

defeat malnutrition today

2019 Policy Agenda Webinar

January 29, 2019

Introduction

- Thank you so much for joining the webinar!
- Going to discuss the policy agenda for Defeat Malnutrition Today for 2019
- Like many agendas, it is subject to change based on events and input over the year
- Joined by representative of a coalition member as well as congressional staff, Administration 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 over 80 national, state and local member organizations
- Especially pleased to be joined by two health systems: TIRR Memorial Hermann and Trinity Health
- All interested in combatting older adult malnutrition
- Over the past few years, we've:
 - Held numerous webinars and a Congressional advocacy day
 - Submitted comments to CMS and other agencies and departments
 - Had meetings with CMS
 - Supported malnutrition electronic clinical quality measures
 - Participated in national, state and local conferences
 - Worked on malnutrition measures and activities in Massachusetts, Ohio, and Virginia that became law
 - Released the *National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults* and a *State Legislative Toolkit*

AARP Foundation	Berks Encore	International Council on Active Aging	National Association of Area Agencies on Aging	National Minority Quality Forum	Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior
Abbott Nutrition	Caregiver Action Network	Latino Integrative Nutrition Initiative (LINI)	National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)	National Recreation and Park Association	State of NC's OAA Nutrition Services
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics	Chautauqua County Office for the Aging	LifeCare Alliance	National Board of Physician Nutrition Specialists	National Silver Haired Congress	Textured Food Innovations
AgeWell Senior Services	Community Servings	MANNA	Maryland Department of Aging	Nestle Health Science	TIRR Memorial Hermann
Alliance for Aging Research	Elder Justice Coalition	MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger	National Black Nurses Association	NETWORK	Trinity Health
Altarum Institute Center for Elder Care and Advanced Illness	Elior North America	Meals on Wheels America	The National Caucus and Center on Black Aging	North Dakota Senior Service Providers	Tufts University Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging
Alzheimer's Foundation of America	Feeding America	Meals on Wheels Association of Pennsylvania	The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care	PA Foundation	Vermont Association of Area Agencies on Aging
American Geriatrics Society	Food Research and Action Center	Meals on Wheels Fairfield County	National Council on Aging	Philadelphia Corporation for Aging	Veterans Health Council
American Society for Nutrition	Generations United	Meals on Wheels of Lehigh County	National Foundation to End Senior Hunger	Project Angel Food	VNA Meals on Wheels
American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (A.S.P.E.N.)	God's Love We Deliver	Medicaid Health Plans of America	National Grange	PurFoods/Mom's Meals	Washoe County Social Services, Senior Nutrition Services
American Society on Aging	Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.	MidPen Resident Services	National Hispanic Council on Aging	RetireSafe	West Health
AOTA	Healthcare Nutrition Council	NACOG AAA	National Hispanic Medical Association	SAGE - Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders	Western Reserve AAA
Area Agency on Aging 3 (Lima, OH)	Helping Hands of Las Vegas Valley	National Alliance for Caregiving	National Indian Council on Aging	Salvation Army	YMCA of the USA
Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging	Hunger Free America		National Medical Association	Senior Nutrition Program-Santa Clara County	
				SeniorServ	

With That...

- We'd like to make 2019 another successful year and build on the progress already made
- We're interested in a few key areas this year:
 - Adoption of electronic clinical quality measures
 - Older Americans Act, due for reauthorization this year
 - Response to the malnutrition GAO study
 - Community care/outpatient transitions
- But plan to cover other ground as well

Top Policy Priorities

- Regulatory
- Legislative

Top Priority: Regulatory

- Malnutrition electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs) (to be covered later)
- Healthy People 2030 (and other similar initiatives)
- CMS and nutrition coverage in Medicare Advantage

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
- Submitted malnutrition objectives and comments (on our resource page)
- Similar initiatives are happening with other agencies/departments, including with the Surgeon General and in the NIH research agendas

