 24 CFR 813.2 applies to Section 8 housing.)

Disabled person. A person who is under a disability as defined in section 223 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 423), or who has a developmental disability as defined in section 102(7) of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 6001(7)).

Displaced person. A person displaced by governmental action, or a person whose dwelling has been extensively damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster declared or otherwise formally recognized under Federal disaster relief laws.

Elderly family. A family whose head or spouse (or sole member) is an elderly, disabled, or handicapped person. It may include two or more Elderly, Disabled, or Handicapped persons living together, or one or more of these persons living with one or more Live-in Aides.

Elderly person. A person who is at least 62 years of age.

Family. "Family" includes but is not limited to (a) an elderly family or single person as defined in this part, (b) the remaining member of a tenant family, and (c) a displaced person.

Handicapped person. A person having a physical or mental impairment that --

- (a) Is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration,
- (b) Substantially impedes the person's ability to live independently, and
- (c) Is of such a nature that such ability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions.

Live-in Aide. A person who resides with an Elderly, Disabled, or Handicapped person or persons and who (a) is determined by the PHA to be essential to the care and well-being of the person(s); (b) is not obligated for support of the person(s); and (c) would not be living in the unit except to provide necessary supportive services. (See 913.106(c) for treatment of a Live-in Aide's income.)

Single person. A person who lives alone or intends to live alone, and who does not qualify as an elderly family or displaced person or as the remaining member of a tenant Family.

(52 FR 34114, Sept. 9, 1987, as amended at 54 FR 26001, June 20, 1989)

Note: A single, pregnant woman is treated as a two-person family and receives a preference over other singles.

Typical handbook provision: Paragraph 3-3 of the *Public Housing Occupancy Handbook: Admission* dated August 1987.

3-3. QUALIFYING AS A FAMILY

a. POLICY

- (1) Only applicants who constitute a family can become public housing tenants.
- (2) The PHA determines whether an applicant is a family. However, in addition to groups of persons who would ordinarily constitute a family, such as a couple with or without children or a parent and child, the PHA must include persons covered by the HUD definition.
- (3) The HUD definition of family covers elderly families and certain non-elderly single persons. (There is a diagram in Appendix 2.)
- (4) PHAs may not modify the HUD definitions dealing with elderly families or non-elderly single persons.
- (5) PHAs may, but are not required to, house more than one family in a public housing unit (See 6-2, Shared Housing).

b. DISCUSSION

- (1) PHAs should develop a written definition of family which describes when two or more nonelderly persons constitute a family.
- (2) Child Custody
 - (a) If an applicant claiming a child as a family member does not have full custody of the child, or if the child lives only part of the time with the applicant, the PHA must make a determination whether to count the child as part of the applicant's family. The PHA may consider custody and the amount of time the child spends with the applicant in making this decision.
 - (b) If the child does not currently reside with the applicant, the PHA may consider the child to be part of the applicant's family if there is evidence that

the child would reside with the applicant if the applicant were admitted to public housing.

(c) The same child cannot be counted more than once (i.e., to make two single applicants each qualify as a "family").

(d) If the child is determined to be part of the family, the child is a full family member and has the same status in determining income and deductions that any other child would have.

(3) Foster Children

(a) Families are permitted to have foster children live with them in public housing if the PHA determines that it will not result in overcrowding.

(b) The PHA may, but is not required to, consider foster children in determining that a single applicant constitutes a family. The PHA would have to be consistent in its determination.

(4) Care Attendants

(a) When necessary, families may have care attendants live with them in public housing.

(b) The PHA should consider a person to be a care attendant only if the person:

o is determined by the PHA to be essential to the care and well being of a family member;

o is not obligated to support the family member;
and

o would not be living in the unit except to provide the supportive services.

