June 2018

RECOGNIZING WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

This is the second edition of the new “Defeat Malnutrition Today News” newsletter, which will be a regular publication of the coalition. We plan to highlight nutrition news as well as news items from members of the coalition. If you have any news to share, please email it to Meredith Whitmire at mponder@matzblancato.com.

June 15 marked World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, or WEAAD. Sens. Richard Blumenthal, Susan Collins, Bob Casey, Chris Murphy and Claire McCaskill introduced S.Res.549, which recognized the day as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day nationally. Also, DMT National Coordinator Bob Blancato had a piece published on the PBS site Next Avenue on WEAAD and elder abuse. You can read it here.

What does elder abuse have to do with older adult malnutrition? Malnutrition is seen most often in neglect cases, where a caregiver is not providing an older adult with food. Alternately, it can be the product of self-neglect. First, dementia, depression, and other conditions may cause older adults to lose their appetites and become malnourished. Also, due to finances, many older adults are left choosing between eating food or buying their medications.

We all have a role in preventing elder abuse, and that includes those of us in the nutrition space. Learn more about elder abuse here at the National Center on Elder Abuse’s website.

DMT COMMENTS ON NIH GEROSCIENCE PROPOSAL

DMT submitted comments on the National Institutes of Health’s proposal for a geroscience conference. You can read our comments here.

DMT WRITES BLOG FOR ICAA

For Older Americans Month, DMT wrote a blog for the International Council on Active Aging on good nutrition and healthy aging. You can read it here.

UPDATES ON FY2019 FUNDING

Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have passed their Agriculture Appropriations bills.

The House bill would fund the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) at $73.2 billion (down from $74 billion, same as the President’s FY19 budget request), which, according to the appropriators, is enough to meet the
expected caseload. The Commodity Supplemental Food Program would be funded at $222.8 million (down from $238 million, but the President requested elimination of the program). Again, appropriators say that this “fully funds expected caseload.” The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program will receive level funding. Nutrition research programs would receive an increase.

The Senate bill would also fund SNAP at $73.2 billion. It would level-fund the Commodity Supplemental Food Program at $238 million and level-fund the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program. Nutrition research programs would also receive an increase in this bill.

The House has passed its Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill through subcommittee and will be considering it in full committee on June 20. We will have more details about its contents then, but we do know that the Older Americans Act nutrition programs will be level-funded at $896.7 million in this proposal. The Senate will be considering its Labor-HHS bill in committee the week of June 25.

**UPDATE ON THE FARM BILL REAUTHORIZATION**

On June 13, the Senate Agriculture Committee passed its version of the Farm Bill in the full committee. The Senate version of the Bill is far more bipartisan and less controversial than the House bill; it makes only minor changes to SNAP and other nutrition assistance programs, and it reauthorizes all nutrition programs through 2023. It also incorporates S.2085, the Casey/Collins “Nourishing Our Golden Years Act,” which DMT supports and which would extend re-certification periods for Commodity Supplemental Food Program participants. The Senate Farm Bill would allow states to have low-income seniors renew their eligibility only once every three years, up from a maximum of one year currently.

The House reauthorization was voted down in the full House, but could come back up for a vote. It currently calls for new work requirements on older SNAP recipients ages 50-59, sharply limits benefit time periods for those recipients who are not working, and takes away state flexibility on categorical eligibility enrollment definitions and standard utility allowance enrollment. The bill extends the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program at current authorized funding levels through 2023. Thirty-five national organizations, including eleven members of the DMT coalition, previously co-signed a letter to the House Agriculture Committee to express their concerns with the House bill and its effects on seniors.

**ACL NUTRITION INNOVATION GRANTS**

From the Administration for Community Living:

**New Funding Opportunity: Innovations in Nutrition Programs and Services**

ACL just released a new funding opportunity for the aging services network. This opportunity supports the testing and documentation of innovative and promising practices that enhance the quality, effectiveness, and proven outcomes of nutrition services programs.

Innovations could include a nutrition effort combined with addressing a local or national need such as: reducing falls; improving chronic conditions; improving oral health; increasing social connections; reaching OAA target populations; decreasing anxiety, depression, emotional disturbances or suicide; improving overall physical and mental health symptoms; and increasing activity involvement.

Approaches must have the potential for broad implementation throughout the network and demonstrated value. Examples of value could be cost savings or addressing a national need. Applicants must explain how they see their proposal as innovative, how broad implementation can be done, and the potential effect on the network.

[www.defeatmalnutrition.today](http://www.defeatmalnutrition.today) – [info@defeatmalnutrition.today](mailto:info@defeatmalnutrition.today)
ACL plans to award approximately four cooperative agreements to domestic public or private non-profit entities for a 24-month project period. Applicants may request a total maximum of $250,000 for each of the two 12-month budget periods. **This Funding Opportunity closes on July 17, 2018.**

**DO YOU HAVE NEWS TO SHARE? WANT US TO SPEAK AT AN EVENT?**

If you have any news to submit on behalf of your organization (or others), please email Meredith Whitmire at mponder@matzblancato.com. Also, if you would like a DMT representative to speak at one of your events or conferences, please also email Meredith.

**REMINDER: NATIONAL BLUEPRINT STILL AVAILABLE!**

In response to requests we have been getting, we would emphasize that the National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults is still available, along with a supporting infographic, [here](#) on our website. A limited number of printed copies of the National Blueprint and infographic are also available; please email Meredith Whitmire at mponder@matzblancato.com.

**REMINDER: MALNUTRITION QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE (MQII) NOW ENROLLING PARTICIPANTS; NEW UPDATED TOOLS & RESOURCES AVAILABLE**

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and Avalere Health are enrolling participants for the 2018 MQii learning collaborative. This collaborative brings together leading hospitals and health systems across the U.S. to support acceleration and dissemination of malnutrition best practices for hospitalized patients. More information about joining the collaborative is available [here](#). Also, the MQii [tools & resources page](#) has a new look—you’ll notice a more user-friendly interface and greater accessibility to various tools and resources to support malnutrition quality improvement projects.