



The Dignity Digest

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March 4,

The Dignity Digest is information compiled by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts concerning long-term services, support, living options, and care issued each Friday.

*May require registration before accessing article.

Quotes

All people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect and to have access to quality medical care. And in no case should a health care facility be causing a patient harm.

President Joe Biden, *Protecting Seniors and People with Disabilities by Improving Safety and Quality of Care in the Nation's Nursing Homes*, **The White House**, February 28, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/WhiteHouseReformPlan>

"At some point, you know, the system is going to fracture because people need care and you can't get by without someone there to provide basic daily needs."

Tricia Neuman, senior vice president, Kaiser Family Foundation, *The pandemic pummeled long-term care – it may not recover quickly, experts warn*, **NPR Shots**, February 22, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/PandemicPummeledLTC>

"As Wall Street firms take over more nursing homes, quality in those homes has gone down and costs have gone up. That ends on my watch."

President Joe Biden, *After Nursing Home Push, Home Health Reform Could Be Up Next*, **Home Health Care News**, March 2, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/HomeHealthReformNext>

In disability culture, this is called "disability gain": the surprising benefits that an impairment can reap. This isn't about transcending one's disability, or being a "[supercrip](#)." Disability justice activists like [Stacey Milbern, who died in 2020](#), yearn for "[crip ancestries](#)": the stories and wisdom of disabled elders. If we share our disabled family stories, we might just find such ancestors right in our own families.

We Should Claim Our Disabled Ancestors with Pride, **New York Times** (free access), February 27, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/ClaimDisabledAncestors>

"The stress is unbearable. You've got to basically keep yourself safe, keep the residents safe, and then you've got to make sure that you do everything that you're supposed to do."

Patricia Johnson, a nurse aide at Ambassador Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Chicago and who has lost residents, colleagues and cousins to COVID-19, *The pandemic pummeled long-term care – it may not recover quickly, experts warn*, **NPR Shots**, February 22, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/PandemicPummeledLTC>

"We know that even before the pandemic, two years ago, there were already staff shortages. It's a perennial problem."

Susan Reinhard, executive director, AARP's Public Policy Institute, *The pandemic pummeled long-term care – it may not recover quickly, experts warn*, **NPR Shots**, February 22, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/PandemicPummeledLTC>

The economic recovery is not complete in the healthcare industry (nor in the economy as a whole). While hospitals and physician offices have returned to nearly pre-pandemic employment levels, industries such as elder care and nursing care continue to see relatively high unemployment employment. Average wages for these positions have increased significantly since the beginning of the pandemic.

What impact has the coronavirus pandemic had on health employment?, **Peterson Center on Healthcare - Kaiser Family Foundation**, December 10, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/ImpactHealthEmployment>

In the U.S., people other than non-Hispanic whites make up [less than 10%](#) of participants in clinical trials, the essential vehicles for evaluating promising diagnostic tools, drug treatments and medical devices. This lack of diversity has real world consequences.

Improving diversity in Alzheimer's research can help update the 'gold standard' for all medical research, **STAT News**, February 25, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/DiversityAlzheimersResearch>

“You can see why this [decision to limit coverage of Biogen’s drug Aduhelm] really causes concerns for CMS. We’re talking about literally millions of Medicare beneficiaries who’d be getting the treatment without clear evidence that it’s beneficial.”

Dr. Mark McClellan, former FDA commissioner and CMS administrator, *Medicare Proposal on Alzheimer’s Drug Draws Criticism from Drugmakers*, **Wall Street Journal**, February 24, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/AlzheimersDrugCriticism>

It’s always worth taking a look at the finances of Medicare, given its contribution to the health and well-being of older Americans and its dependence on the payroll tax, the key source of revenue for Social Security. The topic is much more exciting — and frightening — in the wake of Aduhelm, a drug developed by Biogen to treat early-stage Alzheimer’s disease with an original ask price of \$56,000 per patient per year.

Medicare’s finances and the saga of the Alzheimer’s drug Aduhelm, **MarketWatch**, February 24, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/SagaAduhelm>

“The Biden-Harris Administration remains committed to promoting value-based care that improves the health care experience of people with Medicare, Medicaid and Marketplace coverage. The Innovation Center is making improvements to existing models and launching new models to increase participation in our portfolio, and CMS will be a strong collaborator to health care providers that participate in those models.”

CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure said in a statement, *CMS Announces Changes to Direct Contracting for 2023, Unveils the ‘ACO REACH’ Model*, **Home Health Care News**, February 24, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/ACOREACHModel>

“We’re at a difficult passage here. Mixed in together are [Direct Contracting Entity] providers that you want to support and insurers that really, in my view, just add cost without adding value.”

Former CMS Administrator, Dr. Don Berwick, who supports altering the program, rather than eliminating it, *Trump-era Medicare program under increased scrutiny*, **Politico**, February 16, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/TrumpEraPolicyUnderScrutiny>

“It is completely baffling to me that the Biden administration wants to give the same bad actors in Medicare Advantage free rein in traditional Medicare. President Biden should not permit Medicare to be handed over to corporate profiteers. Doing so is going to increase costs and put more strain on the hospital insurance trust fund.”

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, *CMS Announces Changes to Direct Contracting for 2023, Unveils the ‘ACO REACH’ Model*, **Home Health Care News**, February 24, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/ACOREACHModel>

“The data was coming out on the PACE model, and how well it wraps around enrollees – with the home care model and the flexibility – compared to institutional providers. COVID really highlighted the success of PACE.”

Ja Policy Momentum, *Private Equity Interest Could Spur Major Growth for PACE de Gong*, founder and principal of consulting firm Jade Gong & Associates, ***Home Health Care News**, February 23, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/MajorGrowthPACE>

“I identified serious problems with the quality of care veterans were receiving and I brought these concerns to my supervisors. Instead of being recognized for my diligence, I was ignored and ultimately terminated.”

Beth Scheffler, acting chief nursing officer, Chelsea Soldiers’ Home, *Top official at state soldiers’ homes was fired days after bringing safety concerns to state inspector general*, ***Boston Globe**, March 2, 2022 (updated), <https://tinyurl.com/SoldiersHomeSafetyConcerns>

“Life in Russia for a disabled person is incredibly hard and most of the athletes are only funded on the medals that they win.”

Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, who won 11 Paralympic gold medals for Great Britain, *Winter Paralympics 2022: Russia and Belarus athletes unable to compete at Games*, **BBC**, March 3, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/RussianUnableToCompete>

"I ski with my ears."

Millie Knight, world champion Paralympic skier, *What It's Like to Ski Nearly Blind*, *New York Times, March 1, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/SkiNearlyBlind>

"The information we have now about the impact of COVID-19 on the world's mental health is just the tip of the iceberg. This is a wake-up call to all countries to pay more attention to mental health and do a better job of supporting their populations' mental health."

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, *COVID-19 pandemic triggers 25% increase in prevalence of anxiety and depression worldwide*, World Health Organization, March 2, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/WHOTRiggersAnxiety>

"The world is with us. The truth is on our side. Victory will be ours!"