CMS Coverage of Nutrition Services

- CMS should be releasing the “draft call letter” for Medicare Advantage and Part D any day now (last year released on February 1)
- The draft will specify CMS’ proposals for MA in 2020
- Participated in a meeting with Meals on Wheels America and Aetna at CMS, following a dialogue held by MOWA and Aetna
- Expected to be included is a further expansion of “health-related supplemental benefits” to include more HCBS programs, based on the CHRONIC Care Act’s passage
- Hopeful for nutrition coverage

Top Priority: Legislative

- Funding for FY2020
- 2019 Older Americans Act reauthorization
- Congressional relationship-building
- GAO report release

FY2020 Funding

- FY 2020 funding advocacy starts this spring with the release of the President's budget proposal (delayed due to shutdown)
- Expect to be working closely with coalition members on funding requests for Older Americans Act nutrition programs, USDA nutrition and research programs, and other important nutrition-related funding

Older Americans Act (OAA) Reauthorization

- Work on the 2019 OAA reauthorization, with a focus on nutrition
 - Some initial thoughts include improved nutrient quality in foods, including commodities in Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP); more focused malnutrition content in nutrition education
- Conduct session at a major nutrition conference on ideas/strategies
- Participate in any activities around reauthorization generated by Administration

Congressional Update: Older Americans Act

- Carrie Hughes, Director of Health Policy and Senior Policy Advisor, House Committee on Education and Labor, U.S. House of Representatives

Further Congressional Activity

- Continue to cultivate existing relationships with staff and members and make new members/staff aware of this issue
 - Work to cultivate more champions in House particularly
- Awaiting recommendations of Government Accountability Office (GAO) report regarding Sens. Murray/Casey request on nutrient quality of federal senior nutrition programs.
- Look for other possible relevant committee or subcommittee activity in both House and Senate; testify and/or submit written testimony
- Work with ASPEN to get further formal Congressional recognition for Malnutrition Awareness Week™ in 2019, possibly in the form of a Senate resolution.
- Sharing op-eds, journal articles, etc. as we write them throughout the year with key staff

Top Practice Priority

- Nutrition care in the community and in outpatient care transitions

CBO Advisory Council

- Collaborating with Gary and Mary West Health Institute to form a subgroup of DMT/Advisory Council on community-based organizations and their role in combatting malnutrition
 - Brenda Schmitthenner and her team have conducted very important work on this project
- We will be examining ways to help CBOs of all kinds in raising awareness of older adult malnutrition
- If you are interested in working with us on this, please let us know

Update on VA Work

- Anne Utech, National Director, Veterans Health Administration Nutrition and Food Services, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Other Regulatory Items

- Continue to build on National Resource Center on Nutrition and Aging's work, including NANASP subgrant
- Dietary Guidelines update
- 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 and the National Rural Health Advisory Council

Administration Relationships

- Furthering our work with the VA
- ACL working with partners on National Nutrition Month, Older Americans 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.
- Continue sharing op-eds, journal articles, etc. throughout the year with key staff

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
- Explore possibility of Congressional working group on malnutrition and older adults

Malnutrition eQMs

- Renewed hope for Administration action on the eQMs
- DMT sent a letter jointly with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics to HHS Sec. Azar
- Azar had said in a November speech:
 - Data from the Agency for Health Research and Quality at HHS found that Americans with malnutrition are twice as costly to treat at the hospital as those who come in well-nourished. In fact, malnutrition is involved in 12 percent of non-maternal, non-neonatal hospital stays—\$42 billion each year in healthcare spending. Naturally, a number of private health providers and payers have already tried addressing this issue: One ACO in Chicago, for instance, began screening high-risk patients for malnutrition, and then supporting them after discharge from the hospital with follow-ups, referrals, and nutrition coupons. The savings were huge: more than \$3,800 per patient.

Malnutrition
Electronic
Clinical Quality
Measures,
Advocacy

- Jeanne Blankenship, Vice President of Policy Initiatives and Advocacy, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Wrap-Up

- We hope to work more with all of you and hear more from you
- Please email at any time with questions, comments
- We look forward to another fantastic and productive year

Questions?
Comments?

- Check out our website at <http://defeatmalnutrition.today>
- Email info@defeatmalnutrition.today or mponder@matzblancato.com