From Policy to Practice: Avenues for Making Change

2021 MAND Advocacy Day
Maryland Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
February 24, 2021
Noon-1 p.m. Eastern Time
Objectives

• Understand the relationship between policy, advocacy and advancement of the nutrition and dietetics profession

• Identify current Academy federal and state-level policy initiatives

• Learn how you can engage in grassroots advocacy efforts
Nate Stritzinger, MPH, RDN
Manager, Grassroots and State Advocacy
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

► I have no conflicts of interest to disclose ◄
Polling Question!

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 47 07 49 4

As a nutrition and dietetics professional, which issue is most important to you?

1. Payment and coverage of nutrition services
2. Telehealth
3. Licensure
4. Order-writing privileges
5. Food access and food security
6. Obesity care
7. Health equity
8. Something else? Type it in.
Every job in nutrition and dietetics is impacted by public policy.
Preparing for the 117th Congress

- Reintroduction of the MNT Act
- Appropriations funding
The MNT Act
Quick History Lesson: MNT Under Medicare Part B

1997

Congress instructs HHS and IOM to study MNT under Medicare
Quick History Lesson:
MNT Under Medicaid Part B

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1997

Congress authorizes MNT under Medicare for diabetes and renal disease

2000

IOM recommends MNT; Congress authorizes MNT under Medicare for diabetes and renal disease
Quick History Lesson: MNT Under Medicaid Part B

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2002: MNT Medicare benefit takes effect.
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2006: MNT added to list of Medicare telehealth services.
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2006
MNT added to list of Medicare telehealth services

2011
MNT no longer requires copay as preventive service
Fast-Forward to 2021...

- Physician referral required for MNT services
- Time and scheduling challenges
- Additional disease states not yet added under Medicare
- High rates of chronic disease endure
The MNT Act

- Introduced in 2020
- To be reintroduced in the 117th Congress
New Diagnoses Covered

- Prediabetes
- Obesity
- Hypertension
- Dyslipidemia
- Malnutrition
- Eating Disorders
- Cancer
- HIV/AIDS
- Celiac Disease
- Any other condition leading to unintentional weight loss
Other Provisions

- Allows for further expansion of MNT Medicare benefit
  - Authority given to the Secretary of Health
    - U.S. Preventative Services Task Force
    - Established protocols or clinical guidelines

- Broadens referring providers
Impact Beyond Medicare
Appropriations
Advocacy
Funding for Programs, Services and Research

USDA
- WIC
- Food Safety
- TEFAP
- DGAs

HHS
- OAA
- CDC
- NIDDK
- DGAs
SHOW ME THE MONEY!
Appropriations Advocacy Timeline

**Nov. – Dec.**
- Setting Priorities

**Dec. – Jan.**
- Collecting member stories

**Jan. – Feb.**
- Meeting with members of appropriations committee
- Filling out 302 (b) forms

**April**
- Submit outside witness testimony

**May – Sept.**
- Watching mark ups; suggesting amendments
State Policy: Licensure
State Licensure

- Licensure of Practice vs. Title Protection
- Definition of scope of practice
- Consumer protection is #1 reason!
National Licensure Strategy

• Developed in response to licensure landscape
• A partnership between the Academy and our affiliates!
• Solve tomorrow’s problems today
  • Scope of practice
  • Telehealth
  • Reciprocity
Overview of Challenges, State Initiatives

1. Affiliate-driven initiatives
   a) Therapeutic diet ordering
   b) Close loopholes; fix processes
   c) Stronger consumer protections

2. Recent challenge to dietetics licensure law (in courts and capitol)

3. Sunset (law or regs)
Advocacy: Avenues for Making Change
WHAT IF I TOLD YOU

YOUR VOICE ACTUALLY MAKES A DIFFERENCE?
Make Your Voice Heard

Take Action Alerts  
Share your story  
Fill out the Member Policy Interest Survey
Take Action Today

https://eatrightpro.org/action-center
Get Involved

Learn the policy issues

Know your elected officials

Meet with your elected officials
Connect with Your Legislators

• Schedule a meeting request
• Prepare for the meeting
  • Do your homework
  • Talking points
  • Leave-behind
How to Talk to Your Legislators

- It’s just a conversation
- Introduce yourself, highlight your constituency
- Keep it concise, easy to understand
- Facts and stories
- Clearly state your ‘ask’
Continue the Conversation

• Follow up
• Build on your relationships
• Practice makes perfect!
Virtual Advocacy: Do’s and Don’ts

**Do**
- Be flexible
- Keep meetings short
- Be candid and direct
- Prioritize relationship building

**Don’t**
- Rely on email exclusively
- Use video for every meeting
- Have too many people at each meeting
- Focus only on business
Recap

• Every job in nutrition and dietetics is impacted by food and nutrition policy
• The MNT Act expands coverage and payment opportunities for RDNs
• Federal appropriations = funding for crucial programs, services and research
• Licensure impacts legal scope of practice and helps us protect the public
• Your voice makes a difference - get out there and advocate!
Questions?

Nate Stritzinger, MPH, RDN
Manager, Grassroots and State Advocacy
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
nstritzinger@eatright.org