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, *The U.N. approves a resolution demanding that Russia end the invasion of Ukraine*, NPR, March 2, 2022, (updated), <https://tinyurl.com/UNResolutionUkraine>

"Some [Ukrainians] with disabilities are in critical situations living in basements or perhaps living on sixth seventh or eighth floor of apartment building. They're paralyzed. They can't escape. They can't rush to the border. If [the Russian army] come[s] here we don't want them to manipulate people with disabilities or to put them as the shield."

Joni Eareckson Tada, the Joni and Friends International Disability Center in California, *Southern California Organization Helping Disabled Evacuate War-Torn Ukraine*, NBC Los Angeles, March 1, 2022 (updated), <https://tinyurl.com/SoCalHelpingUkrainianDisabled>

"My mother is 82 years old. She cannot walk on her own and there is no way to get her down, because we're on the seventh floor. She couldn't go down the stairs. She wouldn't be able to stay in the shelter. Yesterday, there were evacuations, so there was a chance to get away. There were trains, the local transport was running free of charge, the trains were free, but you had to come to the railway station on your own and I cannot leave my mother."

Kyiv resident Yulia Klepets, who also has a 25-year-old daughter with autism, *People with disabilities and mobility issues find themselves trapped in Kyiv*, **CNN World News**, February 26, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/DisabledTrappedInKyiv>

“The transmission dynamics of this virus are not completely worked out. ... There is variability in the virus and variability in the population.” As to what will happen next, scientists have to acknowledge “the necessary humility. I just think we don’t know.”

William Powderly, head of the Institute for Public Health at Washington University of St. Louis, *140 million Americans have had coronavirus, according to blood tests analyzed by CDC*, **Washington Post**, February 28, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/140AmericansCoronavirus>

We exceeded our hopes. When people along the route asked “why?” we responded, “why not?” An old cycling saw has it: “Wherever your relationship is going, a tandem [bicycle] will take it there faster.”

Stephen Kreider Yoder, a Wall Street Journal editor, and Karen Kreider Yoder, a retired professor and K-5 teacher, commenting on their cross-country tandem bicycle journey, *We Rode 3,800 Miles Across America on a Tandem Bike in Our 60s. Here’s What We Learned.*, **Wall Street Journal**, February 24, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/3800MilesAcrossAmerica>

“Many senior communities have on-site computer classes. The tech concierge is new. I think it is a great idea.”

Tom Kamber, executive director of the nonprofit Older Adults Technology Services and Senior Planet from AARP, *Senior Communities Add Tech Assistance as One of Their Perks*, **Wall Street Journal**, February 26, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/SeniorTechAssistance>

Call it a pause. Call it a timeout. Call it anything but retirement.

Millions of baby boomers have left the workplace since 2020. Are they coming back?, **Washington Post**, February 25, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/MillionsBabyBoomersLeft>

“We don’t know for sure if a burn pit was the cause of his brain cancer, or the diseases of so many of our troops, but I’m committed to finding out everything we can.”

	<p>President Joe Biden, <i>Biden includes veterans as one of four policymaking areas in new 'unity agenda'</i>, Stars and Stripes, March 2, 2022, https://tinyurl.com/VeteransIncluded</p>
Featured Essay	<p>1. New York Times (free access) February 27, 2022 <i>We Should Claim Our Disabled Ancestors with Pride</i> We <i>did</i> have a lineage of disability in our family. Given that roughly one in four adults have a disability of some kind, all our families include disabled ancestors. Disability is part of every family story. But we have to know of our disabled kin to claim them. . . We now can learn about our racial and ethnic heritage simply by spitting into a vial: millions of people have done so in order to take ownership of their identities. When it comes to disability, though, the tools of genetic testing are often used to eradicate and pathologize, not to map and connect. And they are inadequate to the task because the vast majority of disabilities are acquired over time: About 5 percent of children in the United States have a disability; among Americans 65 and older, that number leaps to about 40 percent. We need more than genetic evidence. We need narrative evidence as well. . . Our disability lineages can only be reclaimed through the stories we uncover. This means conceiving of disability as an identity like being queer, rather than reducing it to a medical condition. . . Finding disability lineage can mean learning to listen. To hear the untold story in euphemisms, silences, and gaps. To read between the family lines. It means looking at old photos and noting the variety of bodies and minds you see. . . Reclaiming our disability lineage also means rethinking fundamentally what a disability is — its meaning and value. I had never thought of my Grandma Adina as disabled. I just knew that she adored me, dance in any form, and social justice, possibly in that order. Grandma Adina was also extremely hard of hearing. . . A sense of belonging to a greater story is integral to all humans. Disability is a central part of that story — that mix of myth and fact which makes up our family lineages. In imagining a future in which I will certainly be disabled if I am lucky enough to live so long, I have my deaf grandmother to guide me. I have Rhona, in all her taffeta sass, to help me better understand and care for my daughter. And I have Cousin XY. In my dreams, he plays with my daughter in my grandfather's house. He has her eyes. https://tinyurl.com/ClaimDisabledAncestors</p> <p>2. *New York Times February 21, 2022 <i>Farewell, Readers, It's Been a Remarkable Ride</i> Jane Brody: "Before I go, I want to highlight the breathtaking evolution in health advice that has occurred since I joined The Times in 1965." Jane Brody reflects on 48 years as the <i>Personal Health</i> columnist. https://tinyurl.com/BrodyRemarkableRide</p>
Inspiration	<p>3. Wall Street Journal February 24, 2022</p>

