2018 Policy Agenda Webinar

Bob Blancato and Meredith Ponder Whitmire
February 1, 2018
Introduction

- Thank you so much for joining the webinar!
- Going to discuss the policy agenda for Defeat Malnutrition Today for 2018
- Joined by some members of the coalition as well as congressional staff to expand on certain topics
Background

• In case you’re unfamiliar with DMT, we started in 2015 with a handful of groups and have grown to 70 national, state and local member organizations

• All interested in combatting older adult malnutrition

• Over the past two years, we’ve:
  • Held webinars and a Congressional advocacy day
  • Submitted comments to CMS and other agencies and departments
  • Supported malnutrition electronic clinical quality measures
  • Written a review article on malnutrition in federal policy
  • Participated in national, state and local conferences
  • Worked on malnutrition measures and activities in Massachusetts, Ohio, Virginia, and Florida
  • And, our biggest project to date, the National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults, was released last March
We’d like to make 2018 another successful year and build on the progress already made.

We’re interested in a few key areas this year:

- Malnutrition electronic clinical quality measures
- Farm Bill and its older adult nutrition programs
- Older Americans Act, due for reauthorization in 2019

But plan to cover other ground as well.
Top Priority: Regulatory

- Malnutrition electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs)
- Healthy People 2030 (and other similar initiatives)
- Administration relationships
Malnutrition eCQMs

- Sharon McCauley, MS, MBA, RDN, LDN, FADA, FAND
- Senior Director, Quality Management, Malnutrition Quality Improvement Initiative; Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
MQii Measures Engagement
2018 Composite Measure Timeline

- **February**: Complete statistical modeling and outcomes model for composite
- **March**: LC 2.0 Quantitative Data Analysis
- **April**: Collection LC 2.0 Data (Continued)
- **May**: Submit Composite to MUC List
- **June**: IPPS FY 2019 Proposed Rule Released

- **Public comments to support inclusion of eCQMs in 2019 IQR – 60 days from rule release**

**LC 2.0 Key Date**
- Draft and prepare documentation for submission to MUC list
- NQF Meeting with CMS to discuss committee assignment for composite
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- Potentially submit malnutrition composite measure for NQF endorsement review

**Rulemaking Activity**
- NQF Activity
- Visibility Opportunity
- LC 2.0 Activity
- Composite Measure
- eCQMs
MQii Measures Engagement
2018 Composite Measure Timeline (Continued)

- **July**
  - MUC Submission Deadline – Late June / Early July
  - IPPS FY 2019 Final Rule Released

- **August**
  - Malnutrition Awareness week
  - FNCE 2018

- **September**
  - Potential NQF endorsement review of the malnutrition composite measure

- **October**
  - IPS 2019 Final Rule Released
  - MAP Hospital Workgroup Draft Report – Late Dec.

- **November**
  - MAP List released to MAP
  - Support CMS with presentation of composite to MAP Hospital Workgroup

- **December**
  - Engage with stakeholder partners and supporters to prepare comments for MAP Draft Report

Potential NQF endorsement review of the malnutrition composite measure
Since our formation, the coalition has been working to have the federal government recognize malnutrition care and reduction of malnutrition as goals/priorities.

- Worked on the Healthy People 2020 process but were ultimately unsuccessful in getting malnutrition reduction objectives in as national goals.

- However, with new data on malnutrition, we are optimistic that HP 2030 may be different—and the process is happening now.

- Similar initiatives are happening with other agencies/departments—NIH All of Us campaign one example.
This year, we plan to convene one-on-one meetings where possible with federal staff who work on nutrition issues in federal agencies, including ACL, USDA, etc.

- ACL working with partners on National Nutrition Month and Malnutrition Awareness Week™

- Further strengthen connections with other federal agencies/departments that could be brought into this effort, such as CDC, SAMHSA, NIH/NIA, NIH/NIDDK, etc.

- Focus new attention on the VA and its work in nutrition/malnutrition

- Older Americans Month 2018: “Engage At Every Age”

- Continue sharing op-eds, journal articles, etc. throughout the year with key staff
• Malnutrition eCQMs
• Funding for FY2018/FY2019
• 2018 Farm Bill reauthorization and related bills
• 2019 Older Americans Act reauthorization
• Further Congressional activity
• Congressional relationship-building
FY2018 and FY2019 Funding

- Still in the middle of determining the FY 2018 final funding levels for all programs, including many important senior nutrition programs
- FY 2019 funding advocacy starts this month with the release of the President’s budget proposal
Marci Phillips, Director, Public Policy and Advocacy; National Council on Aging

Farm Bill expires Sept. 30, 2018

House still expected to move a bill first
  • Waiting on score from Congressional Budget Office (CBO)
  • Draft bill could be made public in March

Senate schedule unclear at this time
2018 Farm Bill Reauthorization

• Bills introduced with improvements for seniors:
  • H.R. 1276, Closing the Meal Gap Act of 2017 (Adams D-NC)
  • S. 1707 & H.R. 3749, SNAP Standard Medical Expense Deduction Act of 2017 (Gillibrand D-NY & Lawson D-FL)
  • H.R. 4521, SNAP Simplification for the Elderly Act (Lawson D-FL)
  • S. 2085, Nourishing Our Golden Years Act (Casey D-PA & Collins R-ME)
Related Bill: Nourishing Our Golden Years Act

- Samantha Koehler, Senate Special Committee on Aging minority staff member
Older Americans Act (OAA) Reauthorization

- Join NANASP/Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging in soliciting ideas for the 2019 OAA reauthorization, with a focus on nutrition
  - Initial thoughts include improved nutrient quality in foods, including commodities in Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP); more focused malnutrition content in nutrition education; look at use/role of oral nutrition supplements in future
- Conduct possible webinar on ideas and/or session at one major nutrition conference on ideas
- Participate in any activities around reauthorization generated by Administration
Further Congressional Activity

- Work expected to begin on Government Accountability Office (GAO) report regarding Sens. Murray/Casey request on nutrient quality of federal senior nutrition programs.
  - Expect to be involved and hope the report is done by the end of the year so recommendations can be followed up on

- Look for other possible relevant committee or subcommittee activity in both House and Senate; testify and/or submit written testimony

- Continue to cultivate existing relationships with staff and members
  - Work to cultivate more champions in House specifically

- Work with ASPEN to get formal Congressional recognition for Malnutrition Awareness Week™ in 2018, possibly in the form of a Senate resolution. Hold a Congressional reception (potentially with awards) during the week

- Sharing op-ed, journal articles, etc. as we write them throughout the year with key staff
Other Regulatory Items

- Continue to build on National Resource Center on Nutrition and Aging’s work
- Review results from Mathematica evaluations of nutrition programs
- Monitor work of entities such as United States Preventive Task Force, as well as various advisory committees of CMS like APOE and Advisory Committee on Minority Health
Other Legislative Items

- Look at possible legislative (or regulatory) activity around the Welcome to Medicare exam and annual wellness visits to include questions on malnutrition
- Work more closely with caucuses in Congress such as Caregiver, Elder Justice
- Explore possibility of Congressional working group on malnutrition and older adults
- Potential work with Senate Special Committee on Aging on a follow-up hearing on nutrition and older adults
Questions?
Comments?

• Get in touch!!
• Check out our website at http://defeatmalnutrition.today
• Email info@defeatmalnutrition.today