

# defeat **malnutrition** today 2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

As we continue our fifth anniversary year, we are pleased to provide you with a report of our year in review. The main purpose of DMT is to create federal policy change toward a greater emphasis on screening, detecting, treating and preventing older adult malnutrition.

## HIGHLIGHTS IN BRIEF

- A bipartisan Senate resolution recognizing Malnutrition Awareness Week™ 2020 was passed by the full Senate on November 12, 2020. It was led by Sens. Chris Murphy and Chuck Grassley and co-sponsored by over 20 Senators.
- The Older Americans Act reauthorization was signed into law. It includes first-time malnutrition screening and prevention language.
- After numerous oral and written comments to the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee and a meeting with the agencies responsible for writing the Guidelines, older adult malnutrition and sarcopenia were included in the Guidelines.
- We updated our *National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults*.
- We launched a COVID-19/malnutrition informational site which has received over 2,000 views.

## MEMBERSHIP

We are now up to [107 organizational members](#). These organizations joined in 2020, increasing our membership by 8 organizations:

- Cynthia Chow and Associates
- Massachusetts Councils on Aging
- Meals on Wheels Western South Dakota
- MySurgeryPlate LLC
- Neighborly Care Network
- NOBEL Women
- Open Hand Atlanta
- se4a

## DETAILED ACTIONS

### **Congressional Work**

During Malnutrition Awareness Week™, a **bipartisan resolution** was introduced by Sens. Chris Murphy (D-CT) and Chuck Grassley (R-IA) with [over 20 Senators](#) to recognize the week. It ultimately passed the full Senate. DMT also held a **Congressional briefing** ([slides](#), [video/audio](#)) that week during which Rep. Bonamici (D-OR) and staff from Sens. Murphy and Grassley's offices spoke, in addition to other DMT member organizations' representatives. Over 30 states

and the National Lieutenant Governors Association also participated in Malnutrition Awareness Week this year through Senate resolution sponsorship, state proclamations or resolutions, state agency proclamations, or a combination of these.

32 Members of Congress signed a bipartisan [letter](#) supporting malnutrition quality measures that was sent to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in December.

The bipartisan **Older Americans Act reauthorization** added malnutrition screening to the Act's programs and adds malnutrition prevention as part of the purposes of the Act's nutrition programs for the first time. It was signed into law in March. We have been and continue to work on implementation of these provisions.

Congress also included several [report language provisions](#) related to malnutrition in its final fiscal year 2021 appropriations bills.

### Regulatory Comments

We have submitted several **regulatory comments** in 2020:

- [Comments](#) to CMS on the importance of telehealth access
- [Comments](#) to CMS on the Physician Fee Schedule rule
- [Comments](#) to the National Institute of Health (NIH) on COVID-19 and malnutrition

### Other Comments and Writing

We updated the *National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults*. The *2020 Update* and accompanying release and updated infographics are on our website [here](#). We also issued a [press release](#) with this launch.

We provided oral and [written](#) comments to the **Dietary Guidelines for Americans Advisory Committee**. The Committee and USDA took our comments into account and for the first time mentioned older adult malnutrition in the 2020-2025 Guidelines.

We updated our malnutrition policy [timeline](#) in May to coincide with the release of the Blueprint update.

We wrote one-pagers on [ERAS](#) (Enhanced Recovery After Surgery) and malnutrition and on Qualified Clinical Data Registries.

We wrote a [blog post](#) for the American Society on Aging, a member organization, on Malnutrition Awareness Week™.

We wrote an article for the *Journal of Elder Policy* which will be published in 2021.

### Webinars

We held three **webinars** in 2020:

- January: webinar ([slides](#), [video/audio](#)) on the Government Accountability Office older adult nutrition programs report
- August: webinar ([slides](#)) with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics on state advocacy
- October: virtual Congressional briefing ([slides](#), [video/audio](#)) on Malnutrition Awareness Week

### Presentations

We presented at **over 30 virtual conferences and events** on the topic of malnutrition this year, including at the American Society on Aging conference, the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) conference, a Women in Government panel, the National Medical Association, and the National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference.

### Media Coverage

We appeared in a USA Today special supplement on healthy aging.

### Other Activities

We created an online [forum](#) for DMT members to network and promote their malnutrition work. Our website overall had almost **10,000 views** in 2020.

We launched a COVID-19 and malnutrition informational [website](#) with resources for professionals and the public which has received over 2,000 views since it launched. We released a [press statement](#) to accompany this site, which was covered by multiple news outlets.

We participated in a Twitter chat for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' month of malnutrition in September.

We continue to hold calls with our members to keep them informed of the work of DMT.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

DMT looks forward to working with the Biden-Harris Administration in 2021 as well as the new Democratic Majority in the Senate on malnutrition and related nutrition security legislation with a continuing emphasis on older adults. We look forward to the appointments of key positions in both HHS and USDA with jurisdiction over nutrition and will work to establish early relationships. We will also work to strengthen our relationships with the chairs of key committees and subcommittees in the House and Senate, including Sens. Murray, Stabenow, Casey, and Scott and Rep. DeLauro.

We will also be releasing an update to our State Legislative Toolkit and a new Federal Legislative Toolkit. We will be advocating for more funding for nutrition programs for federal fiscal year 2022 and in any further covid-19 relief legislation. We will be actively involved in the new National Resource Center on Nutrition and Aging. We also plan to actively participate in National Nutrition Month in March and Malnutrition Awareness Week in October.

We will be working to continue to increase the size and stature of our coalition. As DMT continues to grow, we will continue to communicate on a regular basis with our members. If your organization is interested in becoming more involved in the work of DMT, please let Meredith know at [mponder@matzblancato.com](mailto:mponder@matzblancato.com).