	<p><i>We Rode 3,800 Miles Across America on a Tandem Bike in Our 60s. Here's What We Learned.</i></p> <p>It wasn't always easy. But the places we saw and the people we met made it all worthwhile.</p> <p>Riding tandem solved two couples-cycling conflicts: No one could race ahead, and we could talk without riding double file. Fortunately for us, we still had plenty to say after 42 years of marriage, and we've always relished adventures while traveling in odd ways. Before ever dating, we hitchhiked to Iowa from Indiana. Our first date was a daylong motorcycle trip, and our honeymoon was hitchhiking around Japan all summer. We've been backpackers together on buses and trains and boats in more than 30 countries, sometimes with infants, most recently in Algeria. It's what we do.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/3800MilesAcrossAmerica</p>
Dignity Votes 2022	<p>4. The Arc of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council</p> <p><i>44th Annual Legislative Reception</i></p> <p>Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>The theme is United by Crisis, Uniting for Change: Our Services and Supports Can't Wait.</p> <p>The disability community continues to face enormous challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 9, we'll reflect on what our community has endured and how the Massachusetts Legislature and Administration has responded to the crisis. We will also look ahead as we unite together for change to serve all members of our community equitably.</p> <p>MDDC will be honoring Senator Cindy Friedman, the Chair of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, and The Arc will be honoring Representative Michael J. Finn, the Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities, as Legislators of the Year.</p> <p>American Sign Language (ASL) will be provided, as well as CART and Spanish interpretation.</p> <p>Dignity Alliance Massachusetts is a co-sponsor of the reception.</p> <p>Registration: https://thearcofmass.org/calendar/44th-annual-legislative-reception/</p>
Featured Interview	<p>5. Boston 25 News</p> <p>March 2, 2022</p> <p><i>Worker shortage hitting nursing homes hard</i></p> <p>Job losses leading to family worries about care.</p> <p>Interview with Dignity Alliance Massachusetts member, Doris Bardwell.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/WorkerShortageHittingNH</p>
Reports	<p>6. Peterson Center on Healthcare - Kaiser Family Foundation</p> <p>December 10, 2022</p> <p><i>What impact has the coronavirus pandemic had on health employment?</i></p> <p>[T]he health sector saw a sharp drop in revenues and employment at the onset of COVID-19 in the spring of 2020. Health services utilization dropped precipitously as providers cancelled elective care and patients practicing social distancing avoided health facilities. Utilization of health services has remained somewhat lower than expected based on utilization levels in years before the pandemic and health sector employment remains below pre-pandemic levels.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlike during past recessions, health employment fell drastically in early 2020 • Nursing homes and community care facilities show continued decreases in employment while other components have nearly recovered • Health sector employment remains below expectations, particularly for home health services and community care centers for the elderly • Job openings in the health sector, like the rest of the economy, are higher than pre-pandemic levels • Job quits hit all-time highs in all sectors, including health & social assistance • Unemployment rates among non-hospital health workers have increased for women and decreased for men • Average weekly earnings have increased steadily among all employees, including health sector employees, since the beginning of the pandemic • Home- and community-based care employees have seen higher average wage increases than employees who work in a clinical setting <p>https://tinyurl.com/ImpactHealthEmployment</p>
Ukraine	<p>7. Saturday Night Live February 27, 2022 <i>Tribute to the Ukrainian People</i> The Ukrainian Chorus of New York sings the Ukrainian national anthem at the opening of Saturday Night Live. https://youtu.be/ljE4_h0t7ql</p> <p>8. NPR March 2, 2022 <i>The U.N. approves a resolution demanding that Russia end the invasion of Ukraine</i> The United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday approved a nonbinding resolution condemning Russia for invading Ukraine and demanding that it withdraw its military forces. . . Separately, the United Nations said on Tuesday it estimates the initial humanitarian and refugee needs will cost \$1.7 billion. . . The money would help people access health supplies, safe drinking water, shelter, and protection. https://tinyurl.com/UNResolutionUkraine</p> <p>9. NBC Los Angeles March 1, 2022 (updated) <i>Southern California Organization Helping Disabled Evacuate War-Torn Ukraine</i> Nearly three million disabled people are trapped by the violence in Ukraine, and a Southern California organization is helping some of them evacuate. https://tinyurl.com/SoCalHelpingUkrainianDisabled</p> <p>10. European Disability Forum February 24, 2022 <i>Protection and safety of persons with disabilities in Ukraine</i> The European Disability Forum (EDF) calls for all parties to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in Ukraine, by respecting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • their obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in particular Article 11 on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies • the UN Security Council Resolution 2475 (2019) on Protection of Persons with Disabilities in Conflict

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Humanitarian Law and the Humanitarian Principles. There are 2.7 million persons with disabilities registered in Ukraine. https://tinyurl.com/UkrainiansWithDisabilities <p>11. CNN World News February 26, 2022 <i>People with disabilities and mobility issues find themselves trapped in Kyiv</i> https://tinyurl.com/DisabledTrappedInKyiv</p>
Biden / Federal Policies	<p>12. The White House February 28, 2022 <i>Protecting Seniors and People with Disabilities by Improving Safety and Quality of Care in the Nation’s Nursing Homes</i></p> <p>The President believes we must improve the quality of our nursing homes so that seniors, people with disabilities, and others living in nursing homes get the reliable, high-quality care they deserve. . .</p> <p>To do this, the reforms the President is announcing will ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • every nursing home provides a sufficient number of staff who are adequately trained to provide high-quality care; • poorly performing nursing homes are held accountable for improper and unsafe care and immediately improve their services or are cut off from taxpayer dollars; and • the public has better information about nursing home conditions so that they can find the best available options. <p>Recent research has found that resident outcomes are significantly worse at private equity-owned nursing homes. . .</p> <p>Research also suggests that, despite depriving residents of quality care, private equity-owned nursing homes actually led to an uptick in Medicare costs, too. CMS is launching four new initiatives to ensure that residents get the quality care they need—and that taxpayers pay for. These initiatives will help ensure adequate staffing, dignity and safety in their accommodations, and quality care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Establish a Minimum Nursing Home Staffing Requirement.</i> • <i>Reduce Resident Room Crowding.</i> • <i>Strengthen the Skilled Nursing Facility (“SNF”) Value-Based Purchasing (“VBP”) Program.</i> • <i>Reinforce Safeguards against Unnecessary Medications and Treatments.</i> <p>Holding nursing homes accountable for their performance requires a robust compliance program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adequately Fund Inspection Activities.</i> • <i>Beef up Scrutiny on More of the Poorest Performers.</i> • <i>Expand Financial Penalties and Other Enforcement Sanctions.</i> • <i>Increase Accountability for Chain Owners of Substandard Facilities.</i> • <i>Provide Technical Assistance to Nursing Homes to Help them Improve.</i> <p>CMS will improve the public transparency of facility ownership and safeguard nursing home residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>CMS will create a new database that will track and identify owners and operators across states to highlight previous problems with promoting resident health and safety.</i> • <i>Improve Transparency of Facility Ownership and Finances.</i> • <i>Enhance Nursing Home Care Compare:</i> • <i>Examine the Role of Private Equity.</i>

