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...vital to healthy aging

2018 Policy Agenda Webinar

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Introduction

- Thank you so much for joining the webinar!
- Going to discuss the policy agenda for Defeat Malnutrition Today for 2018
- Joined by some members of the coalition as well as congressional staff to expand on certain topics

Background

- In case you're unfamiliar with DMT, we started in 2015 with a handful of groups and have grown to 70 national, state and local member organizations
- All interested in combatting older adult malnutrition
- Over the past two years, we've:
 - Held webinars and a Congressional advocacy day
 - Submitted comments to CMS and other agencies and departments
 - Supported malnutrition electronic clinical quality measures
 - Written a review article on malnutrition in federal policy
 - Participated in national, state and local conferences
 - Worked on malnutrition measures and activities in Massachusetts, Ohio, Virginia, and Florida
 - And, our biggest project to date, the *National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults*, was released last March

With That...

- We'd like to make 2018 another successful year and build on the progress already made
- We're interested in a few key areas this year:
 - Malnutrition electronic clinical quality measures
 - Farm Bill and its older adult nutrition programs
 - Older Americans Act, due for reauthorization in 2019
- But plan to cover other ground as well

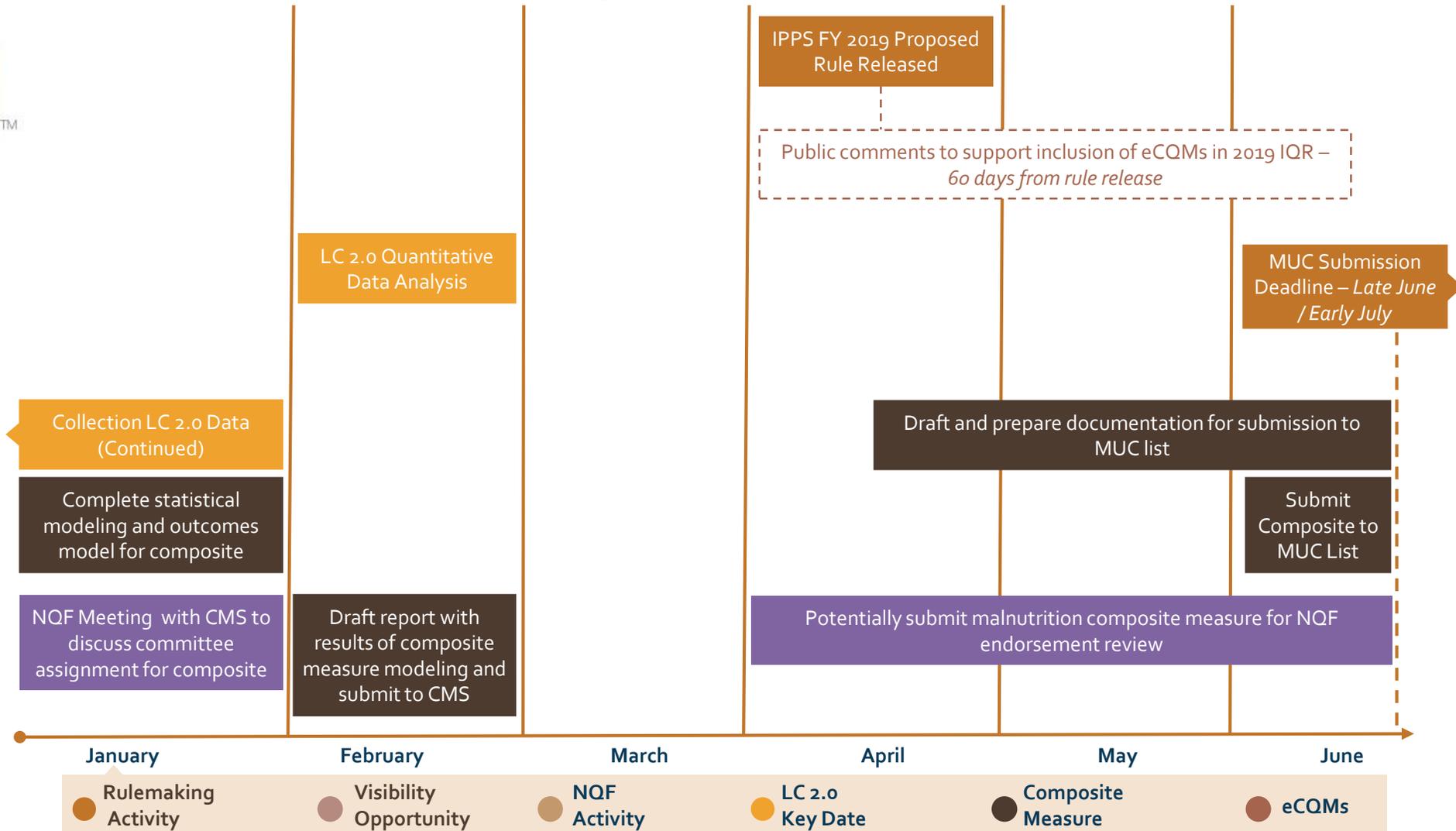
Top Priority: Regulatory

- Malnutrition electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs)
- Healthy People 2030 (and other similar initiatives)
- Administration relationships

