



AUGUST 2017

MALNUTRITION CONNECTION

Providing Malnutrition Awareness and Advocacy Information to Share

Defeating Malnutrition Today: State-Level Actions and Activities

On July 27th, Defeat Malnutrition Today joined with The Academy for Nutrition and Dietetics to host a webinar on the prevalence of malnutrition among older adults in the United States, detail existing state advocacy and policy initiatives to address it, and develop new ideas to combat the crisis.

Speakers included: Bob Blancato, National Coordinator for Defeat Malnutrition Today, Senator Barbara Favola, Member of the Virginia State Legislature, Meredith Ponder Whitmire, JD, Policy Director for Defeat Malnutrition Today, Tara Hammes Hatala, Director of Nutrition Advocacy and Planning, Commission on Affairs of the Elderly for the City of Boston, Dona Greenwood, PhD, RD LD, Keiser University and Osceola Council on Aging, and Jeanne Blankenship, MS, RDN, Vice President, Policy Initiatives and Advocacy, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Highlights from the webinar included:

- Introducing the “Advancing Policies for Quality Malnutrition Care in Older Adults: A State Legislative Toolkit”:
 - Released this month and posted on defeatmalnutrition.today.
 - For use in state legislative/advocacy initiatives including sample social media, press releases, and constituent communication for legislators.
- Giving an update on the Massachusetts Commission on Malnutrition Prevention Among Older Adults:
 - Commission started due to lack of screening/assessment/intervention, no effective management across care continuum and need for documentation of malnutrition in older adults to combat it.
 - Role of Commission is to: 1) Study the impact of malnutrition on seniors across care settings; 2) Investigate effective strategies for reducing malnutrition; and 3) Monitor the impact of malnutrition on older adults’ healthcare costs, outcomes, quality indicators and quality of life measures.

Upcoming activities and resources offered by the Academy for Nutrition and Dietetics:

- Affiliate Initiative for Malnutrition Advocacy: State Policy Representatives Training, Open Forum, Additional Resources, and Watch Public Policy Weekly News (Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Advocacy).

Sample Social Media Content:



- Released this month: Advancing Policies for Quality Malnutrition Care in Older Adults: A State Legislative Toolkit: <http://bit.ly/2wE3z3x>
- Join us in helping defeat older adult malnutrition! Get involved with advocacy by using the legislative toolkit: <http://bit.ly/2wE3z3x>

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Defeat Malnutrition Today: defeatmalnutrition.today

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: <http://www.eatright.org/>

Advancing Policies for Quality Malnutrition Care in Older Adults: A State Legislative Toolkit: <http://bit.ly/2wE3z3x>