(c) A care attendant would not be listed on the lease and could not become a remaining family member for continued occupancy purposes. The income of a care attendant would not be counted in determining the family's income.

c. REFERENCES

U.S. Housing Act of 1937, Sections 3(a), 3(b)(3)

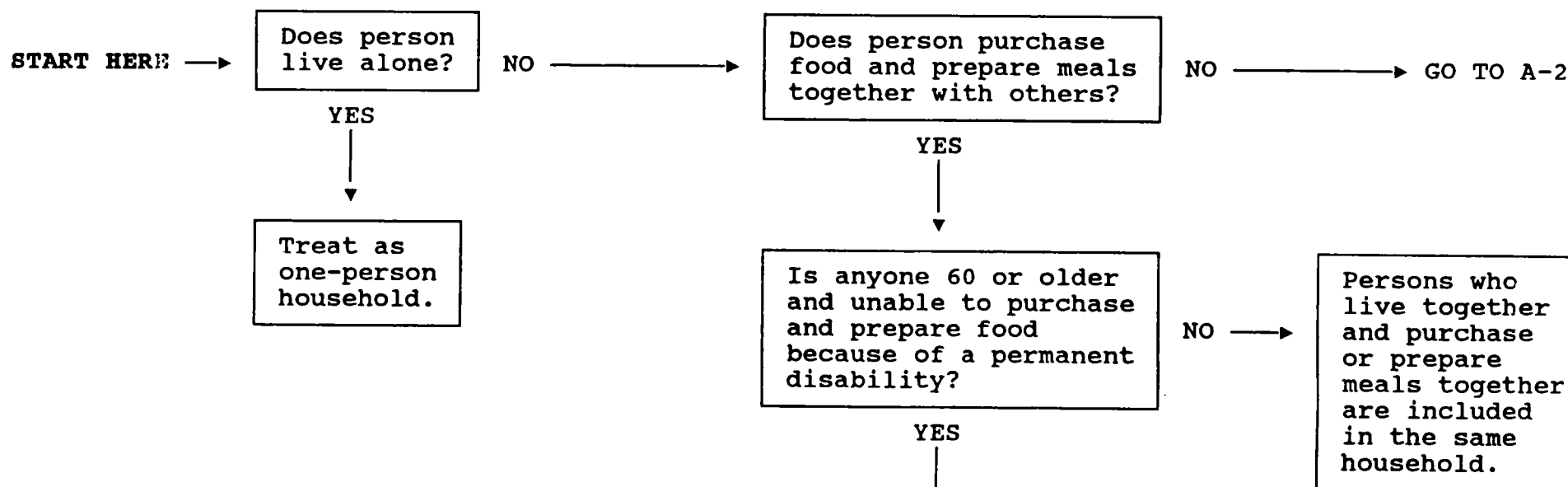
24 CFR 912.2

Food Stamp Household Definition

For food stamp purposes eligibility is on a household basis. This means that everyone who lives together and buys and fixes food together is grouped together as a household.

Husbands and wives and children under 18 years old who live together are included in the same household. Parents living with children over 18 years old who buy or fix food by themselves cannot be a separate household unless the parent is disabled or 60 or older or the child has a child of their own under 18. Brothers and sisters who live together cannot be separate households even if they buy or fix their meals by themselves unless one of them is disabled or 60 or older or one of them has a minor child under 18. If a person is 60 or older and unable to buy and fix meals and lives with others, he or she may be a separate household if the income of the others is not too much.

People who live in shelters for homeless people or battered women and children, drug addicts or alcoholics in a center, and people who are 60 or older who live in Federally aided housing can sometimes get food stamps as a separate household.

**NOTE:**

The following persons are ineligible household members:

- Ineligible aliens
- Social Security number disqualified
- Workfare sanctioned
- Work requirement sanctioned
- Ineligible students
- SSI recipients in cash-out States