	<p>Creating Pathways to Good-paying Jobs with the Free and Fair Choice to Join a Union</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ensure Nurse Aide Training is Affordable.</i> • <i>Support State Efforts to Improve Staffing and Workforce Sustainability.</i> • <i>Launch National Nursing Career Pathways Campaign.</i> <p>Ensuring Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness in Nursing Homes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Continued COVID-19 testing in long-term care facilities.</i> • <i>Continued COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters in long-term care facilities.</i> • <i>Strengthen Requirements for On-site Infection Preventionists.</i> • <i>Enhance Requirements for Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness.</i> • <i>Integrate Pandemic Lessons into Nursing Home Requirements.</i> <p>https://tinyurl.com/WhiteHouseReformPlan</p> <p>NOTE: The Consumer Voice is conducting an online session on the White House Plan on Friday, March 4, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. See Webinars / Online Sessions below for details and registration.</p> <p>13. *New York Times February 28, 2022 <i>For Older Americans, Some Positive Health News</i> Three recent developments — incremental and undramatic but encouraging — are likely to improve the lives and health of seniors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A New Right to Appeal Medicare Decisions A federal appellate court recently ruled that if Medicare declines to pay for your rehabilitation in a nursing home after you’ve left the hospital, because you were “on observation,” you can appeal the decision. This issue has boggled patients and families for years. • California Eases Medicaid Qualifications In a second promising development, California is eliminating asset limits for older people who are trying to qualify for Medicaid, and other states are considering similar moves. Medicaid, the state and federal program that provides health care for the poor and for people with disabilities, and also pays for long-term care in nursing homes and at home, sets strict ceilings on recipients’ wealth. In most states, if you are older than 65, you can amass no more than \$2,000 in assets, or \$3,000 for a couple (usually with a home and a car exempted). California will abolish this ceiling in two steps. In July, the asset limit rises to \$130,000 for an individual and another \$65,000 for each family member. In July 2024, the state will discard asset limits altogether. • The Social Security Administration will soon reopen its 1,200 local offices. One catch: Visitors to a field office will likely face occupancy limits, and the agency must cope with huge backlogs. <p>https://tinyurl.com/OlderAmericansPositiveNews</p>
<p>Research Participation Opportunity</p>	<p>14. National Institute of Health <i>All of Us Research Program</i> <i>All of Us</i> is a federally funded 10-year research project designed to improve health care through research. Unlike research studies that focus on one disease or group of people, <i>All of Us</i> is building a diverse database that can inform thousands of studies on a variety of health conditions. This creates more opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know the risk factors for certain diseases • Figure out which treatments work best for people of different backgrounds • Connect people with the right clinical studies for their needs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn how technologies can help us take steps to be healthier <p>The All of Us Research Program is guided by a set of core values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation is open to all. Enrollment is open to all eligible adults who live in the United States. People of every race, ethnicity, sex, gender, and sexual orientation are welcome. No health insurance is required. You can be healthy or have health issues. You can sign up directly through JoinAllofUs.org or through participating health care provider organizations. In the future, children will be able to join. • Participants reflect the rich diversity of the United States. To develop individualized plans for disease prevention and treatment, researchers need more data about the differences that make each of us unique. Having a diverse group of participants can lead to important breakthroughs. These discoveries may help make health care better for everyone. • Participants are partners. Participants shape the program with their input and contribute to a project that may improve the health of future generations. They may also learn about their own health. • Transparency earns trust. We inform participants about how their data are used, accessed, and shared. Participants can choose how much information to share. • Participants have access to their information. All of Us lets participants see their own information and records. • Data are broadly accessible for research purposes. All of Us makes information about participants as a group available in a public database. Everyone can explore the database or use it to make discoveries. Data from individual participants are also available, but only for researchers who apply and are approved. Any personal information that identifies a participant, such as name or address, is removed from data that researchers can access. • Security and privacy are of highest importance. Data are stored in a secure, cloud-based database. All systems meet the requirements of the Federal Information Security Management Act. Ongoing security tests help protect participant data. Learn more about how the All of Us Research Program protects data and privacy. • The program will be a catalyst for positive change in research. Working together, All of Us researchers, partners, and participants can build a better future for health research and care. <p>Participation</p> <p><i>All of Us</i> is free to join, and participation will always be free. People who take part in the program will answer surveys on different topics. They will be asked to share their electronic health record. They may give samples of blood, urine, and/or saliva for lab and DNA tests. The health information that participants share with <i>All of Us</i> will go into a secure database. Researchers all over the world can apply to use this data to study many different health conditions. This may lead to better treatments and ways to prevent disease.</p> <p>Website for more information: https://allofus.nih.gov/ Enrollment: https://tinyurl.com/AllofUsEnrollment</p>
Funding Opportunity	<p>15. National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)</p> <p><i>Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects Program</i></p> <p>The purpose of the DRRP program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities (including international</p>

	<p>activities) to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities.</p> <p>DRRP for the Center on Knowledge Translation for Disability and Rehabilitation Research: Under this particular priority, one grant will be awarded to serve as the Center on Knowledge Translation for Disability and Rehabilitation Research (KTDRR). The purpose of the KTDRR Center is to promote the use of high-quality disability and rehabilitation research that is relevant to the needs of people with disabilities and other stakeholders, by serving as the main knowledge translation (KT) resource for other NIDILRR grantees.</p> <p>Grant period: 5 years Funding: \$750,000 annually This grant opportunity closes on April 12, 2022. View more details and application instructions.</p>
<p>Learning Opportunities for Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Participants and Supporters</p>	<p>16. AARP Legislative Training for Advocates Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Please join us for an informative session designed to bolster our understanding of the Massachusetts Legislature and improve our advocacy efforts on behalf of older adults, people with disabilities, and those who care for them. This session will include an overview of the legislative process, including the processes by which bills become laws and budgets are determined; timely tips and tactics; and ways that we can turn our passion into action. Let’s work together to make 2022 the year when true transformation begins.</p> <p>GOALS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To educate Dignity Alliance volunteers and partner organizations on the legislative process so that they can more effectively advocate on behalf of Massachusetts’ older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers. 2. To launch a call to action to ramp up advocacy efforts for legislative priorities beginning in 2022. <p>Presented by Jessica Constantino, Massachusetts Director of Advocacy, AARP with Senator Richard T. Moore, Co-chair, Dignity Alliance’s Legislative Workgroup Please contact Rachel Chartier with registration questions or accommodation requests at rchartier@bostoncil.org or 617-338-6665 x 203. Registration: https://bit.ly/3JPvKIM</p>
<p>Webinar and online sessions</p>	<p>17. Leonard Davis Institute for Healthcare Economics Friday, March 4, 2022, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. <i>An Action Plan for Reducing Opioid Overdose Deaths</i> Alongside the devastating loss of life due to COVID-19, opioid overdoses have killed tens of thousands of people. At the same time, policymakers worked to lower barriers to life-saving treatment, creating more opportunities for flexible telehealth and harm reduction approaches. But, looking ahead, will that be enough? Please join our panel of experts as they discuss the impact of the pandemic on the opioid epidemic and outline innovative approaches for reducing the toll of the opioid epidemic.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ricky Bluthenthal, PhD, Professor, Department of Populations and Public Health Sciences (DPPHS); Vice Chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in DPPHS; Associate Dean for Social Justice, University of Southern California

- Keith Humphreys, PhD, Esther Ting Memorial Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University
- Regina LaBelle, JD, Director, Addiction and Public Policy Initiative, O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown Law, and Former Acting Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy
- Shoshana Aronowitz, PhD, MSHP (moderator), Assistant Professor, Family and Community Health, Penn Nursing

To join the webinar:

upenn.zoom.us/j/95116994819

Webinar ID:

951 1699 4819

Mobile: +13126266799, 95116994819#

Telephone: +1 301 715 8592; +1 646 558 8656

18. The Consumer Voice

Friday, March 4, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

March Forth Together!

Join us March 4, 2022, as we discuss a new report on the catastrophic effects of inadequate staffing on nursing home care and the reforms necessary to better protect nursing home residents. We will detail a month-long series of actions that we all can take to advocate for residents of long-term care facilities.

UPDATE: On February 28, 2022, The Biden Administration announced a host of significant nursing home reforms. Will Harris, Senior Advisor, Office of the Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, will join us and go over the proposed reforms.

Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/ConsumerVoiceMarchForth>

19. University of Southern California

ECHO Elder Abuse Identification and Clinical Management in Primary Care

Instructors:

- Laura Mosqueda, MD, FAAFP, AGSF is a professor (with tenure) of Family Medicine and Geriatrics at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. [Read More](#)
- Bonnie Olsen, Ph.D. is a clinical geropsychologist, working in academic medicine for over 25 years. She provides cognitive assessment and psychotherapy in a collaborative geriatric primary care setting. Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Family Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine at USC. [Read More](#)

Friday, March 11, 2022, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

A Tool to Assess Risk and Plan Next Steps

The AIM model has been used effectively as a framework for many elder abuse responders to understand the conditions and factors associated with risk for abuse as well as provide potential areas for mitigation. Dr. Mosqueda will present the model, the evidence that informs the content, and offer pragmatic strategies to apply the model in clinical practice.

