



The Dignity Digest

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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

“The public was misled by those at the highest level of state government through distortion and suppression of the facts when New Yorkers deserved the truth.”

New York state comptroller, Thomas P. DiNapoli, *An audit finds that the Cuomo administration ‘misled the public’ on nursing home deaths in New York*, ***New York Times**, March 15, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/MisledThePublic>

“When Penny was born, I confronted the reality that I had ignored, denied, or not even known about the exclusion of people with disabilities. It was a painful process to admit my own bias and to come face-to-face with the way my daughter might be treated.

Doing that work also opened me to receive the gift that God gave me in the person of our daughter. It opened me to see the gifts of other vulnerable people and to admit my needs. It exposed the harm of privilege and invited me to explore a new landscape of love.”

Amy Julia Becker, author of books including “White Picket Fences: Turning Toward Love in a World Divided by Privilege,” *World Down Syndrome Day: How disability helped me understand privilege*, **Washington Post (free access)**, March 21, 2019, <https://wapo.st/3CTviR9>

“People with disabilities have too often been unlawfully segregated in institutions like nursing facilities. The Civil Rights Division [of the U.S. Department of Justice] will vigorously enforce the rights of people with physical disabilities, including older adults, to access the community-based services they need to age in place and thrive at home.”

Assistant U. S. Attorney General Kristen Clarke, *Colorado violates Americans with Disabilities Act, U.S. Justice Department finds*, **Colorado Sun**, March 4, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/ColotadoViolatesDisabilityAct>

“You’ve got to work hard. No excuses, no limits.”

Chris Nikic, who became the first Ironman finisher with Down syndrome at age 21, *For World Down Syndrome Day, meet 3 young people who dream big and achieve*, **Washington Post (free access)**, March 16, 2022, <https://wapo.st/36w94J6>

“I’m spreading kindness and love.”

Nate Simon, 21-year-old who is a clothing designer and model and also has Down syndrome, *For World Down Syndrome Day, meet 3 young people who dream big and achieve*, **Washington Post (free access)**, March 16, 2022, <https://wapo.st/36w94J6>

“An advocate is a teacher and a friend. I love inspiring people.”

Abigail Adams, a 22-year-old diversity advocate with Down syndrome, *For World Down Syndrome Day, meet 3 young people who dream big and achieve*, **Washington Post (free access)**, March 16, 2022, <https://wapo.st/36w94J6>

Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) on Monday said [T]here will be “a lot of nursing homes that are very, very happy.”

Nursing homes will be ‘very, very happy’ with new legislation, governor says, **McKnights Long Term Care News**, March 16, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/NursingHomesVeryVeryHappy>

The bill [which allows nursing homes to lower the amount of direct nursing care requirements from 2.5 hours a day to 2 hours a day] was passed after the nursing home trade associations reached an agreement with the Florida Justice Association, which represents that state’s trial lawyers.

Gov. DeSantis: ‘A lot of nursing homes will be very, very happy’ after 2022 Session, **Florida Politics**, March 17, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/GovDeSantisNursingHomesHappy>

“The only thing that I see is that folks with disabilities are cared for last and are dying first.”

Matthew Dietz, a founding member and the current litigation director of the Disability Independence Group in Florida, *Pandemic Medical Innovations Leave Behind People With Disabilities*, **Kaiser Health News**, March 11, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/PandemicMedicalInnovations>

“There’s no ADA police. All the burden is on the consumer.”

Lise Hamlin, Director of Public Policy, Hearing Loss Association of America’s, *Pandemic Medical Innovations Leave Behind People with Disabilities*, **Kaiser Health News**, March 11, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/PandemicMedicalInnovations>

“Instead of growing in independence, it just feels like I’ve gone backwards.”

Divya Goel, a 35-year-old deaf-blind Floridian, *Pandemic Medical Innovations Leave Behind People with Disabilities*, **Kaiser Health News**, March 11, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/PandemicMedicalInnovations>

“These were people whose country had been invaded and who wanted freedom and were so grateful to the Allied troops they tried to help. The people of the Comet Line — like ‘Monique’ — were just as heroic as the troops they saved.”

Anita Roark, niece of WWII American soldier, H.C. Johnson, who was rescued by Monique Hanotte, member of the Comet line, a Belgian resistance operation, *Monique Hanotte, Belgian resistance member who rescued 135 downed Allied airmen in World War II, dies at 101*, **Washington Post**, February 24, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/MoniqueHanotte>

“When you’re in a pandemic, and people are under a lot of pressure, and we’re all worried about our health, our families, we’re all very vulnerable. That’s when the bad people come out.”

William Tong, (D) Connecticut’s Attorney General, commenting on the reason to initiate a single hotline for reporting all kinds of elder abuse, *‘Elder Justice Hotline’ helps combat senior abuse, financial fraud*, **News 8 WTNH**, March 10, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/ElderJusticeHotline>

“FEMA’s COVID-19 Funeral Assistance program has helped provide over 300,000 people with critical financial relief during a time of such unexpected, unimaginable, and widespread loss.

Our new outreach campaign is designed to reach families, especially across underserved communities, where the cost of a funeral can be a financial burden to a loved one.”

FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell, *US funeral assistance for COVID tops \$2B, more eligible*, **Associated Press**, March 15, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/USFuneralAssistance>

“New York faces the worst home care shortage in America — and this crisis has left tens of thousands of aging adults and disabled people without care and forced them into dangerous nursing homes.”

New York Caring Majority co-director Ilana Berger, *NY lawmakers want to boost funding for housing, home care*, **AP News**, March 15, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/BoostFundingHousing>

“Seven instances of Immediate Jeopardy are unprecedented in Connecticut and absolutely unacceptable.”

Dr. Manisha Juthani, Commissioner, CT Department of Public Health, *Nursing home residents to be moved due to violations*, **AP News**, March 15, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/NHResidentsMoved>

“We’ve just got to believe we can do what we need to do — and if we believe it enough, we probably can.”

Sam Brown, who in 1969 helped organize the Vietnam Moratorium Day, *Call It ‘Codger Power.’ We’re Older and Fighting for a Better America*, ***New York Times**, February 7, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/NYTCodgerPower>

There may not be any decisive battles, just a long series of skirmishes that must be engaged by the young but also by the old. We may be nearer the exit than the entrance, but we’re in this fight for the long haul.

Bill McKibben, founder of [Third Act](#), *Call It ‘Codger Power.’ We’re Older and Fighting for a Better America*, ***New York Times**, February 7, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/NYTCodgerPower>

“The protection that you are getting from the third [vaccination shot], it is good enough, actually quite good for hospitalizations and deaths. It’s not that good against infections.”

Dr. Albert Bourla, Pfizer’s chief executive, *Pfizer asks the F.D.A. to authorize a second booster shot for older Americans*, ***New York Times**, March 15, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/PfizerSecondBooster>

“For those who are immune-compromised, those who are older adults, over the age of 50 or at least 65, we want to strongly recommend and encourage [a fourth shot].”