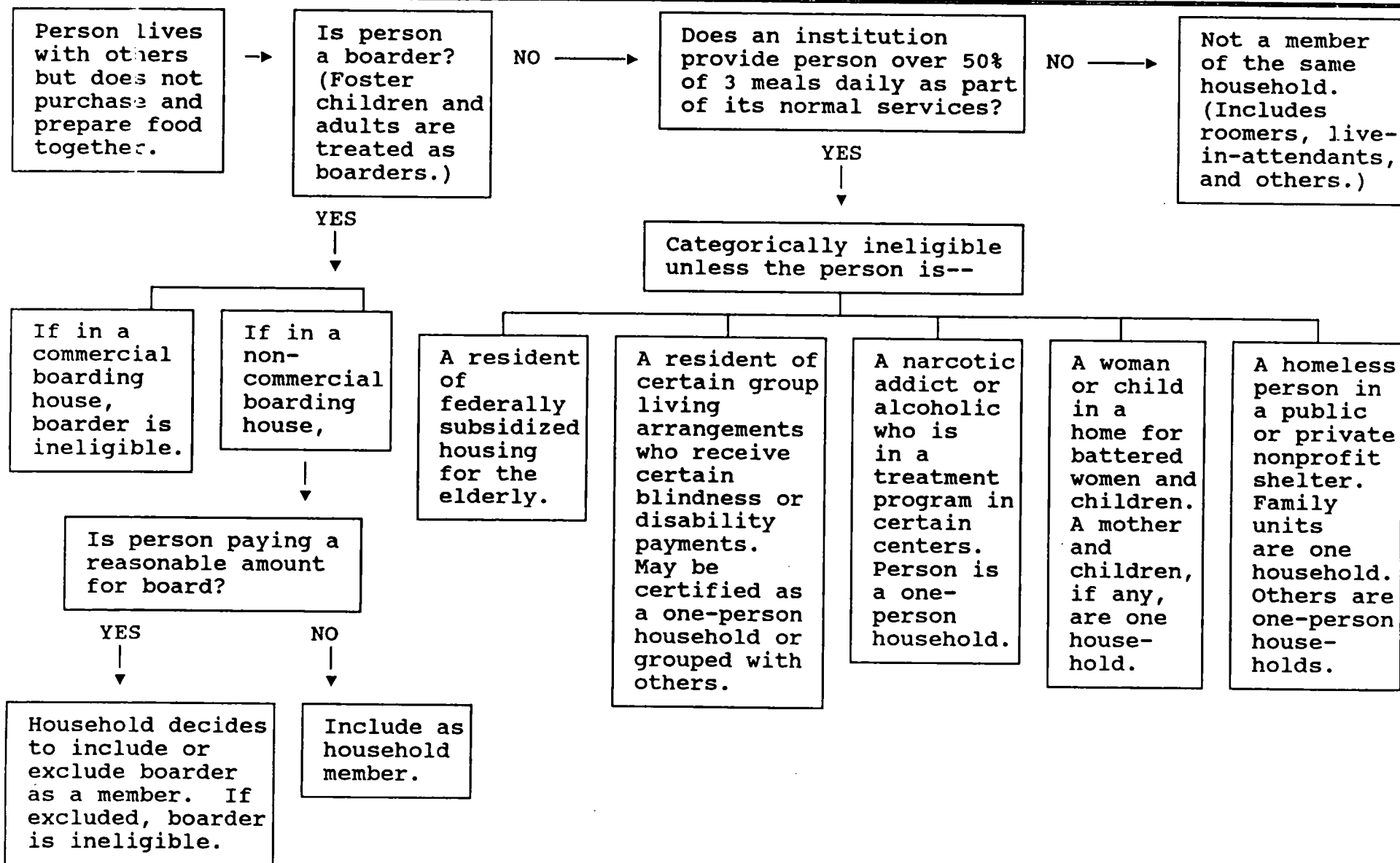
The following persons are nonhousehold members:

- Roomers
- Live-in-attendants

A-3 HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

(Continued from A-2)