Friday, April 8, 2022, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Diagnosing Abuse in the Context of Dementia

Persons living with dementia are known to be exceptionally vulnerable to abuse yet present a complex problem for accurate diagnosis. Dr. Olsen will present best practices and research-informed approaches to determining risk and constructing a plan of care. Issues of decisional and functional capacity will be addressed as well as the critical role of caregivers in conceptualizing mistreatment.

	<p>Friday, May 13, 2022, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. <i>Forensic Markers: Discerning Between Accidental and Abusive Injuries</i> An evolving literature supports specific injury patterns that can help medical providers determine the likelihood that an injury was intentionally caused. Dr. Mosqueda will review the information pertaining to pressure ulcers, fractures and bruising patterns providing knowledge that supports good clinical decision making. She will demonstrate use of the Geri IDT (Geriatric Injury Documentation Tool) to accurately record details of wounds so that wounds can be tracked over time and support criminal prosecution when needed.</p> <p>Friday, June 10, 2022, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. <i>Navigating Complex Family Dynamics in Elder Abuse</i> Perpetrators of elder abuse are most often family members. Understanding common patterns within families that support mistreatment and neglect will help providers develop tailored and realistic interventions. Dr. Olsen will review a compendium of familial dynamic patterns that are commonly observed in cases of elder mistreatment. Participants will learn how to recognize and manage these relationships in the clinical setting which will allow providers to focus on the patients’ medical needs and provide clarity regarding appropriate referrals for family caregiver support services.</p> <p>Friday, July 8, 2022, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. <i>Preventing Abuse in High Risk Situations: Intervention Strategies</i> Elder abuse often develops over time, is rarely a single isolated event and usually involves more than one type. Drs. Mosqueda and Olsen will discuss approaches to clinical decision making regarding if, how and when to intervene. Case-based review will demonstrate identification of the relevant factors and weighing alternative interventions. Participation will support more confidence in managing the multiple co-morbidities and psychosocial factors that so often accompany elder abuse and neglect in the clinical setting. Registration: HERE</p>
Previously posted webinars and online sessions	<p>20. Previously posted webinars and online sessions can be viewed at: https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/</p>
Nursing Homes	<p>21. NewJersey.com February 25, 2022 <i>Nursing home cited by N.J. as among the ‘15 worst’ in state challenges findings</i> In its report issued earlier this month, the watchdog agency named 15 “one-star” ranked nursing homes that it said failed to improve for years without facing any significant consequences. Fourteen out of the 15 are for-profit facilities and several are affiliated with other poorly rated long-term care providers, according to the report. https://tinyurl.com/NJNursingHomesCited</p> <p>22. McKnights’ Long Term Care February 24, 2022 <i>COVID wrongful death suit returned to state court in another nursing home setback</i> Another COVID-19-related wrongful death lawsuit against a nursing home has been bounced back to state court after providers had sought to have it heard in federal court. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit Court handed down that ruling Tuesday, rejecting the argument that nursing homes’ pandemic response and</p>

actions were covered under the federal Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness, or PREP, Act. Glenhaven sought to have the case removed to federal court, arguing that the federal government's expansion of the [PREP Act](#) provides cover for decisions made by nursing home operators regarding COVID-19.

<https://tinyurl.com/CovidWrongfulDeath>

23. NPR Shots

February 22, 2022

The pandemic pummeled long-term care – it may not recover quickly, experts warn

Nursing homes and other long term care facilities have lost a record number of residents and staff to COVID-19 – representing about [a quarter of all COVID deaths](#) in this country.

Now, the industry is suffering through a historic staffing shortage, further exacerbated by omicron. Workers have quit in record numbers since the pandemic started. And during the worst of omicron many frontline staff had to stay home because of breakthrough infections. . .

Researchers are concerned the situation could have a lasting impact on an industry which has struggled with a high rate of turnover and staffing shortages for a long time. . .

But the pressures of the situation can often be worst for the low-paid staff that make up the backbone of daily care in the industry: nursing aides. . .

Hughes says there have been times when she's had to care for as many as 25 residents — it's affecting the level of care she can give. . .

A recent industry report estimated that nursing homes and assisted living facilities together have lost more than 250,000 jobs since the start of the pandemic. And an [analysis by the Kaiser Family Foundation](#) suggests the industry has continued to have problems employing people while other health service industries have recovered in the past year or so. However, the industry's staffing issues didn't start with COVID.

<https://tinyurl.com/PandemicPummeledLTC>

24. Worcester Business Journal

January 31, 2022

SALMON Health sells Northbridge nursing home location for \$4M

The property with Beaumont Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Center and Whitney Place Assisted Living Residences in Northbridge sold for \$3.7 million, becoming SALMON Health's second facility property to sell in the last six months, according to the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds. . . The buying entity was registered to the Norwood address of AdviniaCare, a nursing home facility with locations throughout Massachusetts and Florida. . . The property includes three nursing homes; one is 47,000 square feet, one is 27,000, and one is almost 5,700. . . In August, SALMON Health's Beaumont Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Center on Plantation Street in Worcester was sold to [UMass Memorial Health for \\$23.5 million](#). That property was sold by Toledo-based real estate firm, Welltower, Inc. A month later in September, SALMON opened a [new facility in Medway](#).

<https://tinyurl.com/SALmonSellsNorthbridge>

25. Home Health Care News

March 2, 2022

After Nursing Home Push, Home Health Reform Could Be Up Next

This substantial increase in federal nursing home regulation has led some providers to believe that home health could be on the Biden administration's radar next. "It's just a matter of time before it hits home health," Peter Miska, regional director of program development at Elite Care Management, told Home Health Care News. "It's not a question of if — it's a question of when. [Home health providers] should start preparing for it now, so they're ahead of the curve." Cleamon Moorer, CEO, American Advantage Home Care pointed to infection control and PE involvement as possible areas for increased scrutiny.

<https://tinyurl.com/HomeHealthReformNext>

26. Wall Street Journal

February 26, 2022

Senior Communities Add Tech Assistance as One of Their Perks

Residents need help downloading apps, making Zoom calls, logging into doctors' appointments and much more.

Increasingly, some tech savvy is required for the activities of daily living—such as connecting with friends via Zoom, shopping online, using smart TVs and setting up doctors' appointments. As a result, more independent and assisted-living communities are adding personal tech support to their list of amenities. . . The need for personalized tech support in senior-living communities has been increasing as residents acquire ever-growing numbers of personal digital devices. In a 2021 [survey](#), Link-age Connect, a provider of consumer research for the aging-adult marketplace, found that 83% of adults 55 and over own a smartphone, 66% own laptops and 58% own tablets. . . The increasing use of technology in senior living—for instance, to control lighting, shades, temperature, and smart TVs—is becoming an invaluable part of the experience. Such tech provides greater independence, social engagement, health, safety, and quality of life for residents.

