

**PRESIDENT REPORT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MAY 11-12, 2023**



It has been a tremendous honor to serve you as Academy President in the past year. Together as a Board of Directors and staff we have accomplished a great deal and moved the Academy's mission, vision and strategic plan forward. To all of you who are completing your Board service, I extend my gratitude and sincere thanks for your dedication, service and courage. Thank you in particular to Kevin Sauer for setting such a remarkable example for me to follow as President, and my best wishes and full support to Lauri Wright as she becomes our 2023-2024 President.

+++++

Following are activity highlights since our April 2023 meeting.

Members Honored for Professional Achievements

Academy members Mary Lee Chin, MS, RDN; Barbara Millen, DrPH, MPH, RD, LND, FADA; and Johanna Rohler, MBA, RD, were [honored](#) by Purdue University's College of Health and Human Services for their professional achievements.

Action Alerts Advocating for the Profession

Action alerts were created and shared with all practitioners in April on two legislative priorities:

- [The Senior Hunger Prevention Act \(S. 1036\)](#) would ensure older adults, grandparents, kinship caregivers and adults with disabilities are able to access food. Portions of the bill would streamline paperwork, help get food to people and increase resources.
- [The Special Diabetes Program](#) funds research on the prevention and cure of Type 1 diabetes. The program is administered by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease, in collaboration with multiple National Institutes of Health departments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Congress must take action to ensure funding continues for this critical program before it expires at the end of September.

To stay connected with the Academy's important action alerts and legislative updates, members can text eatright to 50457 and enroll in text alerts. You may also opt in by marking the "Send me text alerts" box whenever you take an action alert. If you previously marked this box, you are already subscribed and do not need to sign up again.

Increasing Utilization of MNT through Health Insurance Benefit Design

The Nutrition Services Coverage team continues to forge partnerships with insurance entities including the Office of Personnel Management, which oversees the Federal Employee Health Benefits, and the insurance broker Brown and Brown. The Academy works with both organizations, providing guidance on the utilization of MNT in benefit plans. Developing partnerships is vital to advance the goal of increasing consumer access to RDNs and nutrition services care for both chronic disease prevention and management.

Medicaid Mapping Project

Work continues on the Academy's mapping project with George Washington University to identify MNT coverage in each state Medicaid program. The main deliverable consists of a spreadsheet that includes a summary; state-by-state comparison table of language found by domain; language extracted during the review; and links to regulatory provisions, provider manuals, coverage policies and provider portals. Academy staff meets with GW biweekly to review updates on the project, document progress, discuss

challenges encountered and make recommendations for modifications. As of April 20, this project is on track to have all states analyzed and peer reviewed through the contract period.

Weekly Office Hours: Licensure and Payment and Reimbursement

The PIA team hosts weekly office hours to answer members' questions. Licensure office hours are held on Wednesdays, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (Central time) with staff answering questions on state licensure requirements or consumer protection and professional regulation issues. For questions on payment, reimbursement or coverage for nutrition services, Academy members are encouraged to join the payment and reimbursement office hours on Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. (Central time). No registration is required.

Meetings

February

- February 28: Academy member and RDN Linda Van Horn, represented the Academy at the American Heart Association Epidemiology/Lifestyles' Nutrition Committee meetings in Boston, Mass.

April

- April 4: Academy member and Rebecca Brody, RDN, represented the Academy at the meeting of the expert panel for the American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Cancer Foundation's Expert Consensus Statement: Management of Dysphagia in Head and Neck Cancer. The panel began its work in 2021, meeting regularly to develop the statement, which was published in March.
- April 12: Lauri Wright presented *Bridging the Boardroom and Classroom* at Bradley University.
- April 13: Kevin Sauer presented *Your Academy in Action* to the Wisconsin affiliate.
- April 13: Academy Member and RDN Karen Ehrens, Jeanne Blankenship and I met with Miguel Villarreal, interim co-executive director; Jessica Gudmundson, interim co-executive director; and Lynne LoPresto, Academy member and a member of the National Farm to School Network. We discussed opportunities for continued collaboration with the Academy and DPGs and resources the Academy can provide NFSN regarding farm to school activities.
- April 17: Livleen Gill presented *Your Academy in Action* to the Maryland affiliate.
- April 21: Livleen Gill presented *Your Academy in Action* to the North Carolina affiliate.
- April 22: Deanne Brandstetter presented *The Academy in Action* to the New York state affiliate.
- April 25: Tammy Randall presented *Bridging the Boardroom and Classroom* at BeWell Solutions.
- April 26-27: Pat Babjak, Livleen Gill, Lauri Wright and I participated in the Academy's virtual Nutrition Trends Forum.
- April 27: Lauri Wright presented *Your Academy in Action* to the West Virginia affiliate.
- April 27: I presented *Your Academy in Action* to the California affiliate.
- April 28: I presented *Your Academy in Action* to the Arkansas affiliate.

May

- May 8: Tammy Randall presented *Bridging the Boardroom and Classroom* at Life University.

SUBMITTED BY: Ellen R. Shanley, MBA, RDN, CDN, FAND