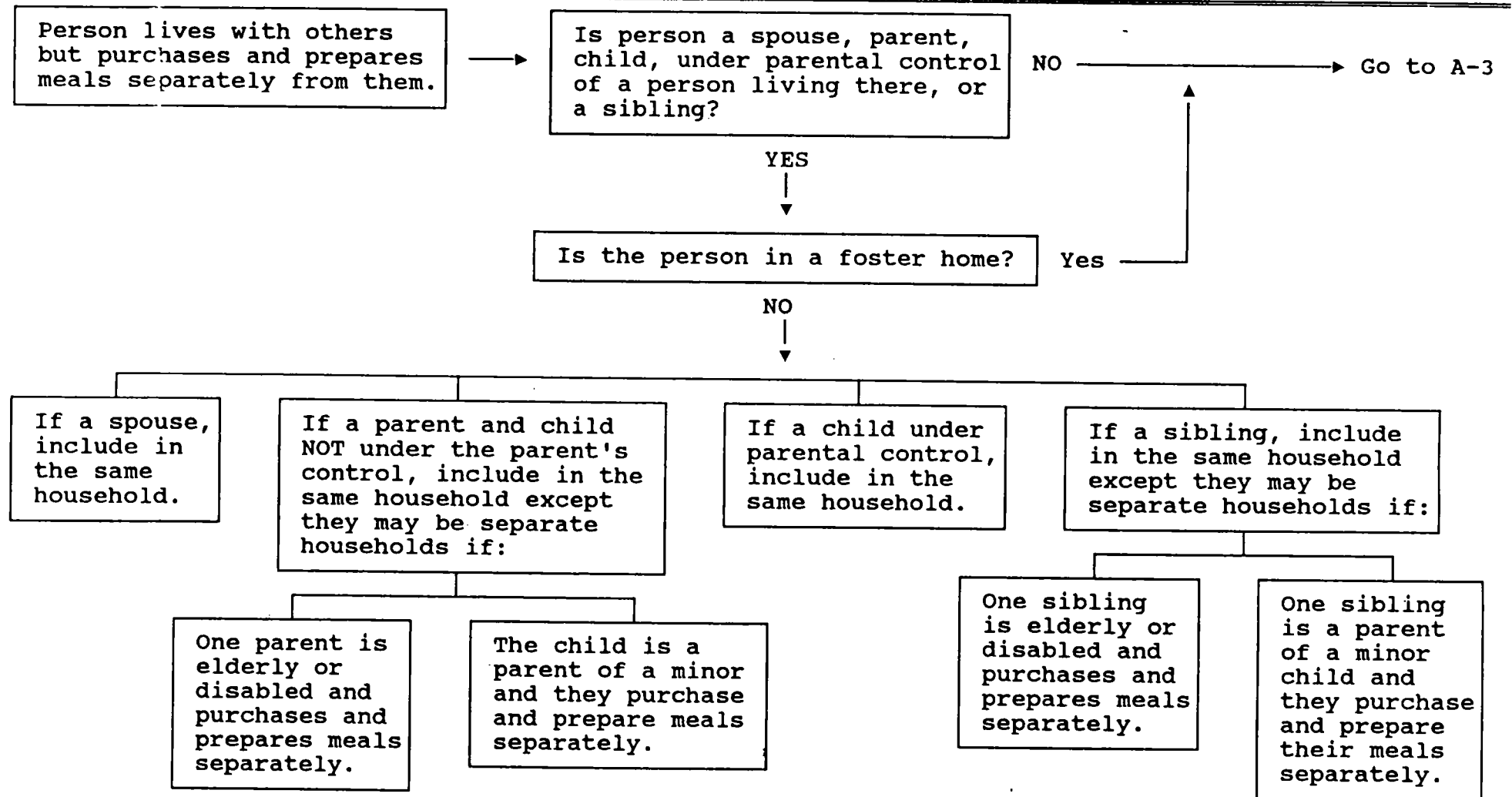
November 1992



A-2 HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

(Continued from A-1)