<https://tinyurl.com/SeniorTechAssistance>

27. Home Health Care News

February 24, 2022

CMS Announces Changes to Direct Contracting for 2023, Unveils the 'ACO REACH' Model

The U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) made an announcement late Thursday that some providers and associations have been waiting for. It's one that offers a glimpse into how the agency will operate during the remainder of President Biden's term – and one that will have an immediate impact on some home-focused care providers.

The Global and Professional Direct Contracting Models (GPDC) have not been completely overhauled, but instead fine-tuned. In lieu of those models, the Accountable Care Organization (ACO) "REACH" model will be put in place, CMS announced. . . The model will start on Jan. 1, 2023, and the model performance period will run through 2026. . . "People with Traditional Medicare who receive care through a REACH ACO may have greater access to enhanced benefits, such

as telehealth visits, home care after leaving the hospital and help with co-pays,” the CMS announcement read. “They can expect the support of the REACH ACO to help them navigate an often complex health system.”

<https://tinyurl.com/ACOREACHModel>

28. *Home Health Care News

February 23, 2022

Policy Momentum, Private Equity Interest Could Spur Major Growth for PACE

The Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) model performed especially well amid the COVID-19 emergency. Building off of that momentum, it’s likely that the model will continue to make inroads throughout 2022. . . PACE’s ability to keep seniors safe amid the COVID-19 emergency made it stand out as a model of care delivery.

<https://tinyurl.com/MajorGrowthPACE>

29. Politico

February 16, 2022

Trump-era Medicare program under increased scrutiny

The program allows private companies to participate in Medicare as part of a broader health department effort to improve care while limiting the government's costs.

The Biden administration is debating whether to overhaul a major Trump-era program tied to Medicare as soon as this week in the face of rising pressure from prominent progressive Democrats, more than a half-dozen people familiar with the matter told POLITICO.

The Trump program — known as a direct contracting model — allows private companies to participate in Medicare as part of a broader health department effort to improve care while limiting the government’s costs.

Yet the initiative has since come under increased scrutiny from the left, setting up a clash between the administration and liberals like Sen. [Elizabeth Warren](#) and Rep. [Pramila Jayapal](#) , who warn that Biden is smoothing a path to privatizing Medicare by keeping it intact.

<https://tinyurl.com/TrumpEraPolicyUnderScrutiny>

30. Peterson Center on Healthcare - Kaiser Family Foundation

February 10, 2022

Outpatient telehealth use soared early in the COVID-19 pandemic but has since receded

Telehealth visits—patient-provider visits delivered virtually—have been a feature of some physician practices for several years, but the COVID-19 pandemic and the accompanying social distancing protocols catalyzed a shift toward remote care. Telehealth services can be delivered in various formats, including through specialized vendors, as a supplement to in-person care delivered by a patient’s physician, or by a provider at a remote location when a patient is at a medical facility. Before the pandemic, most employer health plans provided at least some coverage for services delivered through telehealth but [very few enrollees](#) used these services.

Findings

- Outpatient visits by telehealth have declined since the early months of the pandemic
- The total number of outpatient visits has returned to pre-pandemic levels, but telehealth visits remain elevated

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-elderly had higher telehealth uptake and have continued using telehealth at higher rates than elderly • Patients in rural and urban areas used telehealth at similar rates • Men and women used outpatient visits by telehealth at similar rates • Telehealth use for chronic condition management has decreased over the pandemic but remains elevated over pre-pandemic levels • Impact of increased telehealth use on access, cost, quality, and outcomes • Telehealth regulatory landscape beyond the pandemic <p>https://tinyurl.com/OutpatientTelehealthSoared</p>
Behavioral Health	<p>31. World Health Organization March 2, 2022 <i>COVID-19 pandemic triggers 25% increase in prevalence of anxiety and depression worldwide</i></p> <p>In the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, global prevalence of anxiety and depression increased by a massive 25%, according to a scientific brief released by the World Health Organization (WHO) today. The brief also highlights who has been most affected and summarizes the effect of the pandemic on the availability of mental health services and how this has changed during the pandemic. Concerns about potential increases in mental health conditions had already prompted 90% of countries surveyed to include mental health and psychosocial support in their COVID-19 response plans, but major gaps and concerns remain. . .</p> <p>One major explanation for the increase is the unprecedented stress caused by the social isolation resulting from the pandemic. Linked to this were constraints on people’s ability to work, seek support from loved ones and engage in their communities. Loneliness, fear of infection, suffering and death for oneself and for loved ones, grief after bereavement and financial worries have also all been cited as stressors leading to anxiety and depression. Among health workers, exhaustion has been a major trigger for suicidal thinking.</p> <p>This scientific brief is based on evidence from research commissioned by WHO, including an umbrella review of systematic reviews and meta-analyses and an update to a living systematic review. Informed by these reviews, the scientific brief provides a comprehensive overview of current evidence about:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the prevalence of mental health symptoms and mental disorders; 2. the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on prevalence of suicidal thoughts and behaviours; 3. the risk of infection, severe illness, and death from COVID-19 for people living with mental disorders; 4. the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health services; and 5. the effectiveness of psychological interventions adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic to prevent or reduce mental health problems and/or maintain access to mental health services. <p>Report: https://tinyurl.com/WHOMentalHealthReport Article: https://tinyurl.com/WHOTRiggersAnxiety</p>
Worker / Caregiver	<p>32. Boston 25 News March 2, 2022 <i>Worker shortage hitting nursing homes hard</i> Job losses leading to family worries about care. Interview with Dignity Alliance Massachusetts member, Doris Bardwell.</p>

Elder Abuse	<p>https://tinyurl.com/WorkerShortageHittingNH</p> <p>33. University of Southern California <i>ECHO Elder Abuse Identification and Clinical Management in Primary Care</i> Five session webinar series See <i>Webinar and online sessions</i> for details.</p> <p>34. Adult Protective Services Technical Assistance Resource Center February 28, 2022 <i>Equity and Older Adults: How Systemic Inequities Affect Elder Abuse and Adult Protective Services</i> The last two years have highlighted deep-rooted systemic racism in our country and exposed the gaps in addressing such inequities. Advancing equity aims to guarantee fair treatment, access, and opportunity for historically marginalized communities. Equity goes a step further than equality by recognizing that not everyone starts from the same place, and to achieve equity we must also identify and eliminate barriers that prevent full participation by marginalized communities. This post will introduce the connection between equity and older adults, and provide some tools—including definitions, resources, and promising practices—to apply equity principles to adult protective services (APS). https://tinyurl.com/EquityAndOlderAdults</p>
Paralympics	<p>35. BBC March 3, 2022 <i>Winter Paralympics: Day-by-day guide to the Beijing 2022 Games</i> The Beijing 2022 opening ceremony takes place on Friday, March 4 from 12:00 with competition starting the following day. The last day of competition and the closing ceremony is on Sunday, March 13. https://tinyurl.com/ParalympicsDayByDay</p> <p>36. BBC March 3, 2022 <i>Winter Paralympics 2022: Russia and Belarus athletes unable to compete at Games</i> Athletes from Russia and Belarus will not be allowed to compete at the 2022 Winter Paralympics in Beijing after the International Paralympic Committee reversed its original decision. . . There were set to be 71 competitors from Russia and 12 from Belarus - plus guides for both nations - competing in Beijing. https://tinyurl.com/RussianUnableToCompete</p> <p>37. BBC March 2, 2022 <i>Winter Paralympics: Who are the stars to watch at Beijing 2022?</i> The Beijing Winter Paralympics will feature around 650 athletes competing in 78 events across six sports. https://tinyurl.com/BBCWinterParalympics</p> <p>38. *New York Times March 1, 2022 <i>What It's Like to Ski Nearly Blind</i> Millie Knight, a world champion Paralympic skier, says, "I ski with my ears." Racing down an Olympic ski run at 70 miles per hour is frightening for the best athletes at the Winter Games. Scarier might be doing it with just 5 percent of your sight. Millie Knight is a British Paralympic skier who competes in all five Alpine disciplines, from slalom to downhill. https://tinyurl.com/SkiNearlyBlind</p>

