

Special Projects Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (TAP) Meeting Minutes Thursday, July 10th, 2025

Designated Federal Officer (DFO)

John Lipold Acting Director National Public Liaison

Attendance

•	Dr. Olurotimi"Timi" Akindele	Chicago, IL	Member (Absent)
•	Jason Brinkley	Prince Frederick, MD	Member
•	Stacey Cloyd	Washington, D.C.	Vice-Chair
•	Aissata Diaby	Harrisburg, PA	Member
•	Tiffany Grayson	Beaufort, SC	Member (Absent)
•	Steven Hall	Long Island, NY	Chair
•	Jihan Jude	Orlando, FL	Member (Absent)
•	Joseph Parampathu	Irvine, CA	Member
•	John Shoemaker	INTL- Singapore	Member (Absent)

<u>Staff</u>

•	Ann Tabat	TAP Program Analyst
•	Saul Hernandez	Acting TAP Director
•	Fred N. Smith, Jr.	Acting TAP Manager
•	Robert Rosalia	TAP Program Analyst
•	Rosalind Matherne	TAP Program Analyst
•	Jose Cintron	TAP Program Analyst
•	Kudiratu Usman-Olugunna	TAP Program Analyst

Mejbeen Balsara Taxpayer Services Program Analyst

Welcome/Opening – Designated Federal Officer (DFO)

Lipold opened the call and welcomed all who have joined.

Roll Call

Tabat completed roll call and quorum was not met. Meeting held as administrative; any voting is tabled until next month's meeting.

Welcome Announcements/Comments/Acknowledgements

Hall welcomed members and addressed will not be voting due to quorum not met.

Comments From the Public

N/A



National Office and DFO Reports

Hernandez reported the Speak Up Brochure English and Spanish versions have been revised and nearing final completion for printing. Once printed copies are available, we will communicate and distribute to the members.

The National Taxpayer Advocate (NTA) has released the Objectives Report to Congress which can be accessed through the improveirs.org site or from irs.gov. If the members would like a hard copy, send your name and preferred mailing address to your committee analyst.

Smith, Jr. reported TAP will be holding virtual JC Planning meetings scheduled for August 12th and August 19th for two and half hours. The meeting is usually held in person, but due to budget constraints will be held virtually. The meeting is open to each committee chair and vice chairs to plan next year's goals. TAP is asking members to bring to the table things that need work within TAP, to make improvements on processes and products. Any members can make suggestions and should submit to the committee chair and vice chair.

Committee News & Updates

Hall reported:

Referral 66912-Clients Living and Working Abroad Dual Status, did not pass the Joint Committee (JC) in June. Feedback was received from another chair addressing issues with the referral during the JC meeting. Hall communicated with the TAP National Chair his concerns with not being notified ahead of time, material was provided as pre-reads. Additional concern the referral had already passed the Attorney Advisor and Systemic Advocacy reviews. Hall stated this was the second referral that did not pass the JC, he is concerned this could be an ongoing issue.

Tabat apologized how the project was addressed during the JC meeting. Noting IRS changes in staffing have caused a lot of obstacles and challenges in getting work reviewed and how we move forward. She also mentioned as the committee analyst would be there to help guide the committee and address ongoing concerns.

Hall mentioned the recent passing of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act addresses free filing, ID Theft and Direct File. The Direct File program has been very successful in the past and costs the service approximate \$1.50 to process the returns. This is a concern since this committee addresses incoming grassroots issues with Direct File.



Project Updates

Hall reported:

• **Project 78238-** Protecting Taxpayer Information

Did not pass JC, waiting to determine next steps. Hall encouraged everyone to stay resilient and stay the course. Tabat will report any updates regarding this project.

IRS Responses Received:

 Project 71913-Provide Safe Harbor for International Taxpayers who received the Expanded Child Tax Credit for 2021

Vote to accept IRS response or rebuttal. Tabled until next meeting.

Review of Minutes

June 12th, 2025-tabled

Outreach

Cloyd reported:

TAP Newsletter

Confirmed Dr. Timi Akindele and Diaby will complete the article for August. Communication via email has taken place and template shared.

Activity Report

Add your activities to www.tapspace.org.

Outreach

Cloyd noted during the Outreach meeting it was discussed to host your own meeting, contact local media, post in blogs, use the Nextdoor app, and LinkedIn. Colleges, senior centers, rotary clubs and civic organizations are additional resources to complete outreach.

Hall mentioned with the Fourth of July holiday was great opportunity to hold conversations about TAP. A recent review of YouTube and videos regarding Direct File had over 80,000 viewers.

Subcommittee 1

Hall reported:

 Project 68581- Rebuttal-Expand VITA, TCE and LITC Program for International Taxpayers

Rebuttal language was established and completed, next step to be sent to the JC analyst for IRS reconsideration.



• **Project 78407-IRS** Customer Service Inefficiencies

Worked on categorizing the recommendations based on their emphasis to verify correct area of the IRS would review. Subcommittee 2 may also review to determine if anything else needs to be added.

- **Project 66912**-Clients Living and Working Abroad Dual Status As mentioned earlier the project received feedback from the JC, working edits and further research on the process.
- **Issue 78408-**FIRPTA Withholding Certificate Difficulties project proposal, the committee reviewed and determined would like to move forward on the issue. Voting on project proposal tabled until next month.

Subcommittee 2

Tabat reported on Jude's behalf:

 Project 78784- IRS Customer Service Inefficiencies Related to Fax Communications

During this month's meeting it was determined to focus on a specific area in the IRS to address processes with faxes. The original issue stemmed from a taxpayer problem the IRS only option to fax paperwork resulted in error causing an in person visit. Will continue to work.

 Project 78777-Improve IRIS and Transmitter Control Code (TCC) Registration

The project focuses on the education of informing taxpayers when necessary to obtain TCC for filing of Forms 1099 electronically. The process takes over 45 days to receive, causing delays in taxpayers filing the returns resulting in late filing penalties. Still being worked.

Screening Report

Parampathu reported:

The meeting was held on June 24th and 29 issues were reviewed. 20 were dropped, two were put in the parking lot 78434 and 78455, regarding IRS direct file and ID.me.

One will be associated with current issue in parking lot regarding the Tax Pro account.

Action Items

Tabat confirmed the June minutes, Project Proposal 74808 and review of IRS responses would be tabled until next month. Quorum was not met, no current action items.



Chair Closing Comments and Roundtable

Hall expressed gratitude for everyone's hard work and encouraged everyone to keep the reason why they joined TAP in the back of their head as they complete the work of TAP. Hall warned to expect more challenges, but he is confident that we will be successful with our work. Hall asked that we keep pushing forward and adapt to the changes to make this a productive year.

Closing

Lipold closed the meeting at 11:25 a.m. ET.

Next Meeting: August 14, 2025, at 11:00am ET