November 1992



Welfare Simplification Issue Group

8/2/93

	Agency	# Telephone	# Fax
1. Diann Dawson	OFA	(202) 401-9275	(202) 205-5887
2. Chris Elertson	OMIS	202/395-4686	202/395-3910
3. Ed Whipple	HUD	202 708 0744	
4. Ellen Henigson	FNS	703 305-2762	
5. Margaret Thiel	FNS	703-305-2805	703-305-2454
6. COLLEEN DALY	ACF	(202) 401-6407	(202) 401-6400
7. Art Foley	FNS	703 305 2490	703 305 2454
8. Gary Ashcraft	OFA	202-401-6951	202-205-5887
9. ROBERT SHELBOURNE	OFA	(202) 401-5150	(202) 205-5887
10. Keith Lowry	DPC	(202) 456-7777	(202) 456-7739

Household (filing unit) consists of

- o a deprived child,
- o its parent(s), and
- o all its natural and adoptive brothers and sisters who are themselves deprived

who are living together. The units' income and resources are used to determine eligibility and, if eligible, the amount to be paid.

If there is no living-with parent, then another close relative with whom the child is living may, at their option, join the unit to be assisted. [Because this relative could make the unit ineligible or receive less payment, the relative may decline to join the unit.] All of these unit members are called "recipients" and are categorically eligible for Medicaid.

In addition, anyone else who the state defines and the family considers essential to the child (e.g., an older sister who baby sits so that the mother can participate in the JOBS program) is included in the unit. [It is unlikely that a family would consider someone essential if their inclusion would reduce or terminate their benefits.] Essential persons are not considered to be recipients and, thus, are not categorically eligible for Medicaid.

Certain parents and siblings, who themselves are not eligible for AFDC because of a provision of the law, must be excluded from the unit. Examples include an individual who is an illegal alien, an individual receiving SSI, and the child-in-common of two parents who itself is not deprived, even though its half-siblings are.

If any individual must be a part of more than one unit, those units are drawn together into a single unit. A State may establish policy drawing units together even though federal law does not require it (e.g., one woman is the "caretaker relative" for all of two of her sisters' children). [If deprivation is caused by the unemployment of the parent who is the principal earner, all parents must be tested to determine which is the sole principal earner.]

Stepparents A stepparent is treated the same as a natural or adoptive parent in seven States (Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont and Washington) which have laws of general applicability, which treat a stepparent as if he or she were the natural or adoptive parent for all purposes, not just AFDC. In all other States, a stepparent's income, after certain disregards, is considered available to the family and reduces or ends their AFDC payments. In these states, a stepparents resources do not affect eligibility.

**WELFARE SIMPLIFICATION
Workgroup**

Members	Phone	Fax
Diann Dawson, ACF/OFA	(202) 401-9280	(202) 205-5887
Mack Storrs, ACF/OFA	(202) 401-9289	(202) 205-5887
Reuben Sniper, ASPE	(202) 690-5880	
Alan Yaffe, ACF/OPE	(202) 401-4537	
Bob Shelbourne, ACF/OFA	(202) 401-5150	(202) 205-5887
Carol de los Reyes, ACF/OFA	(202) 401-4526	(202) 205-5887
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Ann McCormick, ASPE	(202) 690-5880	
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Roxy Nicholson, DOL	(202) 219-7669	(202) 219-5455
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Heather Ross, NEC	(202) 456-2802	
Marilyn Swartz, SSA	(410) 965-4389	(410) 966-0980
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Nancy Chisolm, HUD	(202) 708-0713	

Mike Stegman
Ellen Haas

WELFARE
SIMPLIFICATION

Welfare Simplification

Authorized by legislation in 1990 at the urging of Congressman Emerson, Missouri.

Goal: Focused on the Medicaid, Food Stamp, Public Housing and AFDC programs, this committee is charged with identifying consumer and administrative barriers that impede the application and receipt of services and making recommendations that will improve the process. The recommendations will be two-tiered. First, the committee will identify interim or short term changes that can take place quickly to improve the coordination of services. Second, the committee will identify long term, sweeping changes that will significantly change the delivery of services and streamline the process.

Lead Staff: Ellen Hennigan, Food Stamp Program, Department of Agriculture.