Dr. Stephen Hoge, president of Moderna, *Pfizer asks the F.D.A. to authorize a second booster shot for older Americans*, ***New York Times**, March 15, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/PfizerSecondBooster>

“I don’t think I’ve found anybody in Massachusetts who thinks we have enough people playing in the behavioral health space to take care of the people who are trying to access services. [We] had issues with respect to access to those services before the pandemic.”

Gov. Charlie Baker, *Gov. Baker: Bill would expand mental health care services*, **AP News**, March 15, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/BakerExpandMentalHealth>

“There’s got to be a better way. You can get things overnight from Amazon, but you have to wait months for a simple part for a wheelchair.”

Ellen Leigh, wheelchair user from Arlington, *Wheelchairs repairs can take a month, or longer, leaving people stranded*, **WBUR**, March 9, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/WBURWheelchairMarch9>

“The numbers [regarding wheelchair breakdowns and needing repairs] are shocking. I think that the scarier part is they're not new numbers. It's been this way for a while. If 50% of people had their car break down in a six-month period, they'd probably be pretty upset.”

Wheelchair researcher Lynn Worobey, a University of Pittsburgh assistant professor and a physical therapist, *Wheelchairs repairs can take a month, or longer, leaving people stranded*, **WBUR**, March 9, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/WBURWheelchairMarch9>

“... there's no AAA for wheelchairs, so any repairs are like getting stranded.”

Aurora Arndt, Wellesley College student and wheelchair user, *Facing breakdowns and slow repairs, Mass. wheelchair users call for stronger state law*, **WBUR**, March 10, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/WBURWheelchairMarch10>

“So many people living with disabilities are not working right now because their wheelchairs are unreliable.”

Murshid Buwembo, a polio survivor and wheelchair user for 25 years, *Facing breakdowns and slow repairs, Mass. wheelchair users call for stronger state law*, **WBUR**, March 10, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/WBURWheelchairMarch10>

“We need to rein in rising prescription drug prices so that individuals and families can afford their treatments and are not forced to choose between putting food on the table or paying for their medications.”

Amy Rosenthal, executive director, Health Care for All, *Gov. Baker: Bill would expand mental health care services*, **AP News**, March 15, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/BakerExpandMentalHealth>

As currently designed, U.S. addiction treatment systems are costing lives every day. Structured to simultaneously provide care for people with substance use disorders while surveilling, criminalizing, and stigmatizing these disorders and the people who have them, they are cumbersome, inflexible, and unprepared for the next emergency. People who use substances and those with addiction, whether or not they are in treatment, deserve our time, resources, and direct partnership to ensure they are protected, whatever lies ahead.

Emma Biegacki, program manager, Yale Program in Addiction Medicine, *Emergency response systems must not overlook people with substance use disorders*, **STAT News**, March 16, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/NotOverlookPeople>

“For a lot of patients who have non-English language preference, what actually happens is either the clinical team doesn’t talk to them, or they use sign language, or they try to mime.”

Elaine Khoong, an internist and assistant professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, *Doctors often turn to Google Translate to talk to patients. They want a better option*, **STAT News**, March 16, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/DoctorsTurnToGoogleTranslate>

“[The new Covid variant is] picking up steam. It’s across at least 12 countries ... from Finland to Greece. There’s no question there’s a significant wave there.”

Eric Topol, director of the Scripps Research Translational Institute, San Diego, *A covid surge in Western Europe has U.S. bracing for another wave*, ***Washington Post**, March 16, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/CovidSurgeWesternEurope>

“Any place you have relatively lower vaccination rates, especially among the elderly, is where you’re going to see a bump in hospitalizations and deaths from [the new Covid variant].”

Dr. Céline Gounder, infectious-diseases physician and editor at large for public health at Kaiser Health News, *A covid surge in Western Europe has U.S. bracing for another wave*, ***Washington Post**, March 16, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/CovidSurgeWesternEurope>

“We hope this story can be the beginning of hope and not the end. We also hope that what was learned from his surgery will benefit future patients and hopefully one day, end the organ shortage that costs so many lives each year.”

David Bennett Jr., son of man who received a pig’s transplanted heart, *Patient in Groundbreaking Heart Transplant Dies*, ***New York Times**, March 9, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/GroundbreakingHeartTransplant>

“Whatever happened to respect for the dead? Who cares where someone is from? There is no system to help these people [who die alone and unknown], and that allows everyone to find a reason to back away.”

Peter Stefan, a Massachusetts funeral director, *The Forgotten Dead: Her body washed ashore in Connecticut. The search for her family began*, **Washington Post (free access)**, March 12, 2022, <https://wapo.st/3KP6kVS>

“The unclaimed, they never end. No one wanted to take care of this poor woman. Nobody wanted to step up. That’s where the system fails the most.”

Holly Olko, an investigator in the Connecticut medical examiner’s office, *The Forgotten Dead: Her body washed ashore in Connecticut. The search for her*

family began, **Washington Post (free access)**, March 12, 2022, <https://wapo.st/3KP6kVS>

“Police call me from Boston, Framingham, Hudson, from all over. They say, ‘I’ve been sitting with this body for eight or nine hours, and no one will pick up it up.’ They beg me to help. If I didn’t go, no one would. Any dummy knows that there is a problem when the state hasn’t raised the fee they give for these cases in 39 years. The system is broken. No one is looking at it. Maybe it would be different if the dead could vote.”

Stefan, 84 years old, a funeral director in Worcester, MA known for burying those others would not, *The Forgotten Dead: Her body washed ashore in Connecticut. The search for her family began*, **Washington Post (free access)**, March 12, 2022, <https://wapo.st/3KP6kVS>

Despite a decision by a State Survey Agency to restrict their compliance reviews, Accrediting Organizations with deeming authority are required to continue surveying for compliance with all Medicare and Medicaid regulations. Medicare and Medicaid certified providers and suppliers within every State continue to be responsible for compliance with the federal requirements for all Conditions of Participation, Conditions for Coverage, and Requirements for Participation. Individuals with a quality-of-care complaint related to a Medicare or Medicaid health and safety regulation that the state is not surveying for may contact the CMS location, directly via ROPHIDSC@cms.hhs.gov.