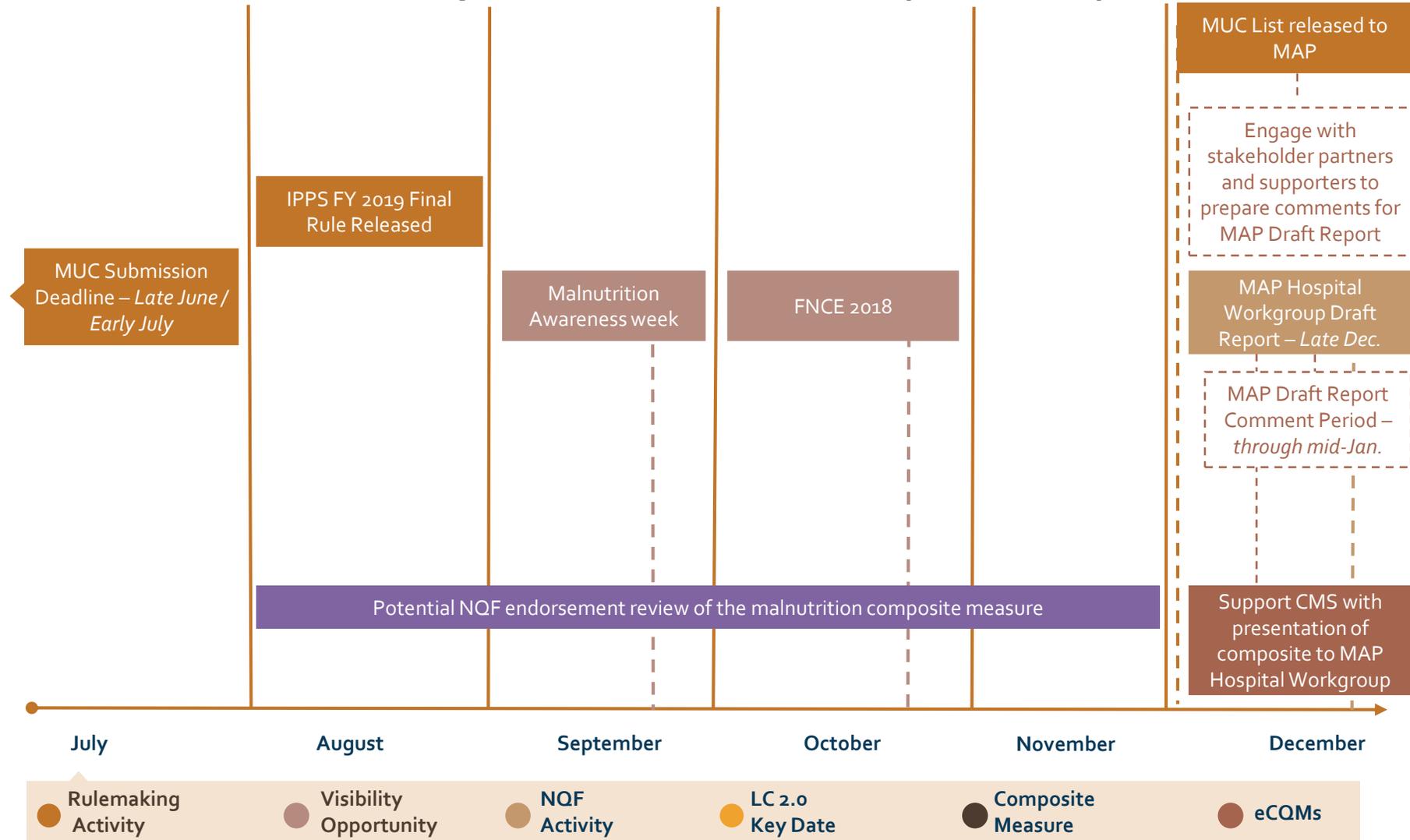
Malnutrition eCQMs

- Sharon McCauley, MS, MBA, RDN, LDN, FADA, FAND
- Senior Director, Quality Management, Malnutrition Quality Improvement Initiative; Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