Members: The committee is comprised of eleven members representing the four major programs from the consumers perspective as well as the administrative perspective. Members include:

- Dallas Housing Authority Commissioner
- Two State Legislators (Colorado and New York)
- Social Worker from New Mexico
- Delaware's Secretary of Health and Social Services
- North Carolina's Secretary of Human Services
- An advocate for client's rights, California
- Two participants
- Community Outreach representative
- Sammy Lynn Puett, Chair, University of Tennessee formerly Commissioner in Tennessee of Human Services

Timeline: The committee was authorized to meet four times and prepare a report by July 1993. They are scheduled to hold their last meeting in Delaware on March 11-13. Their agenda for that meeting includes a presentation on electronic transfer of benefits, an integrated information system, the "one stop shopping" program, and review of the draft report. The committee would very much like a representative from the New Administration.

DEPARTMENTAL REGULATION		NUMBER: 1042
SUBJECT: WELFARE SIMPLIFICATION AND COORDINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE	DATE: September 23, 1991	
	OPI: FNS, OFFICE OF ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION	

1 PURPOSE

a This departmental regulation establishes the Welfare Simplification and Coordination Advisory Committee. The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to examine ways to better coordinate services to applicants and participants of the Food Stamp, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Medicaid and housing programs. Specifically, the Committee will consider and report to Congress and the Secretaries of the Departments of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, and Housing and Urban Development on:

- (1) program policies that make it difficult to apply for and obtain benefits from more than one program,
- (2) major reasons for having different programs and policies,
- (3) how the different programs hinder multiple-program benefit receipt,
- (4) common or simplified programs and policies that would reduce these difficulties, and
- (5) the major effects of common or simplified programs and policies.

b The Advisory Committee is authorized by Section 1778 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act (the Farm Bill) of 1990, Public Law 101-624.

2 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/CANCELLATION

The regulation shall terminate 2 years from the date of signing unless renewed.

3 OFFICERS AND MEMBERSHIP

a The Secretary of Agriculture will appoint 7 to 11 members, including the chair or vice-chairs. The

DISTRIBUTION:

membership of the Advisory Committee will consist of individuals who are familiar with the rules, goals and limitations of the assistance programs listed in 1a, and may include experts in program evaluation, persons experienced in administering such programs at the Federal, State, or local level, and representatives of administrators and recipients affected by such programs.

- b In appointing members, the Secretary of Agriculture will consult with the Secretaries of the Departments of Health and Human Services and Housing and Urban Development, and will seek the advice of State and local program officials and representatives of recipients and recipient advocacy organizations associated with the target programs.
- c Equal opportunity practices, in line with USDA policies, will be followed in all appointments to the Advisory Committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the needs of diverse groups served by the Department, membership should include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

4 DUTIES

The Advisory Committee shall address and report on the issues defined in 1a to contribute to efforts to coordinate and simplify Federal welfare programs.

5 ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS

- a Members of the Advisory Committee shall serve without compensation, but shall receive reimbursement for necessary travel and subsistence expenses they incur in performing Committee work.
- b Annual operating costs are estimated at \$82,400 and 1.5 staff years for FY 1992.

6 NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

The Advisory Committee will meet as often as the Secretary deems necessary. All meetings will be open to the public.

7 REPORTS AND SUPPORT

- a The Advisory Committee will report to the appropriate committees of Congress and the Secretaries of the Departments of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, and Housing and Urban Development on its findings and recommendations by July 1, 1993.
- b Staff support for the Committee will be provided by the Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.


Edward Madigan
Secretary of Agriculture

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



DATE:

3-5-93

SENT TO:

Jodie Torkelson

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395-3888

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT:
(excluding cover sheet)

6

FROM:

Jane M. Friel

PHONE #: 202-720-3631

FAX #: 202-720-5437

COMMENTS:

Jodie
Super Thanks!
Please take to Kathy Way
Domestic Policy
Council

TO: Kathi Way

FROM: Jane McNeill (720-3631)
Office of the Secretary, USDA

RE: Welfare Simplification and Coordination Advisory Committee
Meeting -- March 11-13, Wilmington, DE

Attached is:

1) A copy of the letter sent to Secretary Espy regarding the Welfare Simplification Advisory Committee meeting March 11-13. I have been told an identical letter went to Secretary Shalala of HHS and Secretary Cisneros of HUD. At the bottom of the attached letter, I have written the staff contacts for the Advisory Committee in HHS and HUD.