Covid-19	<p>39. Washington Post February 28, 2022 <i>140 million Americans have had coronavirus, according to blood tests analyzed by CDC</i></p> <p>More than 140 million Americans have had the coronavirus, according to estimates from blood tests that reveal antibodies from infection — about double the rate regularly cited by national case counts.</p> <p>The estimates, compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, show that about 43 percent of the country has been infected by the virus. The study shows that the majority of children have also been infected.</p> <p>The data goes through late January, when the omicron variant of the coronavirus was causing more than 500,000 cases a day, meaning the number of Americans now infected is considerably higher. The data comes from 72,000 blood samples taken in January. . . The blood test study includes infections throughout the pandemic but counts each person only once. Daily coronavirus case rates tally every known infection, so many people who have had reinfections are counted again and again. The estimated 140 million is well over double the number of people included in counts by The Washington Post or government agencies as of late January.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/140AmericansCoronavirus</p>
Alzheimer’s / Dementia	<p>40. STAT News February 25, 2022 <i>Improving diversity in Alzheimer’s research can help update the ‘gold standard’ for all medical research</i></p> <p>The health inequities that have long plagued the U.S. were highlighted and worsened by the Covid-19 pandemic. Low-income and minoritized populations, such as Black and Hispanic Americans, are not only at greater risk of infection, hospitalization, and death from the disease, but they are also up to twice as likely to develop chronic diseases like cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and Alzheimer’s disease. . .</p> <p>In 1948, white people made up nearly 90% of the U.S. population. Today, non-white people make up 42% of the population, highlighting the need to conduct Alzheimer’s research in a more diverse population. Doing so will give scientists better chances of identifying new markers that predict the disease earlier and developing targeted new approaches for treating everyone, not just some.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/DiversityAlzheimersResearch</p> <p>41. MarketWatch February 24, 2022 <i>Medicare’s finances and the saga of the Alzheimer’s drug Aduhelm</i></p> <p>Two aspects of the Aduhelm issue are fascinating. On the one hand, the efficacy of Aduhelm is unproven; patients face serious risks; and the drug’s FDA approval was extremely controversial, so Medicare officials faced a real dilemma. On the other hand, what would have been the implications — in an environment where Medicare does not have the ability to negotiate prices — if clinical trials had clearly demonstrated that the drug could slow cognitive decline and Biogen had kept the price at \$56,000 per year?</p> <p>In the case of Aduhelm, Medicare officials issued a draft decision in January to limit coverage to those in clinical trials. The basis for their decision was concerns that the benefits of the drug did not outweigh the safety risks. Price played no role. The final decision is expected by April.</p>

	<p>https://tinyurl.com/SagaAduhelm</p> <p>42. Wall Street Journal February 24, 2022 <i>Medicare Proposal on Alzheimer’s Drug Draws Criticism from Drugmakers</i> The agency proposed limiting coverage of Biogen’s Aduhelm to patients enrolled in government-sanctioned clinical trials. Drugmakers and patient advocacy groups are pushing back against a federal proposal to cut off most Medicare payments for Biogen Inc.’s new Alzheimer’s drug, contending the healthcare agency is overstepping the bounds of its expertise. . . Medicare officials said the policy was justified because of uncertainty around whether Aduhelm is effective at slowing the course of Alzheimer’s disease, and because of the risk of potentially serious side effects including brain swelling and bleeding. https://tinyurl.com/AlzheimersDrugCriticism</p>
Veteran Services	<p>43. Stars and Stripes March 2, 2022 <i>Biden includes veterans as one of four policymaking areas in new ‘unity agenda’</i> The Department of Veterans Affairs plans to extend benefits and health care to a small number of veterans suffering from nine rare respiratory cancers caused by toxic burn pits, Biden announced. The VA said Tuesday that it would begin the federal rulemaking process to add the conditions to its presumptive list, which lowers the amount of evidence that a veteran must provide to receive benefits. Biden also urged lawmakers to come to an agreement on legislation to expand health care and disability compensation to millions of veterans who were exposed to burn pits. . . As part of the focus on mental health care in Biden’s unity agenda, the White House announced Tuesday a new effort to connect veterans to same-day treatment for mental health and substance abuse issues. https://tinyurl.com/VeteransIncluded</p> <p>44. *Boston Globe March 2, 2022 (updated) <i>Top official at state soldiers’ homes was fired days after bringing safety concerns to state inspector general</i> A second official was also terminated after flagging issues. The longtime public health official [Eric Sheehan] chosen to oversee the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home after a catastrophic COVID outbreak in 2020 said he was terminated for raising concerns that dangerous disease prevention practices persisted even after the deaths of 76 veterans that spring. . . A second official who Sheehan had recruited for a top position at the Chelsea home was dismissed in September, days after flagging safety and staffing problems there. https://tinyurl.com/SoldiersHomeSafetyConcerns</p>
Older Workers	<p>45. *Washington Post February 25, 2022 <i>Millions of baby boomers have left the workplace since 2020. Are they coming back?</i> For many older workers, the coronavirus pandemic forced a rethink about the nature and meaning of work. The Washington Post spoke to seven Americans who were forced out of or fled their jobs before the full retirement age of 67 — and are weighing their options. . .</p>