MQii Measures Engagement 2018 Composite Measure Timeline



MQii Measures Engagement 2018 Composite Measure Timeline (Continued)



Healthy People 2030 and Other Initiatives

- Since our formation, the coalition has been working to have the federal government recognize malnutrition care and reduction of malnutrition as goals/priorities
- Worked on the Healthy People 2020 process but were ultimately unsuccessful in getting malnutrition reduction objectives in as national goals
- However, with new data on malnutrition, we are optimistic that HP 2030 may be different—and the process is happening now
- Similar initiatives are happening with other agencies/departments—NIH All of Us campaign one example

Administration Relationships

- This year, we plan to convene one-on-one meetings where possible with federal staff who work on nutrition issues in federal agencies, including ACL, USDA, etc.
 - ACL working with partners on National Nutrition Month and Malnutrition Awareness Week™
- Further strengthen connections with other federal agencies/departments that could be brought into this effort, such as CDC, SAMHSA, NIH/NIA, NIH/NIDDK, etc.
- Focus new attention on the VA and its work in nutrition/malnutrition
- Older Americans Month 2018: “Engage At Every Age”
- Continue sharing op-eds, journal articles, etc. throughout the year with key staff

Top Priority: Legislative

- Malnutrition eQMs
- Funding for FY2018/FY2019
- 2018 Farm Bill reauthorization and related bills
- 2019 Older Americans Act reauthorization
- Further Congressional activity
- Congressional relationship-building

FY 2018 and FY 2019 Funding

- Still in the middle of determining the FY 2018 final funding levels for all programs, including many important senior nutrition programs
- FY 2019 funding advocacy starts this month with the release of the President's budget proposal

2018 Farm Bill Reauthorization

- Marci Phillips, Director, Public Policy and Advocacy; National Council on Aging
- Farm Bill expires Sept. 30, 2018
- House still expected to move a bill first
 - Waiting on score from Congressional Budget Office (CBO)
 - Draft bill could be made public in March
- Senate schedule unclear at this time

2018 Farm Bill Reauthorization

- Bills introduced with improvements for seniors:
 - H.R. 1276, Closing the Meal Gap Act of 2017 (Adams D-NC)
 - S. 1707 & H.R. 3749, SNAP Standard Medical Expense Deduction Act of 2017 (Gillibrand D-NY & Lawson D-FL)
 - H.R. 4521, SNAP Simplification for the Elderly Act (Lawson D-FL)
 - S. 2085, Nourishing Our Golden Years Act (Casey D-PA & Collins R-ME)

Related Bill: Nourishing Our Golden Years Act

- Samantha Koehler, Senate Special Committee on Aging minority staff member

Older Americans Act (OAA) Reauthorization

- Join NANASP/Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging in soliciting ideas for the 2019 OAA reauthorization, with a focus on nutrition
 - Initial thoughts include improved nutrient quality in foods, including commodities in Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP); more focused malnutrition content in nutrition education; look at use/role of oral nutrition supplements in future
- Conduct possible webinar on ideas and/or session at one major nutrition conference on ideas
- Participate in any activities around reauthorization generated by Administration

Further Congressional Activity

- Work expected to begin on Government Accountability Office (GAO) report regarding Sens. Murray/Casey request on nutrient quality of federal senior nutrition programs.
 - Expect to be involved and hope the report is done by the end of the year so recommendations can be followed up on
- Look for other possible relevant committee or subcommittee activity in both House and Senate; testify and/or submit written testimony
- Continue to cultivate existing relationships with staff and members
 - Work to cultivate more champions in House specifically
- Work with ASPEN to get formal Congressional recognition for Malnutrition Awareness Week™ in 2018, possibly in the form of a Senate resolution. Hold a Congressional reception (potentially with awards) during the week
- Sharing op-eds, journal articles, etc. as we write them throughout the year with key staff

Other Regulatory Items

- Continue to build on National Resource Center on Nutrition and Aging's work
- Review results from Mathematica evaluations of nutrition programs
- Monitor work of entities such as United States Preventive Task Force, as well as various advisory committees of CMS like APOE and Advisory Committee on Minority Health

Other Legislative Items

- Look at possible legislative (*or regulatory*) activity around the Welcome to Medicare exam and annual wellness visits to include questions on malnutrition
- Work more closely with caucuses in Congress such as Caregiver, Elder Justice
- Explore possibility of Congressional working group on malnutrition and older adults
- Potential work with Senate Special Committee on Aging on a follow-up hearing on nutrition and older adults

Questions?
Comments?

- Get in touch!!
- Check out our website at <http://defeatmalnutrition.today>
- Email info@defeatmalnutrition.today