

Defeat **Malnutrition** Today

January 9, 2017

Defeat Malnutrition Today Members Report: 2016 End-of-Year

As a member of the Defeat Malnutrition Today coalition, we are pleased to provide you with our year-end report on our work. This report focuses on our work during 2016. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact either of us.

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Membership

DMT has 52 organizational members as of December 31, 2016. DMT also has approximately 30 individual members and about 250 more on its events mailing list.

Comments, Presentations, Webinars, Articles

Legislative/Regulatory Comments

- In January, DMT wrote [comments](#) for the Senate Finance Committee's Chronic Care Working Group policy options document. The coalition ultimately submitted nine recommendations to the Working Group.
- In January, DMT submitted [comments](#) to CMS on discharge planning for long-term care hospitals, critical access hospitals, and home health agencies.
 - In a [final rule](#), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) agreed with comments submitted by the Defeat Malnutrition Today coalition "for consideration of adopting malnutrition quality measures, including a malnutrition care composite measure, and for including nutritional status and a nutrition care plan during transitions of care to an individual, a caregiver or provider, as they are important components of care for LTCH patients." You can find the CMS comments on pages 1924-1925 of the PDF.
- In April, DMT submitted [outside witness testimony](#) to the Senate and House Labor-HHS Appropriations Committees on OAA nutrition programs.
- In June, DMT submitted [comments](#) to CMS for the Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System proposed rule.
- In August, DMT submitted [comments](#) to CMS on flexibility of care in critical access hospitals.

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- In October, DMT submitted [comments](#) to CMS on quality measures for Medicare-Medicaid dual enrollees.
- In October, DMT submitted [comments](#) to ONC on the 2017 Interoperability Standards Advisory.

Malnutrition Quality Collaborative

- The coalition is working in conjunction with other organizations on a Malnutrition Quality Collaborative, the goal of which is to prepare a blueprint which will “provide a malnutrition-focused policy framework that can guide and inform the incoming Administration as it addresses challenges in our fragmented health care system.” The blueprint is expected to be completed by February 2017.

Presentations

- Bob and Meredith gave a highlighted session on senior malnutrition at the American Society on Aging conference in March which was sponsored by DMT. DMT also sponsored the ASA final night reception for high visibility.
- In Q1, DMT submitted abstracts and proposals to the n4a conference, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics’ Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo (FNCE), and the American Public Health Association (APHA) conference.
- Bob presented at the National Medical Association conference on malnutrition.
- Bob presented at a session on MyPlate for Older Adults on Capitol Hill on malnutrition and the Coalition.
- Bob presented in May in front of the Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee in part on malnutrition.
- Meredith presented in April at the National Oral Health Conference on malnutrition.
- Bob presented in California at the SeniorServ conference on malnutrition.
- Bob presented at the New England Nutrition Conference, which represented five states’ worth of nutrition providers and discussed malnutrition.
- Bob also presented at the Alliance for Information and Referral Systems (AIRS) conference in May and discussed malnutrition.
- Meredith presented on malnutrition at the NANASP conference in June.
- We participated at the n4a conference in San Diego, CA, in July presenting "The Growing Crisis of Malnutrition in Older Adults." The presentation was moderated by Bob and featured Meredith, Mary Beals-Luedtka of NACOG AAA, Jeanne Blankenship of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and Ainsley Malone of A.S.P.E.N.
- Bob presented at the Florida Conference on Aging in Orlando, FL on malnutrition.
- Bob presented at the National Medical Association’s Professional Development Series, the National Hispanic Council on Aging Capitol Hill Briefing, the Kansas Sunflower Fair, and the Senior Corps Directors Conference on malnutrition in September.
- Meredith presented a poster on behalf of DMT at FNCE in October.
- Bob presented at the California Commission on Aging, the California Area Agencies on Aging Conference, the Gerontological Society of America conference, and on a national webinar for NANASP on malnutrition in November.

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- Bob presented on behalf of the coalition at the Root Cause conference in December.

Advocacy Day

- Our Advocacy Day on the Hill on September 26 in conjunction with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) and A.S.P.E.N.'s Malnutrition Awareness Week™ 2016 was a huge success! We had over seventy people show up for our Congressional Briefing, which was led by Bob and featured Congressman Don Beyer of Virginia as the honored guest. Speakers included Sharon McCauley from AND, Peggi Guenter from A.S.P.E.N., and Cecilia Pozo Fileti from the LINI Initiative. We then proceeded to our Hill visits, advocating in support of a Congressional sign-on letter on malnutrition quality measures, and then to a reception hosted by the ANDPAC.
- Links to materials from the day: [slides](#), sign-on [letter](#), [infographic](#), Academy [article](#), [#DMTAdvocacyDay](#) (our hashtag on Twitter, featuring photos and more!)