	<p>The share of Americans over age 55 who were working fell sharply when the pandemic began, plummeting 6 percentage points to 33.3 percent in March and April of 2020, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data. And although those numbers have started to recover, it remains unclear how many of those older workers will pursue new employment or eventually declare, “Retired!”. . . To better understand the reasons behind and the impact of relinquishing one’s salary and career early, The Washington Post spoke with seven men and women who left the marketplace before their full retirement age, which is 67 for anyone born after 1960.</p> <p>They represent a variety of vocations, backgrounds, and geography. The earliest job departure was at age 55 and the latest at 64. Covid played a role in some decisions, but not all. Their experiences indicate that early retirement for many has a new narrative.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/MillionsBabyBoomersLeft</p> <p>46. Washington Post February 25, 2022 <i>For some baby boomers, retirement is a dirty word</i> Overall, 50.3 percent of U.S. adults 55 and older said they were out of the labor force due to retirement in the third quarter of last year, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of the most recent official labor force data. In the third quarter of 2019, before the onset of the pandemic, 48.1 percent of those adults were retired.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/RetirementDirtWord</p>
State Budget	<p>Commonwealth of Massachusetts <i>Governor’s Proposed Budget for FY 2023</i> January 26, 2022</p> <p>The annual budget process begins each year when the Governor files recommendations as a bill with the House of Representatives. Under the state Constitution, the Governor must submit a proposal by the 4th Wednesday of January or, in the event of a new term, within five weeks later. This bill is called House 1 or "House 2" depending on the year.</p> <p>https://malegislature.gov/Budget</p>
List of Special Focus Facilities	<p>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services <i>List of Special Focus Facilities and Candidates</i> https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram</p> <p>CMS has published a new list of Special Focus Facilities (SFF). SFFs are nursing homes with serious quality issues based on a calculation of deficiencies cited during inspections and the scope and severity level of those citations. CMS publicly discloses the names of the facilities chosen to participate in this program and candidate nursing homes.</p> <p>To be considered for the SFF program, a facility must have a history (at least 3 years) of serious quality issues. These nursing facilities generally have more deficiencies than the average facility, and more serious problems such as harm or injury to residents. Special Focus Facilities have more frequent surveys and are subject to progressive enforcement until it either graduates from the program or is terminated from Medicare and/or Medicaid.</p> <p>This is important information for consumers – particularly as they consider a nursing home.</p> <p>What can advocates do with this information?</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include the list of facilities in your area/state when providing information to consumers who are looking for a nursing home. Include an explanation of the SFF program and the candidate list. • Post the list on your program’s/organization’s website (along with the explanation noted above). • Encourage current residents and families to check the list to see if their facility is included. • Urge residents and families in a candidate facility to ask the administrator what is being done to improve care. • Suggest that resident and family councils invite the administrator to a council meeting to talk about what the facility is doing to improve care, ask for ongoing updates, and share any council concerns. • For long-term care ombudsmen representatives: Meet with the administrator to discuss what the facility is doing to address problems and share any resources that might be helpful. <p>Massachusetts facilities listed Newly added to the listing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marlborough Hills Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, Marlborough https://tinyurl.com/MarlboroughHills <p>Massachusetts facilities not improved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attleboro Healthcare, Attleboro https://tinyurl.com/AttleboroHealthcare <p>Massachusetts facilities which showed improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None <p>Massachusetts facilities which have graduated from the program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxford Rehabilitation and Health Care Center , Haverhill https://tinyurl.com/OxfordRehab <p>Massachusetts facilities that are candidates for listing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hillcrest Commons Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Pittsfield https://tinyurl.com/HillcrestCommons • Medway Country Manor Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation https://tinyurl.com/MedwayManor • Parkway Health and Rehabilitation Center https://tinyurl.com/ParkwayHealthCenter • Revolution Charwell https://tinyurl.com/RevolutionCharwell • Vero Health and Rehabilitation Center of Amesbury https://tinyurl.com/VeroAmesbury • Vero Health and Rehabilitation Center of Revere https://tinyurl.com/VeroRevere • Vero Health and Rehabilitation Center of Watertown https://tinyurl.com/VeroWatertown • Vero Health and Rehabilitation Center of Worcester https://tinyurl.com/VeroWorcester • Wareham Healthcare https://tinyurl.com/WarehamHealthcare • Worcester Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, Worcester https://tinyurl.com/WorcesterHealthcare https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram
Nursing Home Compare	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

	<p><i>Nursing Home Compare Website</i></p> <p>Beginning January 26, 2022, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is posting new information on the Care Compare website that will help consumers have a better understanding of certain staffing information and concerns at facilities.</p> <p>This information will be posted for each facility and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff turnover: The percentage of nursing staff as well as the number of administrators who have stopped working at a nursing home over the past 12-month period. • Weekend staff: The level of weekend staffing for nurses and registered nurses at a nursing home over a three-month period. <p>Posting of this information was required as part of the Affordable Care Act, which was passed in 2010. In many facilities, staffing is lower on weekends, often meaning residents have to wait longer or may not receive all the care they need. High turnover means that staff are less likely to know the residents, recognize changes in condition, or implement preferred methods of providing care. All of this contributes to the quality-of-care residents receive and their quality of life.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/NursingHomeCompareWebsite</p>
Long-Term Care Facilities Specific COVID-19 Data	<p>Massachusetts Department of Public Health</p> <p><i>Long-Term Care Facilities Specific COVID-19 Data</i></p> <p><i>Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) reports related to long-term care facilities in Massachusetts.</i></p> <p>Table of Contents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Daily Dashboard • COVID-19 Weekly Public Health Report • Additional COVID-19 Data • CMS COVID-19 Nursing Home Data
	*May require registration before accessing article.
Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Legislative Endorsements	<p>Information about the legislative bills which have been endorsed by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, including the text of the bills, can be viewed at: https://tinyurl.com/DignityLegislativeEndorsements</p> <p>Questions or comments can be directed to Legislative Work Group Chair Richard (Dick) Moore at rmoore8473@charter.net.</p>
Websites	
Previously recommended websites	The comprehensive list of recommended websites has migrated to the Dignity Alliance MA website: https://dignityalliancema.org/resources/ . Only new recommendations will be listed in <i>The Tuesday Digest</i> .
Previously posted funding opportunities	For open funding opportunities previously posted in <i>The Tuesday Digest</i> please see https://dignityalliancema.org/funding-opportunities/ .
Nursing Home Closures	Closure Notices and Relocation Plans available at: https://tinyurl.com/MANursingHomeClosures
Websites of Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Members	See: https://dignityalliancema.org/about/organizations/
Access to Dignity Alliance social media	<p>Email: info@DignityAllianceMA.org</p> <p>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/DignityAllianceMA/</p> <p>Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/dignityalliance/</p> <p>LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/dignity-alliance-massachusetts</p>

	Twitter: https://twitter.com/dignity_ma?s=21 Website: www.DignityAllianceMA.org		
Participation opportunities with Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Most workgroups meet bi-weekly via Zoom. Please contact workgroup lead for more information	Workgroup	Workgroup lead	Email
	General Membership	Bill Henning Paul Lanzikos	bhenning@bostoncil.org paul.lanzikos@gmail.com
	Behavioral Health	Frank Baskin	baskinfrank19@gmail.com
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<i>The Dignity Digest</i>	For a free weekly subscription to <i>The Dignity Digest</i> : https://dignityalliancema.org/contact/sign-up-for-emails/ Editor: Paul Lanzikos Primary contributor: Sandy Novack MailChimp Specialist: Sue Rorke		
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<p><i>Dignity Alliance Massachusetts is a broad-based coalition of organizations and individuals pursuing fundamental changes in the provision of long-term services, support, and care for older adults and persons with disabilities. Our guiding principle is the assurance of dignity for those receiving the services as well as for those providing them. The information presented in "The Dignity Digest" is obtained from publicly available sources and does not necessarily represent positions held by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts.</i></p> <p><i>Previous issues of The Tuesday Digest and The Dignity Digest are available at: https://dignityalliancema.org/the-tuesday-digest/</i></p> <p><i>For more information about Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, please visit www.DignityAllianceMA.org.</i></p>			