Memorandum to States: *State Obligations to Survey to the Entirety of Medicare and Medicaid Health and Safety Requirements under the 1864 Agreement*, **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services**, February 9, 2022, <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-22-12-all.pdf>

Dignity Alliance
Massachusetts in the News

1. The National Consumer Voice for Long Term Care

March 15, 2022

Advocates in Massachusetts Push for COVID-19 Remembrance Day

	<p>Dignity Alliance Massachusetts is advocating to pass H. 4224 in the Massachusetts state legislature which would establish the annual observance of COVID-19 Remembrance Day on March 10th. Though the bill has not yet passed, Dignity Alliance Massachusetts honored victims and survivors of COVID-19 in a resolution on March 10th acknowledging the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on older adults, people with disabilities, and residents of nursing homes. Codifying the Remembrance Day via a state bill would honor those lost and help ensure that the tragedy is not repeated.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/ConsumerVoiceMarch152022</p>
Lives Well Lived	<p>2. Washington Post February 24, 2022 <i>Monique Hanotte, Belgian resistance member who rescued 135 downed Allied airmen in World War II, dies at 101</i></p> <p>Monique Hanotte, who as a Belgian teenager risked her life to help escort 135 Allied airmen out of German-occupied France and Belgium during World War II, died Feb. 19 in the Belgian city of Nivelles. She was 101. . .</p> <p>The unarmed Belgian resistance — two-thirds of them women of all ages — hid, clothed, fed, and created false documents for downed airmen, and then guided more than 800 of them on a long, dangerous trail through France, over the rugged Pyrenees to Spain, and finally into the British territory of Gibraltar, from which they would be flown to England.</p> <p>Ms. Hanotte was one of the last handful of surviving members of the Belgian “Comet Line,” a resistance network dedicated to saving Allied airmen from capture, torture, and likely execution by the Nazis. . .</p> <p>The network’s motto was “Pugna Quin Percutias” (fight without arms), as it never undertook armed or violent attacks during the German occupation, unlike the neighboring French resistance. Around 160 members of the network, including many women, were captured by the Gestapo, often tortured, executed, or sent to German concentration or extermination camps.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/MoniqueHanotte</p>
Reports	<p>3. Institute for Women’s Policy Research March 2022 <i>Women Want Good Pay, Health Coverage, and Better Benefits as They Re-Enter Workforce</i></p> <p>A new national survey by IWPR finds solid pay, health insurance, job security, retirement benefits, and paid leave top the list of considerations for women as they re-enter the workforce following the pandemic.</p> <p>TOPLINE SURVEY FINDINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good pay and health insurance are the top two desired benefits for women re-entering the workforce. When considering future jobs, a majority of women report a living wage (87.8 percent) and health insurance (86.0 percent) to be “very important” or “important” benefits, followed by retirement benefits (84.7 • percent) and job security (80.7 percent). Paid vacation (79.4 percent), paid sick time (77.3 percent), and paid family leave (76.6 percent) are also “very important” or “important” considerations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women also want flexibility as they consider future jobs. Over six in ten women (61.4 percent) surveyed consider control of their schedules to be “very important” or “important.” • Despite more than a year of the pandemic, paid sick and family leave remains an elusive benefit for many working women. Over one-third of women (37.5 percent) employed full-time report they do not have paid sick leave—and 65.2 percent of full-time workers surveyed report they do not have paid family leave. • Close to 70 percent of women report they do not have job security. Of women surveyed, just 31.6 percent felt that their current job offered security. <p>https://tinyurl.com/ThePandemicEffect</p>
Podcast	<p>4. The Pioneer Institute March 8, 2022 <i>Successful Aging Support: Reimagining Effective and Affordable Long-Term Care Solutions</i> Hubwonk host Joe Selvaggi talks with Brookings Institution Senior Fellow and healthcare policy expert Stuart Butler about the challenge of building long-term care systems and institutions that will support Americans as they age, without depleting assets and bankrupting the social safety net.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/SuccessfulAgingSupport</p>
Public Hearings	<p>5. MBTA <i>Fare Media Changes</i> Tuesday, March 22, 2022, 6:00 p.m. The MBTA is collecting public feedback on fare policy changes to support Fare Transformation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ending passbacks: We’re discontinuing the ability to tap multiple riders through a gate with one card (“passback”). This will allow us to introduce mobile and contactless payments and integrate the Commuter Rail without creating pricing errors. • Fare media per rider: Riders aged 12 and older will need to have their own fare media to provide proof of payment and to ensure there are no duplicate charges at fare gates and on fare readers. • “One more trip” protection on Charlie Cards: The new fare media will allow riders to board with low/zero balance to improve convenience and avoid leaving riders stranded. • \$3 Fare media fee and free card distribution: There will be a \$3 card cost per new Charlie Card and Mobile Charlie Card, with some exceptions. * <p>Learn more about the fare media changes These meetings are accessible to people with disabilities and those with limited English proficiency. Accessibility accommodations and language services will be provided free of charge, upon request, as available. Such services include documents in alternate formats, translated materials, assistive listening devices, and interpreters (including American Sign Language). Registration: https://tinyurl.com/MBTAFaresHearing</p>

Public Meeting	<p>6. U. S. Department of Transportation Thursday, March 24, 2022, 10:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. <i>Public Meeting on Air Travel by People Who Use Wheelchairs</i> The U.S. Department of Transportation is hosting a virtual public meeting regarding air travel by persons who use wheelchairs on March 24, 2022. During this meeting, there will be an opportunity to listen and learn from persons who use wheelchairs on the difficulties that they encounter during air travel and for airlines to discuss both the challenges that they face in providing accessible air transportation and the actions that they are taking or plan to take to improve the air travel environment.</p> <p>The meeting will better enable DOT to move expeditiously on any necessary action to advance safe accommodations for air travelers with disabilities using wheelchairs. See the Federal Register Notice announcing the meeting. ASL and CART will be provided.</p> <p><i>Requests to make oral comments during the meeting or to submit written materials to be reviewed during the meeting should be received at FlyingWithWheelchairs@dot.gov no later than March 21, 2022.</i></p> <p>Register for the meeting.</p>
Input Requested	<p>7. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services <i>Request for Information (2022) Access to Coverage and Care in Medicaid & CHIP Background</i> The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is seeking to develop and implement a comprehensive access strategy for Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Using regulations and guidance, along with other tools, CMS will set forth a multifaceted approach to help ensure equitable access to health care for Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries across all care delivery systems. There are a wide range of barriers to accessing Medicaid and CHIP covered services, including long-term services and supports (LTSS), which include institutional care and home and community-based services (HCBS). The barriers vary from people being unaware they are eligible for a program or service to issues with applications and eligibility determinations, beneficiary retention, provider participation, and the appeals and grievance processes. A comprehensive access strategy will enable CMS to better monitor and take action to ensure more equitable access for all Medicaid and CHIP populations. This Request for Information (RFI) is one of the first steps CMS is taking to develop its comprehensive access strategy. Examples of additional activities include interviews with subject matter experts, roundtables with a wide range of stakeholders, and internal regulatory gap analyses.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/MedicaidAccessRFI</p> <p>8. Department of Homeland Security <i>Public Charge Ground of Inadmissibility</i> The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is seeking comments on a proposed rule that would define the criteria used to determine whether a person likely to become a “public charge,” or primarily dependent on the government for subsistence, for purposes of determining eligibility for a visa and/or legal residency. The proposed rule contains several provisions that directly affect older adults and people with disabilities, so input from ACL’s networks is critical. Comments may be submitted until April 25, 2022. The blog post from March 7 has the details.</p>