2) A draft letter from the Advisory Committee to President Clinton.

3) The proposed Agenda for the March 11-13 meeting. Note, on March 11 from 10:45 -- 11:30 a Discussion with Clinton Administration Representative is scheduled. I was told that could be rearranged depending on your schedule and thoughts.

Also, I understand there is a press conference of some sort schedule Friday morning, March 12.

4) The Food and Nutrition Service staff -- Ellen Hennigan has advised the Advisory Committee Chair Sammie Lynn Puett that you and I will be attending the March 11 meeting. I have not yet contacted Diane Dawson or Paula Blunt to discuss their participation.

I am looking forward to meeting you and working on these issues. As I mentioned to you this issue will at some point be shifted to whoever USDA brings on board as the Assistant Secretary for Food and Consumer Services. In the meantime, though, I will be the contact in the Secretary's office.

ACTION NEEDED

1. Further coordination with HHS and HUD to determine full Clinton Administration participation.

2. Discussion on Clinton Administration position at the March meeting.

3. Lets discuss travel plans to the meeting and the possibility of coordinating our travel. In the meantime, Ellen said she would make hotel reservations for us at the Holiday Inn, 700 King Street, Wilmington, DE. She is reserving rooms for the nights of Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday March 10-12. Please let me or Ellen know if you need to change these arrangements.

Welfare Simplification and Coordination Advisory Committee

SANDIE LYNN FORTT
CHAIRPERSON

3101 Park Center Drive
Suite 718
Alexandria, VA 22302-1594

TELEPHONE NUMBER
(703) 663-3742

(615) 974-6622

FEB 12 1993

Control #
06-3013392

Honorable Mike Espy
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
14th & Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Espy:

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

Because of President Clinton's stated interest in welfare reform and your responsibility for some of the programs that would be impacted by reform efforts, I would like to brief you on the work of a Committee established by the Congress to address that concern.

Since last April I have chaired the Welfare Simplification and Coordination Advisory Committee that was established in December 1990 by the Mickey Leland Memorial Domestic Hunger Relief Act (Public Law 101-624). The 11 members of the Committee were appointed by former Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan in consultation with the Secretaries of Health and Human Services and Housing and Urban Development. The members bring together a broad base of expertise in the field of public assistance, representing state and local legislators and administrators, eligibility workers, and recipient advocates.

The purpose of the Committee is to examine the different policies implemented in the Food Stamp, cash and medical assistance programs under the Social Security Act, and housing assistance programs, to determine the major reasons for the differing policies and to recommend common or simplified policies to reduce difficulty in gaining access to more than one type of assistance. The Committee is to prepare and submit a final report to the appropriate Congressional committees and to you and the Secretaries of Health and Human Services and Housing and Urban Development no later than July 1, 1993.

Would it be possible for me to meet with you soon to brief you on the Committee's progress and to discuss how best to see that the Committee's recommendations might be helpful to you and receive full consideration by the Congress and the Administration? The Committee's final meeting will be held on March 11-13, 1993 in Wilmington, Delaware. If possible, I would

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Honorable Mike Espy

like to meet with you prior to that time so that I can report on our discussion.

My staff will contact your office to arrange a convenient date. I can be reached at 615-974-1892. I look forward to meeting with you and discussing the Committee's work.

