

# defeat **malnutrition** today      2018 END OF YEAR REPORT

Thank you to all our members for an excellent and productive year! We achieved many of the major goals we laid out at the beginning of 2018, including:

- Advocating successfully for passage of the Farm Bill with language expanding the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and maintaining other important nutrition and research programs
- Forming closer ties to the Veterans Administration and other regulatory/administrative agencies
- Securing congressional recognition of Malnutrition Awareness Week™ through numerous statements for the record and floor speeches
- Advocating successfully for increased funding for Older Americans Act senior nutrition programs in both the FY2018 and FY2019 funding agreements

## MEMBERSHIP

We are now up to **83 organizational members**. These organizations have joined since January, increasing our membership by 15 organizations, or 22%:

- Aging & In-Home Services of Northeast Indiana, Inc.
- American Geriatrics Society
- American Society for Nutrition
- Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.
- MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
- Medicaid Health Plans of America
- The National Caucus and Center on Black Aging
- National Minority Quality Forum
- North Dakota Senior Service Providers
- PA Foundation
- Philadelphia Corporation for Aging
- TIRR Memorial Hermann
- Trinity Health
- Tufts University Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging
- YMCA of the USA

## ACTIONS

### **Comments**

We have submitted numerous **regulatory, legislative, and other comments**:

- [Comments](#) to the HHS Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) on a Request for Information
- [Comments](#) to the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) All of Us research question campaign

- [Comments](#) to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on their Medicare Advantage proposed rule
- [Comments](#) on the new Dietary Guidelines request for comments
- [Comments](#) to the House Appropriations Agriculture Subcommittee regarding funding for FY 2019 programs under their subcommittee
- [Comments](#) to CMS on quality measures regarding transfer of health information when patients transition care settings
- [Comments](#) on the NIH proposal for a geroscience conference
- [Comments](#) on the NIH National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases Strategic Plan
- [Comments](#) to the Surgeon General
- [Comments](#) on the National Institute on Aging's Strategic Directions for Research
- [Comments](#) on the Draft Strategic Plan for NIH Nutrition Research

### Other Comments and Writing

We sent a [letter](#) to **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Seema Verma** in April to ask about CMS's progress in fulfilling the promises made during her confirmation hearing and in the final FY 2018 quality measures rule. Kate Goodrich, MD, Director of the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality and CMS Chief Medical Officer, responded on behalf of CMS that they "agree that understanding determinants for health such as malnutrition among beneficiaries is an important issue to support," and that they are "reviewing [the measures] based upon the new Meaningful Measures Initiative." You can read her response [here](#).

We also sent a [letter](#) to **HHS Secretary Alex Azar** in November to commend him on his comments recognizing malnutrition as a serious crisis in the American health care system and to recommend some actions the Administration could take to help alleviate this issue.

For Older Americans Month in May, DMT wrote a **blog post** for the International Council on Active Aging on good nutrition and healthy aging. You can read it [here](#).

We created a [state infographic](#) to discuss how state legislators can take action on older adult malnutrition.

We **co-hosted a dialogue on malnutrition in post-acute and community-based care** with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and Avalere Health in March. [Written proceedings](#) from the Dialogue and an [infographic](#) are now available.

### Malnutrition Awareness Week

The September 2018 Malnutrition Awareness Week™, created and sponsored by the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN) was very successful.

Five US Representatives and two US Senators made **statements for the Congressional Record**:

- [Sen. Bob Casey](#)
- [Sen. Patty Murray](#)

- [Rep. Suzanne Bonamici](#)
- [Rep. Rosa DeLauro](#)
- [Rep. Lynn Jenkins](#)
- [Rep. Norma Torres](#)
- [Rep. Joyce Beatty](#)

Also, both [Sen. Tim Kaine](#) and the [U.S. Administration on Aging](#) posted on Facebook.

[Bob Blancato was published in The Hill](#) and [Meredith Whitmire wrote a blog post for ICAA](#). ASPEN and West Health both wrote articles for the [DMT website](#). DMT also took part in ASPEN's **Twitter chat**, which you can read at the hashtag #MAWChat2018 [here](#). We also participated in several **webinars**, including one for ASPEN and one for the American Society on Aging.

### Congressional Work

We have **worked closely with members of Congress** this year, including working with Sens. Bob Casey and Susan Collins' staff on the Nourishing Our Golden Years Act and the Farm Bill.

In response to last year's Government Accountability Office (GAO) research request to study malnutrition made by Sens. Bob Casey and Patty Murray, **DMT was interviewed by the GAO**.

On April 26, DMT National Coordinator Bob Blancato **testified before the US House Appropriations Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee**. In his [comments](#), he drew the link between malnutrition and elder abuse, as well as thanking the subcommittee for increases to Older Americans Act nutrition programs in the FY 2018 omnibus bill.

### Webinars

We held a **webinar in February on our 2018 policy agenda**. You can see the recording and download the slides [here](#). Information on the Nourishing Our Golden Years Act can be found [here](#).

We held a **webinar in November on state legislative actions** ([recording](#), [slides](#)) and our state legislative [toolkit](#).

We also co-sponsored a webinar in December on malnutrition work being done by **the Veterans Administration**. We have been working closely with the VA this year to further our mutual interest in malnutrition prevention and treatment.

### Presentations

We have presented at **39 conferences and events** on the topic of malnutrition this year, including the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo (FNCE), the American Society on Aging (ASA) conference, the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) conference, the International Council on Active Aging (ICAA) conference, the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP) conference, and the National Black Nurses Association Capitol Hill Day. We also presented at the Hidden Hunger conference

in DC, the HHS Healthy Aging Summit in DC, and conferences in Charlotte, NC; Miami, FL; Akron, OH; and Portsmouth, NH; among others.

The **Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics**, a DMT member, dedicated their DC Public Policy Workshop (PPW) and Capitol Hill visits to malnutrition, and had significant content on malnutrition at FNCE. Both Bob Blancato and Meredith Whitmire participated in PPW presentations and visits as well as FNCE.

The **Women in Government conference**, a convening of state legislators, also dedicated significant time to malnutrition. Bob Blancato spoke at this conference and encouraged state legislators to take action.

From the March **ASA conference**, you can download the slides [here](#) from our presentation on shared decision-making and [here](#) from our presentation on malnutrition in nursing homes. From the November **GSA conference**, you can view our poster [here](#). From the July **HHS Healthy Aging Summit**, you can view our poster [here](#). The **Hidden Hunger conference** led to the publication of a September article in *Nutrients* co-authored by Bob Blancato; it can be viewed [here](#).

We also presented on the *National Blueprint* at the first meeting of the **Massachusetts Malnutrition Prevention Commission** in February and worked with members of the **Ohio Malnutrition Prevention Commission** to further solutions for older adult malnutrition in central Ohio.

### **Other Activities**

We participated in several member-convened events, including **the West Health malnutrition visioning session** which created a roadmap to combat malnutrition. We also participated in the **MAZON/SAGE LGBT senior hunger summit** in October, and the **September meeting convened by Aetna and Meals on Wheels America** to discuss home-delivered meal coverage under Medicare Advantage.

We are also continuing to **expand our relationships with other coalitions**, including the Food Is Medicine Coalition.

We **serve as a resource** to inquiries from the public, press, and Congress about malnutrition prevention, treatment, and policy.

### **WHAT'S NEXT?**

We are excited to continue working on federal and state malnutrition initiatives in 2019, including identifying new states to expand grassroots efforts, releasing a federal policy toolkit, and hosting a series of webinars. We are also expanding further into outpatient/community initiatives. We look forward to working with you in 2019.