<p>MBTA Survey Request</p>	<p>https://tinyurl.com/RFIPublicCharge</p> <p>9. MBTA <i>MBTA Research Survey</i> Have you ever needed to ask for information while on an MBTA platform? If so, the MBTA would love to hear from you. The Institute for Human Centered Design (IHCD) has created a survey to learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About the experience of MBTA customers who have used or tried to use a Call Box at an MBTA station to ask for assistance • How people may be using the information and emergency services provided by the MBTA, specifically the Call Boxes at platforms <p>Participants will be asked to complete a survey on these topics and will be paid \$50 for their time. https://tinyurl.com/MBTASurveyRequest</p>
<p>Funding Opportunities</p>	<p>10. Age Strong Commission – City of Boston <i>Creating Connection and Reducing Social Isolation Grant</i> Boston’s Age Strong Commission seeks grant applications from organizations and individuals who are working to build social connections and community for Boston’s older adults. Causes of and factors influencing social isolation vary widely; thus, we encourage applications from a variety of disciplines and perspectives. In addition to human and social service programs, we seek applications from faith communities, arts and culture communities, and any organizations working to ensure that older residents of Boston feel connected to their communities. Grants will range from \$5,000 to \$25,000. We welcome applications from groups engaged in intergenerational and multigenerational programs and practices; groups working with diverse communities; and groups that employ creative and innovative approaches. Age Strong is interested in supporting grassroots nonprofits and organizations/groups whose work contributes to a more connected and healthy Boston by building community and reducing loneliness. Online information session: Tuesday, March 22, 11am EST https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsdO-vqj0oGdT6znkjSHKiDYB46Cq3w11w Applications due: April 7, 2022 https://www.boston.gov/news/creating-connections-and-reducing-social-isolation-grant-announced</p> <p>11. Administration for Community Living <i>Elder Justice Innovation Grants - Improving Results for APS Clients FY2022</i> The purpose of the EJIG program is to support the development and advancement of new and emerging issues related to elder justice. Funded projects will contribute to the improvement of the field of elder abuse prevention and intervention at large, such as by developing materials, programs, etc. that can be widely disseminated and/or replicated, or by establishing and/or contributing to the evidence-base of knowledge. For this opportunity, projects will be sought which seek to improve results for APS clients. Projects will be either two (2) years in length, with two, 12-month budget periods, or fully funded for a two (2) year project and budget period. ACL anticipates ability to make up to a total of 20 awards under this opportunity. Eligible Applicants: Unrestricted</p>

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$6,000,000
Award Ceiling: \$1,000,000
Award Floor: \$300,000
Closing Date for Applications: May 06, 2022
Link to Additional Information: <https://acl.gov/grants/open-opportunities>

12. Administration for Community Living

Elder Justice Innovation Grants - Enhancing APS Approaches to Cases Involving Opioids and Substance Use Disorders FY2022

The purpose of the EJIG program is to support the development and advancement of new and emerging issues related to elder justice. Funded projects will contribute to the improvement of the field of elder abuse prevention and intervention at large, such as by developing materials, programs, etc. that can be widely disseminated and/or replicated, or by establishing and/or contributing to the evidence-base of knowledge. For this opportunity, projects will be sought which seek to identify effective strategies and solutions that are expected to maximize the impact of direct home-and community-based social, health, and mental/behavioral health services for APS clients impacted by the opioid epidemic and other substance use disorders.

Projects will be two (2) years in length, with two, 12-month budget periods. ACL anticipates ability to make up to a total of 20 awards under this opportunity.

Eligible Applicants: Unrestricted

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$6,000,000
Award Ceiling: \$1,000,000
Award Floor: \$300,000

Closing Date for Applications: May 03, 2022
Link to Additional Information: <https://acl.gov/grants/open-opportunities>

13. Administration for Community Living

Legal Assistance Enhancement Program

This funding opportunity is designed to enable legal assistance providers, including Older Americans Act-funded programs, to enhance and strengthen legal assistance programs to serve older Americans with economic and social need. Cooperative agreements under this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO), the Legal Assistance Enhancement Program (LAEP), are dedicated to identifying and executing enhancements and innovations that improve the quality, effectiveness, accessibility, and availability of legal assistance offered to older adults. Enhancements and innovations may include, but are not limited to, developing and implementing new programs to expand access to legal assistance, methods to increase the delivery of legal assistance, and technologies to improve the efficiency of providing legal assistance. Projects under the LAEP NOFO should be consistent with the fundamental principles of the Administration for Community Living (ACL), particularly as they apply to addressing inequities and increasing access to legal assistance in underserved communities. Enhancements made through this funding opportunity will support quantifiable and sustainable improvements to the delivery of a full range of legal assistance to older adults, from legal advice to full representation.

Eligible Applicants: Unrestricted

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$1,500,000
Award Ceiling: \$250,000
Award Floor: \$150,000

Closing Date for Applications: May 03, 2022

	<p>Link to Additional Information: https://acl.gov/grants/open-opportunities</p> <p>14. National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) <i>Burn Injury Model Systems Centers:</i> Burn Injury Model Systems Centers provide comprehensive, multidisciplinary services to people with burn injury as a prerequisite for conducting research that contributes to the development of and access to evidence-based burn rehabilitation with the ultimate goal of improving the health and function, community living and participation, and employment outcomes of people with burn injury. Burn Model System Centers generate new knowledge through site-specific research projects, collaborative projects, and contributions of data to the Burn Model System national longitudinal database. View more details and application instructions. Please visit the link above for more details about the grant opportunity and application process. This grant opportunity closes on May 2, 2022.</p> <p>15. National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) <i>Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems Centers</i> Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems Centers provide comprehensive, multidisciplinary services to people with traumatic brain injury (TBI) as a prerequisite for conducting research that contributes to the development of and access to evidence-based TBI rehabilitation with the ultimate goal of improving the health and function, community living and participation, and employment outcomes of people with TBI. TBIMS Centers generate new knowledge through site-specific research projects, collaborative projects, and contributions of data to the TBIMS national longitudinal database. View more details and application instructions. Please visit the link above for more details about the grant opportunity and application process. This grant opportunity closes on May 2, 2022.</p>
<p>Nominations for Service on Advisory Councils</p>	<p>16. Administration on Community Living <i>Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren</i> The Advisory Council identifies, promotes, coordinates, and disseminates to the public information, resources, and the best practices available to help grandparents and other older relatives both meet the needs of the children in their care; and maintain their own physical and mental health and emotional well-being. The Advisory Council is specifically directed to consider the needs of those affected by the opioid crisis, as well as the needs of members of Native American Tribes. Nominations must be submitted electronically by 11:59 p.m. April 11, 2022. https://tinyurl.com/GrandparentsCouncil</p> <p>17. Administration on Community Living <i>Family Caregiving Advisory Council</i> The Advisory Council studies and prepares findings, conclusions, and makes recommendations to the Administrator of ACL/Assistant Secretary for Aging on matters pertaining to: (a) Evidence-based or promising practices and innovative models for the provision of care by family caregivers or support for family caregivers; and (b) Improving coordination across federal government programs. The Advisory Council advises and provides recommendations to the Administrator on recognizing and supporting family caregivers. Nominations must be submitted electronically by 11:59 p.m. April 11, 2022.</p>