Sincerely,

S
Sammie Lynn Puett, Chair
Welfare Simplification and
Coordination Advisory Committee

Letter - AHS

Deane Dawson - 202 401-9275
Adm on Children & Families

HUP

Paula Blunt - 708-4214
Office Special Initiatives

03-05-93 10:11AM

FROM FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

TO ASST. SEC. OFFICE

P005/006

A: 4/3/93

**WELFARE SIMPLIFICATION AND COORDINATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE****Holiday Inn - Wilmington, Delaware
March 11 -13, 1993***700
King Street***AGENDA**

Thursday, March 11 Newport Room**8:30 - 8:45 Welcome and
 Opening Remarks****Sammie Lynn Puett,
Committee Chair****8:45 - 9:00 Opening Remarks****Governor Thomas R.
Carper****9:00 - 9:30 Report on Committee
 Activities****Committee Members****9:30 - 10:30 Presentation on the
 Maryland Electronic
 Benefit Transfer
 System****Art Foley, Chief
Program Design
Branch****Mickey Allman,
Assistant Director,
Food Stamp Division
Maryland Department
of Human Resources****10:30 - 10:45 Morning Break****10:45 - 11:30 Discussion with Clinton
 Administration Representative***Kathi Way***11:30 - 1:00 Lunch****1:00 - 5:00 Visit Delaware's Northeast
 State Service Center****Committee Members
and Guests**

Welfare Simplification and Coordination Advisory Committee

SAMMIE LYNN PUETT
CHAIRPERSON

3101 Park Center Drive
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Alexandria, VA 22302-1594

TELEPHONE NUMBER
(703)363-2762

Honorable Bill Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

DRAFT
- DISCUSSION PURPOSES
ONLY -

Dear Mr. President:

Your wish to bring about major welfare reform will find support in the attached document -- the product of a 14-month study authorized by the Congress in 1990 and directed by 11 persons from across the country over the past 14 months.

This group of 11 persons, representing a variety of knowledgeable perspectives on welfare, believe our efforts can give you a head start in bringing about critically needed changes in family support programs in the country.

Our Committee -- whose charge was to find ways to simplify and better coordinate services to applicants and participants of the Food Stamp, AFDC, Medicaid and public housing programs -- reached one major conclusion: We must replace the conglomerate of separate assistance programs with one comprehensive program administered by one Federal agency and authorized and overseen by a single Committee in each chamber of the Congress.

Further, the goal of the comprehensive program would be to move families toward self-sufficiency, and family stays in the program would be time-limited, based on the time required to complete education or training needs to become employable.

The Committee recognizes that such major reforms cannot take place overnight -- and hence it has proposed interim actions to be taken to simplify and coordinate the four categorical programs which are now in place. These are recommended INTERIM steps only.

We hope you will read this report and ask your staff to review it in great detail. We would be glad to meet with whomever you wish to accelerate action on this critical national need. We stand ready to assist you and the Congress in moving expeditiously to implement the recommendations.

Sincerely,

Sammy Lynn Puett, Chair
Welfare Simplification and
Coordination Advisory Committee

Meeting to Newspaper Fri AM

Friday, March 12 Hornkill Room

8:30 - 9:15	Discussion of Site Visit and Presentations	Committee Members
9:15 - 10:15	Opportunity for Public to Address Committee	Public
10:15 - 10:30	Morning Break	
10:30 - 11:30	Discussion of Report and Recommendations	Committee Members
11:30 - 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 - 3:00	Continue Discussion of Report and Recommendations	Committee Members
3:00 - 3:15	Afternoon Break	
3:15 - 5:00	Continue Discussion of Report and Recommendations	

Saturday, March 13 New Amstel Room

8:30 - 10:15	Report on Public Relations Strategy and Discussion	Tim Carey, Committee Member
	Report on Design & Printing	Ellen Henigan FNS Liaison
10:15 - 10:30	Morning Break	
10:30 - 11:45	Continue discussion on Strategy	Committee Members
11:45 - 12:00	Wrap-up and adjourn	Sammie Lynn Puett, Committee Chair

WELFARE SIMPLIFICATION

NAME	AGENCY	PHONE / FAX
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Mark Schroder	HUD	202 708-1520
Kathi Way	DPC	202-456-7777 / 456-7739
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Time For A Change

Remaking the Nation's Welfare System

*Report of the
Welfare*

*Simplification
and Coordination
Advisory
Committee*

June 1993