

# defeat **malnutrition** today

## 2022 Year in Review

We are pleased to provide you a review of 2022 actions of the 121-member Defeat Malnutrition Today coalition. The main purpose of DMT is to raise awareness of older adult malnutrition and advocate for the creation of federal policy changes toward a greater emphasis on screening, detecting, treating, and preventing older adult malnutrition.

### HIGHLIGHTS IN BRIEF

- Successfully advocated for inclusion of the Global Malnutrition Composite Score in the CMS Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program via work including congressional letters, webinars, and comments
- Invited to and attended the in-person White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health held on September 28; conducted pre-conference listening sessions among DMT members and at the USAging conference and post-conference strategy sessions
- Worked with the Administration for Community Living through an invitation-only Technical Expert Panel to write questions on malnutrition and food insecurity for the National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants
- Introduction of Malnutrition Awareness Week resolutions and passage of resolutions on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Older Americans Act
- Advocated for the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act in conjunction with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and other organizations
- Published in The Hill with co-author Rep. Suzanne Bonamici and multiple other publications and news outlets; quoted in a Bloomberg Government article in advance of the White House conference
- Published updated toolkits for federal legislators and advocates
- Launched a consumer resource hub on our website
- Presented on malnutrition at key conferences

### PUBLICATIONS, COMMENTS AND STATEMENTS

We wrote 13 comments this year. We wrote comments in support of the proposed FY23 [Global Malnutrition Composite Score](#), proposed CY23 [Medicare Advantage performance measures](#), and on [health equity in Medicare Advantage](#) to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. We also wrote comments to the DGA on the [Scientific Questions for next Dietary Guidelines for America](#), and to the U.S. Preventive Services task force on [fall prevention](#) and [Research Plan for Food Insecurity](#). We also submitted two comments ([Comment 1](#) and [Comment 2](#)) on the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health. To the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, we commented on [federal health equity](#), to the USDA we commented on [USDA research priorities](#), to AHRQ we commented on their [Draft Nutrition and](#)

[Cancer Report, Pathways to Prevention \(P2P\) Nutrition as Prevention for Improved Cancer Health Outcomes](#), and [Person-Centered Care Planning for Multiple Chronic Conditions](#).

We sent 31 communications to our members this year, including nine Malnutrition Connection newsletters:

- [December 2022](#)- Diversity of Research Methods Paper & Federal Older Adult Nutrition Research Agenda
- [November 2022](#)- Malnutrition in State OAA
- [September 2022](#)- Malnutrition Awareness Week
- [July/August 2022](#)- Global Malnutrition Composite Score Measure
- [June 2022](#)- CRS Memo on older adult malnutrition
- [May 2022](#) – Roundtable on Health Equity and Malnutrition
- [April 2022](#)- CMS Global Malnutrition Measure and how to comment
- [March 2022](#)- Federal Advocacy Toolkits
- [January-February 2022](#)- Advocacy for State Policies to Address Malnutrition

Bob Blancato, our national coordinator, published an article in the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics on [Nutrition Security at the Intersection of Health Equity and Quality Care](#) (2022, Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics) and co-authored an article with Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) in the Hill: [Opportunities to advance malnutrition care and health equity](#).

We were published in the International Council on Active Aging's blog and on Generations Now, the American Society for Aging's blog:

- ICAA: [New advocacy toolkit spotlights malnutrition in older adults](#)
- Generations Now:  
[White House Conference Provides Opportunity to Support Healthy Aging](#)  
[Advancing Healthy Nutrition and Aging with New Resources for Federal Advocacy](#)  
[Remembering the Impact of Malnutrition and Food Insecurity on Healthy Aging](#)

We were quoted in a Bloomberg Government article in advance of the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health.

We also launched a [consumer resource hub](#) on our website.

We encourage you to use all these new resources in your work!

## MEMBERSHIP

DMT welcomed 2 new members to the coalition in 2022:

- Health Foundation for Western & Central NY

- George Mason University: College of HHS

This brings our membership up to **121** organizations!

## ADVOCACY WORK

- National Coordinator Bob Blancato testified before the House Appropriations Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee in May on the topic of healthy aging, specifically elder justice, malnutrition, and the importance of the Older Americans Act Nutrition Programs.
- We held a listening session with DMT members and with USAging conference attendees to gather policy ideas for and participated in the in-person White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health.
- Our advocacy led to a reference to older adult malnutrition in the White House conference principles.
- We advocated for the introduction of Malnutrition Awareness Week resolutions in September and passage of resolutions on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Older Americans Act in March.
- We worked with the Administration for Community Living in the spring through an invitation-only Technical Expert Panel to write questions on malnutrition and food insecurity for the National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants.
- National Coordinator Bob Blancato and policy director Meredith Ponder Whitmire participated in the October USDA nutrition security summit “Leveraging the White House Conference to Promote and Elevate Nutrition Security: The Role of the USDA Food and Nutrition Service.”
- National Coordinator Bob Blancato presented to the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine at their May workshop: Nutritional Practices, Challenges, and Policies Affecting Older Adults.
- We have been working with other organizations to advocate on behalf of the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act and have been part of multiple Congressional meetings throughout the year.

## WEBINARS, CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

We hosted 6 webinars in 2022:

- Malnutrition in Underserved Populations: State Actions and Advocacy ([slides](#), [video/audio](#))
- 2022 policy agenda
- Co-hosted with the International Council on Active Aging on advocating for Older Adult malnutrition and the inpatient malnutrition measure ([slides](#), [video](#))
- Lessons Learned: State Actions and Advocacy to Address Malnutrition ([slides](#), [video/audio](#))

- Co-hosted with the International Council on Active Aging on the links between food insecurity, nutrition, and mental health
- Connecting Science to Practice: The OAA Nutrition Program as Malnutrition Prevention with Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF) ([slides](#))

We also presented on malnutrition to several groups/conferences, including:

- ASPEN Malnutrition Awareness Week
- Centralina Regional Council
- Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging; LMTAAA Falls Prevention Coalition
- NANASP
- NIH Malnutrition Workshop
- National Organization of Black Elected Legislative (NOBEL) Women
- National Black Nurses Association
- New England Regional Elder Nutrition Conference
- USAging
- Women In Government

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023

Our top priorities include work on the early stages of implementing the Global Malnutrition Composite Score measure, focusing on promoting successful community partnerships. We will monitor and advocate for older adult nutrition needs in the upcoming Farm Bill, 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, Healthy People 2030 and any Food is Medicine legislation. We will also be advocating for further funding for federal nutrition programs and research, including the Older Americans Act nutrition programs through regular appropriations.

We will also continue to advocate for the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act and passage of the Elder Justice Reauthorization and Modernization Act. Finally, we will be working with the new Nutrition and Aging Resource Center to further disseminate coalition resources and integrate malnutrition into the Center's priorities.

## GET ACTIVE!

Email Meredith Whitmire at [mponder@matzblancato.com](mailto:mponder@matzblancato.com) to get involved in comments, letters, advocacy and more!