<p>Biden / Federal Policies</p>	<p>https://tinyurl.com/FamilyAdvisoryCouncil</p> <p>18. The National Consumer Voice for Long Term Care March 16, 2022 <i>Summary of the Biden-Harris Administration Nursing Home Reforms</i> On February 28, 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration announced a set of wide-ranging reforms aimed at improving the quality of nursing home care for residents. These reforms take aim at long-standing issues that have plagued nursing home care for decades, including poor staffing, inadequate enforcement, and lack of transparency in nursing home ownership and how taxpayer dollars are spent. If implemented, these reforms would be the most significant increase in protections for nursing home residents in decades. Read our full summary of the reforms. The announcement was broken down into five categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensuring Taxpayer Dollars Support Nursing Homes That Provide Safe, Adequate, and Dignified Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Minimum Nursing Home Staffing Requirement • Reduce Resident Room Crowding • Strengthen the Skilled Nursing Facility Value-Based Purchasing Program • Reinforce Safeguards Against Unnecessary Medications and Treatments 2. Enhancing Accountability and Oversight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequately Fund Inspection Activities • Beef up Scrutiny on More of the Poorest Performers • Expand Financial Penalties and Other Enforcement Sanctions • Increase Accountability for Chain Owners of Substandard Facilities • Provide Technical Assistance to Nursing Homes to Help Them Improve 3. Increasing Transparency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Database of Nursing Homeowners and Operators • Improve Transparency of Facility Ownership and Finances • Enhance Nursing Home Care Compare • Examine the Role of Private Equity 4. Creating Pathways to Good-Paying Jobs with the Free and Fair Choice to Join a Union <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure Nurse Aide Training is Affordable • Support State Efforts to Improve Staffing and Workforce Sustainability • Launch National Nursing Career Pathways Campaign 5. Ensuring Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness in Nursing Homes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued COVID-19 Testing in Long-Term Care Facilities • Continued COVID-19 Vaccinations and Boosters in Long-Term Care Facilities • Strengthen Requirements for On-site Infection Preventionists • Enhance Requirements for Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness • Integrate Pandemic Lessons into Nursing Home Requirements <p>It is still very early in the process and the effort needed to implement these reforms will be significant. We will continue to share information and also action steps you can take to help realize these important goals. But, for now, we can all celebrate this momentous occasion and its promise for nursing home residents!</p>
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[Read our full summary of the reforms.](#)

19. Associated Press

March 15, 2022

US funeral assistance for COVID tops \$2B, more eligible

The federal government has provided more than \$2 billion to help cover funeral costs for more than 300,000 families of people who died from COVID-19, the Federal Emergency Management Agency announced Tuesday as it launches a new campaign to raise awareness about the aid to eligible families. More than 965,000 people have died in the U.S. from the virus.

The COVID-19 Funeral Assistance program provides up to \$9,000 per funeral and covers COVID-19 related deaths since Jan. 20, 2020. The average amount awarded per death is \$6,500, according to FEMA. . .

To be eligible for reimbursement, death certificates for those who died after May 16, 2020, must indicate that the death was attributed to COVID-19. For deaths that occurred in the early months of the pandemic — from Jan. 20 to May 16, 2020 — death certificates must be accompanied with a signed statement from a medical examiner, coroner or the certifying official listed on the certificate indicating that COVID-19 was the cause or a contributing cause of death.

<https://tinyurl.com/USFuneralAssistance>

20. The National Consumer Voice for Long Term Care

March 15, 2022

Increased Funding for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Included in Spending Bill

Last week, Congress passed the [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022](#). The omnibus FY 22 spending bill includes increases for Older Americans Act programs including \$19.8 million for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (compared to \$18.8 million in FY 21) and \$18.9 million for Elder Rights Support Activities (compared to \$17.9 million in FY 21). The bill will now go to the President's desk for his signature.

[Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022](#).

21. The National Consumer Voice for Long Term Care

March 15, 2022

President Announces Nominee for ACL Administrator/ Assistant Secretary for Aging

President Biden [announced](#) Rita Landgraf as his nominee for Administrator of the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and Assistant Secretary for Aging. Dr. Landgraf served as the Cabinet Secretary of the Delaware Department of Health and Human Services for eight years before her current role as Director of the University of Delaware Partnership for Health Communities. She is also a former State President of AARP.

22. The Hill

March 10, 2022

Former CDC directors: Coordinating our nation's health data will save lives

As the SARS-CoV-2 surge recedes, we need to apply the lessons we've learned during this pandemic to improve our response to the next health emergency. One major obstacle has been the lack of health data needed to track the pandemic and assess its impact across the complex U.S. healthcare and public

health ecosystem. This lack of timely, standardized data hampered our ability to respond rapidly and effectively to the pandemic. . . .
Early in the pandemic, key local data such as hospital capacity was inaccessible to CDC, complicating the agency's ability to assess the health impacts and lead our nation's response. The declaration of a public health emergency temporarily improved the situation by giving the Department of Health and Human Services authority to require reporting of essential data to guide pandemic response. . . .
Giving the CDC the authority now to direct data coordination efforts will jumpstart longer-term rebuilding and modernization of our public health data infrastructure. As the pandemic has proven, American lives depend on how quickly and comprehensively we can accomplish this objective.

<https://tinyurl.com/CoordinatingData>

23. The White House

February 24, 2022

Administration Announces New Actions to Address the Needs of People with Disabilities and Older Adults in Response to and Recovery from COVID-19

On February 24, the Biden-Harris Administration announced that it would be taking [additional steps](#)

to meet the needs of people with disabilities and older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic.

These actions taken by the Administration seek to ensure that all people with disabilities, regardless of where they live or the level of community transmission of the virus, have equitable access to COVID-19 testing, masks, and other critical mitigation strategies.

The new actions announced by the Administration include:

- Providing schools with the guidance and support needed to keep students with disabilities safe and learning in-person.
- Expansion of the [Disability Information and Access Line](#) (DIAL) to provide support to people with disabilities who need assistance to use at-home COVID-19 tests or need help finding alternatives to at-home testing.
- Working to develop full accessible at-home tests and incentivizing all at-home test manufacturers to prioritize accessibility of at-home tests.
- Releasing [new COVID-19 testing guidance](#) in American Sign Language and reviewing all existing COVID-19 guidance to confirm accessibility and provide information in Braille, ASL translation, simplified text, and other alternative formats.
- Requesting that all test developers that have received an emergency use authorization (EUA) provide instructions that are accessible and compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, including alternative text for all images as well as html versions.
- Distributing masks to individuals with disabilities through community-based organizations and jurisdictions and calling on states to do so as well.

