

NOVEMBER 2018

MALNUTRITION CONNECTION

Providing Information to Share on Malnutrition Awareness and Advocacy

On Tuesday, November 13th, Defeat Malnutrition Today hosted a State Policy Webinar. The webinar featured speakers from Ohio, Massachusetts, and Florida who shared their stories of working on malnutrition as providers and advocates, on the Malnutrition Commissions in their states, and on malnutrition initiatives that have formed to meet the goals of the Commissions.

Carrie Baker, President and CEO of the [Healthcare Collaborative of Greater Columbus](#), spoke about how the HCGC convened multiple stakeholders to host a community consensus around implementing the state's malnutrition recommendations that came from the Ohio Malnutrition Commission's work. Ms. Baker spoke to the process of organizing all the stakeholders, formulating goals from the Ohio Malnutrition Commission's findings, and creating a toolkit for advocates.

Shirley Y. Chao, Director of Nutrition Services of the [Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs](#), Ph.D, RD, LD/N, spoke to the legislative process of establishing a Commission. Ms. Chao also spoke to the Commission's mission of studying the effects of malnutrition on older adults, ways to reduce malnutrition in Massachusetts, highlighting the impacts on health care quality indicators, costs and outcomes, and maximizing the dissemination of proven, effective malnutrition prevention interventions, including community nutrition programs, medical nutrition therapy and oral nutrition supplements, and identifying barriers to those interventions. She spoke about how the Commission went about turning this mission into goals that can be implemented to prevent and treat malnutrition in the state.

Heather Wayco, Director of Clinical Nutrition at [Lee Health](#), MHA, RDN, LD, spoke about the impact of malnutrition on the state of Florida and the current goal of building a coalition of stakeholders and advocates to create a statewide Malnutrition Advisory Council. Ms. Wayco also spoke about Lee Health and how the health system has focused on combating malnutrition especially as patients move through transitions of care from the hospital to home.

The State Legislative Toolkit: [Advancing Policies for Quality Malnutrition Care in Older Adults](#) is available for anyone who is interested in getting involved in starting malnutrition policy changes in their state.



Watch the recording of the State Policy Webinar:

<https://bit.ly/2FFqjWC>

The Defeat Malnutrition Today Coalition is a coalition of over 80 national, state, and local stakeholders and organizations, including community, healthy aging, nutrition, advocacy, healthcare professional, faith-based, and private sector groups.

Are you interested in joining as an individual or organization?

Contact Meredith Ponder Whitmire at mponder@matzblancato.com to learn more!

Social Media Content:

- #ICYMI check out @DefeatMalnutrition webinar on State Policy and learn how your state can take action on #malnutrition <https://bit.ly/2FFqjWC>
- Take some time before the holidays to check out the State Policy Webinar hosted by @DefeatMalnutrition and learn how you can take action on #malnutrition <https://bit.ly/2FFqjWC>