



JUNE 2019

# MALNUTRITION CONNECTION

Providing Malnutrition Awareness and Advocacy Information to Share

## Older Adult Malnutrition Awareness Week™ in Massachusetts

From May 13<sup>th</sup> – May 20<sup>th</sup>, Massachusetts celebrated Older Adult Malnutrition Awareness Week™. More than 60 seniors attended the kick-off event in Boston. Throughout the week, more than 80 senior malnutrition clinics were offered throughout the Commonwealth and the Week was recognized by the Governor and Lt Governor as part of [Older Americans Month in Massachusetts](#).

Shirley Chao, Director of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs, kicked off the program by expressing her excitement around the Massachusetts Malnutrition Commission and the impact it has made in a relatively short period of time. It was announced that the Governor's administration **FY'20 budget proposal** includes a \$2.4 million increase for the Senior Nutrition Program – this is a first in the Commonwealth.



The Massachusetts Malnutrition Commission members who attended the kick-off event. Pictured (left to right): Penny McGuire, Rebecca Davidson, Margery Gann, Diana M. Hoek, Robert Blancato, Tara Hammes, Dalia Cohen, Amy Sheeley, Shirley Chao



Pictured (left to right) is Bob Blancato from Defeat Malnutrition Today, Shirley Chao with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs, and Mike Festa who is the Executive Director of AARP in Massachusetts.

Emily Shea, Commissioner for the Boston Age Strong Commission, presented Shirley Chao with a Certificate of Recognition from Boston's Mayor Martin J. Walsh for her outstanding efforts in coordinating the Malnutrition Commission and its ongoing initiatives. Shea also presented a proclamation from the Mayor designating May 13-May 20 as Older Adult Malnutrition Awareness Week™ in the City of Boston. Bob Blancato from Defeat Malnutrition Today updated the attendees on how the House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS-Ed) Appropriations Subcommittee recently passed a proposal that would increase funding for the Older Americans Act (OAA) Nutrition Program of \$93 million over current levels, would bring total Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 funding to \$1 billion. Other speakers included Carole Malone, Assistant Secretary MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs; Mike Festa, Massachusetts Executive Director for AARP; and Commission members Tara Hammes and Alie Hill from Boston Age Strong/ETHOS Senior Services ran the hands-on malnutrition screening clinic.

After the speaking program, the screening clinic addressed many of the misconceptions around malnutrition and screeners performed individual malnutrition risk screening using the Malnutrition Screening Tool (MST) and frailty screening.



Pictured is a proclamation from Mayor Martin J. Walsh declaring May 13-May 20 as Older Adult Malnutrition Awareness Week™ in the City of Boston. A similar proclamation will be issued in September by Governor Charlie Baker designating ASPEN's Malnutrition Awareness Week™ (Sept. 24 – Sept. 28) throughout the state.

Did you miss the Defeat Malnutrition Today webinar that was held on May 30<sup>th</sup>?

Check it out today: <http://bit.ly/2QGB3ty>