<https://tinyurl.com/WhiteHouseNewActions>

24. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

February 9, 2022

Memorandum to States: State Obligations to Survey to the Entirety of Medicare and Medicaid Health and Safety Requirements under the 1864 Agreement

Memorandum Summary:

- The 1864 Agreement is the agreement between CMS and the State survey agency to carry out the provisions of Sections 1864, 1874, and related provisions

	<p>of the Social Security Act (Act). This 1864 Agreement specifies the functions to be performed by the State. The requirements for survey and certification procedures are provided in 42CFR Part 488.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specifically, under Article II, A.1.(c), the State duties include “surveying for the purpose of certifying to the Secretary the compliance or non-compliance of providers and suppliers of services and resurveying such entities, at such times and manner as the Secretary may direct.” • CMS, as delegated by the Secretary, designates the content of the survey process to be followed by States. <p>Individuals with a quality of care complaint related to a Medicare or Medicaid health and safety regulation that the state is not surveying for may contact the CMS location, directly, at the email below:</p> <p>ROPHIDSC@cms.hhs.gov: Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.</p> <p>https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-22-12-all.pdf</p>
March Forth Together	<p>25. The National Consumer Voice for Long Term Care</p> <p><i>Social Media Week March 21 – 25</i></p> <p>Twitter Storm - Thursday, March 24th</p> <p>Let's raise resident voices and make sure they're heard! Next week, join us for Social Media Week March 21-25. We are encouraging residents and family members to speak about understaffing.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a video of a resident in a nursing home explaining in their own words - What does it mean when there aren't enough staff? See a sample of a resident clip here. 2. Post the video to your social media on Thursday, March 24th for our Twitter Storm using #UnderstaffingisNeglect and #MarchForthwithResidents 3. Tag @consumervoices on Twitter. 4. Amplify other voices by retweeting and reposting other posts with those hashtags. <p>Use our Social Media Toolkit for further instructions, graphics, and sample tweets that you can use during our Twitter Storm on Thursday, March 24th and all week long!</p> <p>Don't have Twitter?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's easy and free to set up an account. Find instructions here. • On Facebook, tag us @theconsumervoice and use the same hashtags. Get the social media kit: https://tinyurl.com/MarchForthSocialMediaKit
Recognition Day / Week / Month	<p>26. World Down Syndrome Day 2022</p> <p>Monday, March 21, 2022</p> <p>World Down Syndrome Day (WDS) , March 21, is a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012.</p> <p>The date for WDS being the 21st day of the 3rd month, was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome.</p> <p>#WorldDownSyndromeDay</p> <p>On 19 December 2011, the United Nations General Assembly declared 21 March as World Down Syndrome Day. The General Assembly decided, with effect from 2012, to observe World Down Syndrome Day on 21 March each year, and invites all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and</p>

other international organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to observe World Down Syndrome Day in an appropriate manner, in order to raise public awareness of Down syndrome. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/down-syndrome-day>

“Inclusion Means” guides:

- Theme: <https://tinyurl.com/InclusionMeansThemeGuide>
- Advocacy: <https://tinyurl.com/InclusionMeansAdvocacyGuide>
- Workplace: <https://tinyurl.com/InclusionMeansWorkplaceGuide>
<https://www.worlddownsyndromeday.org/>

27. Washington Post (free access)

March 16, 2022

For World Down Syndrome Day, meet 3 young people who dream big and achieve

Chris Nikic, Abigail Adams, and Nate Simon are examples of people whose successes raise awareness of Down syndrome.

Each year on March 21, Abigail Adams, a 22-year-old diversity advocate with Down syndrome, gets together with family and friends at a restaurant to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day. They dress in blue and yellow, the colors that represent the genetic condition.

Adams’s family is one of many worldwide marking [World Down Syndrome Day](#), which the United Nations created in 2011 to raise awareness of people with this condition.

What is Down syndrome?

Most babies are born with 23 pairs of chromosomes. Babies with Down syndrome have an extra piece — or even a whole copy — of their 21st chromosome. This extra genetic material affects a person’s physical and mental abilities.

A child with Down syndrome may have lower muscle tone, which means they may have to work a long time to learn to walk and pronounce words. It may take them longer than other kids to learn to read and write. Regardless, people with Down syndrome have become clothing designers, chefs, and entrepreneurs. They have walked the runway in fashion shows and entered grueling sports competitions.

- Three young people with Down Syndrome: In 2020, [Chris Nikic](#) became the first person with Down syndrome to finish an Ironman triathlon. He swam 2.4 miles, bicycled 112 miles and ran 26.2 miles.
- Nate Simon, 21, of Chicago, Illinois, created his own clothing line last year. Called [21 Pineapples](#), it features his designs on T-shirts, hats, hoodies, and Hawaiian shirts.
- Abigail Adams, known on social media as “[Abigail the Advocate](#),” wants others to know that people with Down syndrome have incredible abilities. She works as an actor, model, and public speaker.