Webinar

- In May, the coalition hosted its first webinar on senior malnutrition in practice and the community which had 350 participants from across the country. US Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham of New Mexico participated in the webinar.

Articles

- Bob published a National Nutrition Month [article](#) on malnutrition on Next Avenue.
- Bob published a piece in the Huffington Post entitled "[Value-Based Purchasing Is On Target, But Is It A Value To Older Adults And Their Families?](#)" It discusses malnutrition in the context of costs and outcomes.
- Meredith wrote an [article](#) for the Huffington Post entitled "Take Care to Give Care: Nourishing Our Nation's Caregivers" in honor of National Family Caregivers Month.

Quality Measures and Other Advocacy Activities

Quality Measures

- In March, DMT had a meeting with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to discuss the malnutrition quality measures. The meeting was positive and gave us a detailed roadmap of where to go with regard to quality measures.
- The MQii [malnutrition quality measures](#) that the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and Avalere Health have been stewarding and that DMT has actively supported and commented on were submitted to the National Quality Forum for endorsement and have made it onto the CMS [Measures Under Consideration list](#), meaning that they will be considered for addition into CMS's required quality measures this winter. DMT submitted comments on behalf of these measures to the National Quality Forum as well.
- A new multidisciplinary, Malnutrition Quality Improvement Initiative (MQii) [toolkit](#) was launched on the DMT website. The toolkit is designed to help organizations improve

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malnutrition care and subsequently achieve better outcomes, with the primary goal being to advance evidence-based, high-quality, patient-driven care for hospitalized older adults who are malnourished or at-risk for malnutrition.

Call with National Institutes of Aging/NIH

- In June, DMT had a call with members of the Healthy People 2020 older adult objective panel from the NIH National Institutes of Aging. Both objectives we submitted in November 2015 will not be considered for HP2020 by the full committee because of the panel's questions about definitions and tracking, but given the new information we provided, they may be considered for HP2030.

Malnutrition at the State Level

- Massachusetts's governor signed [S.2499](#), an act to establish a commission on older adult malnutrition prevention. DMT sent a [letter](#) to the governor in support of signing this legislation. We commend Shirley Chao, Director of Nutrition, MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs, for her hard work in eliciting support for this legislation. A similar bill to establish a commission in Ohio, [HB580](#), was signed into law thanks to the support of many local aging and nutrition advocates.
- A Malnutrition Awareness Week resolution, [HM 104](#), was introduced in New Mexico.
- The National Organization of Black Elected Leaders (NOBEL)—Women passed a [malnutrition resolution](#) (p. 10).

Nominations

- DMT nominated Gordon Jensen, MD, PhD to the Healthy People 2030 advisory panel.
- DMT also nominated Cecelia Pozo Fileti, MS, RDN to the National Quality Forum's Health and Well-Being Standing Committee.

Partnership Activities

- Meredith participated in a webinar hosted by the National Resource Center on Nutrition and Aging in February and discussed the coalition.
- Bob was appointed to the Tufts Nutrition Council of Tufts University, which had its first meeting in April.
- Bob and Meredith are working with the Maryland Department of Aging, NCOA, and FoodSpeak to develop a malnutrition awareness toolkit.
- Meredith presented on DMT during an International Council on Active Aging virtual nutrition summit in October.

Communications and Other Items

Website and Social Media

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- Meredith has been keeping the DMT website at <http://www.defeatmalnutrition.today> up-to-date with DMT articles and activities. The website will continue to expand with the coalition and the new MQii content has been implemented.

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Communications

- Meredith continues to email the coalition regarding CMS items, news items, etc. as well as coalition activities, seeking input on all writing and submissions. She has created a Google Groups listserv for intra-group communication.
- Meredith remains in communication with member organizations to answer any questions they may have.

Other Items

- Bob and Meredith have both had informal conversations with Members of Congress and staff about DMT beyond the DSOC meeting, including with Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham, Sen. Tim Kaine's staff, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand's staff, and Rep. Suzanne Bonamici's staff.
- Meredith attended a White House event on behalf of DMT in January.
- Meredith gave brief comments on behalf of DMT at an NQF meeting.
- Bob submitted a malnutrition article to GF Magazine. As Board Chair of ASA, he also wrote an article in their newspaper Aging Today which touched on the coalition.
- DMT worked with Katherine Raymond and Meaghan McMahon to write a white paper on the current policy landscape of malnutrition.
- In recognition of Malnutrition Awareness Week™, Meredith participated in an A.S.P.E.N. Chat with the Experts on senior malnutrition as well as a Twitter chat on #MAW2016 hosted by NCOA, @NCOAging.
- Bob also attended the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' Nutrition Impact Summit, focusing on food, wellness and healthcare.
- Malnutrition, sarcopenia, and specifically Defeat Malnutrition Today have been featured in several articles and op-eds this month, including in the [Washington Times](#) and in the [Council of State Governments blog](#).