<https://wapo.st/36w94J6>

28. Washington Post (free access)

March 21, 2019

World Down Syndrome Day: How disability helped me understand privilege

	<p>Our daughter Penny was born into a world of social advantages. We, her parents, are married, white, educated, and able to readily provide for her material wants and needs. Two hours after she was born, Penny was diagnosed with Down syndrome, a genetic condition that occurs upon conception and often leads to health complications, physical delays, and cognitive challenges. Penny joined a group of people who have faced a history of discrimination. Until the 1970s, people with Down syndrome did not have a legal right to a public education, and doctors routinely recommended that children with Down syndrome be sent to institutions. . .</p> <p>In the beginning, the injustice behind that exclusion bothered me. I bristled at the preschool director who wouldn't consider welcoming Penny into her classroom. I recognized what Michael Gerson termed the "soft bigotry of low expectations" when doctors and friends talked about all the things Penny would never do.</p> <p>I began to advocate for people with intellectual disabilities in local spaces, such as church sanctuaries, as well as in the broader public. I also began to see that the exclusion of kids with intellectual disabilities ran parallel to the exclusion of other children who didn't come from backgrounds like ours — kids growing up in poverty, kids with physical disabilities, kids who receive negative expectations based upon the color of their skin or their ethnic background. All of these kids were vulnerable to the injustice of exclusion. Penny's situation opened my heart to advocate for opportunities for all of them.</p> <p>https://wapo.st/3CTviR9</p>
Public Policies	<p>29. TED Talks November 2021 <i>How to share public money fairly</i> "We have the right to demand budgets to be equitable, to be fair," says economist Maja Bosnic. One way to get there is to make them gender-responsive. With examples from the nearly 80 countries around the world already factoring gender into public finance decisions, she shares how budgets that actively account for gender don't just lead to equality -- they're also more efficient and effective.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/SharePublicMoney</p>
Film Festival	<p>30. Vinfen's Virtual 15th Annual Moving Images Film Festival Saturday, March 26, 2022, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. <i>When a Whisper Becomes a Roar: The Power of You</i> Each year, Vinfen uses the power of film to raise awareness, foster dialogue, and combat the prejudices and discrimination often faced by people with mental health conditions and disabilities. This is a day of inspiring films and engaging panel discussions. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. Fee for continuing education credits for professionals.</p> <p>Films:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Wake Up</i> <i>Wake Up</i> weaves the stories of four very different communities affected by suicide – college students, veterans, the LGBT community, and gun owners. Rather than laboring on tragedy and despair, <i>Wake Up</i> focuses on the leaders of the frontlines of prevention, leaving viewers hopeful, informed, and encouraged. It also powerfully illustrates how positive change can be achieved when compassion is practiced over prejudice – an important and timely lesson.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Definition of Insanity</i> <i>The Definition of Insanity</i> depicts the story of Judge Steven Leifman’s tireless work decriminalizing treatment of people with serious mental health conditions and a tribute to the good that can be accomplished by one individual on a mission. • <i>Autism: The Sequel</i> In 2006, HBO debuted the Emmy-winning film <i>Autism: The Musical</i>, which followed five children as they wrote and performed their own musical. <i>Autism: The Sequel</i> revisits the stars of this musical 12 years later as the original subjects, now in their early 20’s, navigate what independence means to them as they manage both the challenges and the triumphs as adults living on the autism spectrum. Registration: https://vinfen15.eventive.org/welcome
Advocacy	<p>31. *New York Times February 7, 2022 <i>Call It ‘Codger Power.’ We’re Older and Fighting for a Better America.</i> Over the past few months, we’ve worked with others of our generation to start the group Third Act, which organizes people over the age of 60 for progressive change. That’s no easy task. The baby boomers and the Silent Generation before them make up a huge share of the population — nearly 75 million people, a larger population than France’s. . . But now we emerge into older age with skills, resources, grandchildren — and a growing fear that we’re about to leave the world a worse place than we found it. So, some of us are more than ready to turn things around. It’s not that there aren’t plenty of older Americans involved in the business of politics: We’ve perhaps never had more aged people in positions of power, with most of the highest offices in the nation occupied by septuagenarians and up, yet even with all their skills, they can’t get anything done because of the country’s political divisions. . . Reminding one another of the early years of our lives is, we think, key. If our first act was pretty fascinating, the second act for too many of our generations focused harder on consumerism than on citizenship; we drifted into an individualism that fit easily with the Reagan ethos of looking out for oneself. But if it worked for us, it clearly isn’t working for the planet or the society as a whole — younger people realized that, which is why they took up the “OK, boomer,” cry, and we’ve begun to realize it too. Older voters began drifting back to Mr. Biden in the last election, but we think that drift needs to grow into a wave if we’re going to defuse the challenges facing us. https://tinyurl.com/NYTCodgerPower</p>
Webinar and online sessions	<p>32. Pioneer Institute Tuesday, March 22, 2022, 11:00 a.m. <i>340B Program: Examining Patient Access to Affordable Medicines</i> For millions of low-income or uninsured Americans, affording their medicines has been a challenge. The federal 340B Drug Pricing Program was intended to serve these vulnerable patients by providing them access to discounted medicines and community care programs. But, as it grew, the 340B Program may have lost sight of its important mission. Moderator: Dr. William Smith</p>

Speakers:

Terry Wilcox, Executive Director of [Patients Rising](#)

Robert Popovian, Vice President, Health Economics and Policy, [Equideum Health](#)
<https://tinyurl.com/304BAffordableMedicatiions>

33. Administration on Community Living and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Thursday, March 24, 2022, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Rethinking Day Services--The Without Walls Approach

The COVID-19 pandemic changed the way we think about and provide services, with more and more providers shifting to a without walls approach. A without walls approach offers several benefits to providers and states including reduced brick-and-mortar costs, reduced need for vans, selling private pay services on a national scale, using volunteers to diversify workforce, lower labor costs, and incentivizing community building and partnerships. It also more clearly complies with the intent of the HCBS Settings Rule regarding community inclusion and customized competitive employment.

This webinar will provide insight into how a without walls approach can be used as part of a COVID-19 response strategy, how to train staff to shift from center-based services to community-based services, and what a without walls approach looks like in practice.

Speakers:

- David Hoff, Project Director, Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts, Boston
- Danielle Mahoehney, Community Living and Employment Specialist, Institute on Community Integration at the University of Minnesota
- Marian Frattarola-Saulino, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Values into Action
- Pamela Price, Service User, Values into Action
- Jessica Clark, Service User, Values into Action
- Robert Zotynia, Service User, Values into Action

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

34. Older Adults' Equity Collaborative (OAE)

Thursday, March 31, 2022, 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

COVID & Beyond: Services and Resources for Diverse Older Adults the OAE has seen the challenges of the COVID pandemic experienced by minority communities, including the impact on physical and mental health, economic and food security, and social supports. Panelists will introduce and discuss national programs and services that support diverse aging and disability communities during the ongoing pandemic and recovery.

Panelists Include:

- Deborah Stone-Walls, Chief Programs & Services, USAging
- Eden Ruiz-Lopez, Operations Director, National Center on Elder Abuse
- Erika Kelly, Chief Membership and Advocacy Manager, Meals on Wheels America
- Ginny Paulson, Director, SHIP Technical Assistance Center
- Lenard Kaye, Director, UMaine Center on Aging
- Nicole Liebau, Center Director, SMP Resource Center
- Richard Petty, Director, National Center for Aging and Disability; Co-Director, Independent Living Research Utilization at TIRR Memorial Hermann

<https://tinyurl.com/CovidAndBeyond>

35. National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS)

Thursday, March 31, 2022, 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

Understanding and Addressing Unmet Needs in HCBS Through the Lens of Person-Centered Practices

High-quality home- and community-based Services (HCBS) allow people with disabilities and older adults to direct their services in a person-centered manner, live independently, and participate in the community. However, many individuals who receive HCBS still have unmet needs for services and supports. While studies have found a connection between unmet HCBS needs and adverse outcomes, including hospitalization, institutionalization, and death; few have examined user-reported perspectives about the quality and sufficiency of HCBS and their relationship to key health and community living outcomes.

Researchers at the Lurie Institute for Disability Policy conducted a study to learn how many people who use HCBS need more services than they receive and to understand the connection between unmet HCBS needs and health and community living outcomes. Panelists will discuss what implications the results of the study have in regard to person-centered planning in HCBS, highlight opportunities for improvement, and discuss how to overcome challenges to advancing person-centered practices.

NCAPPS webinars include ASL interpretation and live-captions in both English and Spanish. If you require any additional accommodations, please email Saska Rajcevic. Please note that some accommodation requests made less than one week before an event may not be possible.

[Register for the webinar.](#)

36. Bipartisan Policy Center

Thursday, March 31, 2022, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

An Updated Policy Roadmap: Caring for Individuals with Complex Needs

Providing quality care to individuals with complex needs remains one of the most pressing issues facing our health care system. In 2018, BPC first released a policy roadmap on this topic, outlining policy solutions necessary to improve the financing and delivery of this critical care. Despite meaningful progress, the challenges are still significant: Policymakers should take additional action to ensure equity in access to care and service delivery for individuals with complex needs across public and private insurance programs. Now, BPC marks the release of an updated policy roadmap report to advance those goals.

Featured Participants

Introduction by:

Bill Hoagland • Senior Vice President, BPC

Keynote remarks by:

Sarita Mohanty, MD, MPH, MBA • President & CEO, The SCAN Foundation

Panel discussion with:

Henry Claypool • Consultant, BPC; Policy Director, Community Living Policy Center UCSF

Marc Cohen, Ph.D. • Professor, UMass Boston; Co-director, LeadingAge LTSS Center

Pamela Parker, MPA • Medicare-Medicaid Integration Consultant, SNP Alliance

Bea Rector, MPA • Director, Home and Community Services Division, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Moderated by:

	<p>Lisa Harootunian • Associate Director, BPC https://tinyurl.com/CaringComplexNeeds</p> <p>37. Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on HCBS Outcome Measurement Monday, April 11, 2022, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. <i>The Future of Outcome Measurement: An International Forum</i> The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on HCBS Outcome Measurement (funded by ACL) is holding an event about creating a global vision for developing rigorous outcome measures that lead to improved disability services and policies. The event feature presentations from Julie Beadle-Brown of the University of Kent in the United Kingdom and Jan Šiška of Charles University in the Czech Republic. Other presenters include ICI’s Roger Stancliffe, professor emeritus at the University of Sydney, Australia, along with Renáta Tichá and Brian Aberly. A panel discussion will explore the different indicators, frameworks, and approaches used around the world to assess quality in disability service and policy contexts and propose improvements for the future. Panelists will include Dorothy Hiersteiner and Stephanie Giordano from the Human Resources Research Institute, Shawn Terrell from the Administration for Community Living, Allan Heinemann & Anne Deutsch from Northwestern University, Carli Friedman from the Council on Quality and Leadership, Christine Linehan from the University College Dublin (Ireland), and Anne Rosken from University of St. Gallen (Germany). This event can be attended virtually or in person. Register for the event.</p>
Previously posted webinars and online sessions	<p>Previously posted webinars and online sessions can be viewed at: https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/</p>
Nursing Homes	<p>38. Florida Politics March 17, 2022 <i>Gov. DeSantis: ‘A lot of nursing homes will be very, very happy’ after 2022 Session</i> AARP Florida might be fighting an uphill battle as the organization seeks a veto from Gov. Ron DeSantis for legislation that allows nursing facilities to reduce the minimum number of nursing hours that must be provided to residents daily. https://tinyurl.com/GovDeSantisNursingHomesHappy</p> <p>39. McKnights Long Term Care News March 16, 2022 <i>Nursing homes will be ‘very, very happy’ with new legislation, governor says</i> Florida’s nearly 700 nursing homes are in line for additional help in the ongoing workforce crisis, thanks to several key actions by lawmakers this legislative session. Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) on Monday said there will be “a lot of nursing homes that are very, very happy” while marking the end of the 2022 legislative session. It saw lawmakers advance loosened staffing standards and a nearly \$300 million increase in Medicaid funding for providers. Florida’s \$112 billion state budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year was approved Monday. Lawmakers included a 7.8% increase in Medicaid funding for nursing homes. That amounts to an additional \$293 million in funding, or about \$419,000 per facility. The state’s new fiscal year starts July 1.</p>

	<p>The governor is also expected to sign HB 1239, which reduces the minimum number of hours of direct care per resident day provided by CNAs from 2.5 to 2. It also accounts for time other workers, including therapists, have spent with residents.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/NursingHomesVeryVeryHappy</p> <p>40. *New York Times March 15, 2022 <i>An audit finds that the Cuomo administration ‘misled the public’ on nursing home deaths in New York.</i> The administration of former Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo failed to publicly account for the deaths of about 4,100 nursing home residents in New York during the pandemic, according to an audit released on Tuesday by the state comptroller, Thomas P. DiNapoli. The audit found that Health Department officials at times underreported the full death toll by as much as 50 percent from April 2020 to February 2021, as Mr. Cuomo faced increasing scrutiny over whether his administration had intentionally concealed the actual number of deaths. . . The report found that the underreporting of the death data was initially a result of poor data collection by the Health Department when New York unexpectedly became the epicenter of the pandemic in March 2020. But officials still failed to release the full extent of nursing home deaths even as the data gathering improved. https://tinyurl.com/MisledThePublic</p> <p>41. AP News March 15, 2022 <i>Nursing home residents to be moved due to violations</i> Connecticut health officials have ordered the immediate transfer of all 94 residents of a Wallingford nursing home to other care centers after finding dangerous safety violations during an investigation spurred by two resident deaths, according to the state Department of Public Health. . . [Commissioner Dr. Manisha Juthani] said inspectors found seven instances of “immediate jeopardy,” meaning patients’ lives were placed at risk. She said the nursing home repeatedly failed to correct the problems. The inspections began Feb. 10 in response to a complaint about two patient deaths, health officials said. https://tinyurl.com/NHResidentsMoved</p>
Home and Community Based Services	<p>42. STAT News (Podcast) March 16, 2022 <i>The ‘underground market’ for insulin and diabetes supplies</i> It’s a sad reality that people with diabetes know all too well: The price of insulin, a medicine they depend on to stay alive, has skyrocketed. Some people have trouble paying for insulin, forcing them to ration it or go without, which can be deadly. Report about the systemic problems that people with diabetes have paying for insulin and other supplies, the grassroots communities that have emerged to help, and long-term solutions for the problem. https://tinyurl.com/InsulinUndergroundMarket</p> <p>43. STAT News</p>

	<p>March 16, 2022 <i>Doctors often turn to Google Translate to talk to patients. They want a better option</i> Google Translate has become a ubiquitous, if under-examined, part of patient care. “It’s sort of [used] under the table,” said Elaine Khoong, an internist and assistant professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. The practice is hidden in part because it is formally discouraged by health systems and state medical registration boards that see it as a liability. There’s a growing push by Khoong and other researchers to bring it to the surface — both to study Google Translate’s use and risk in the clinic, and to build better versions to backstop traditional language services. . . “For a lot of patients who have non-English language preference, what actually happens is either the clinical team doesn’t talk to them, or they use sign language, or they try to mime,” said Khoong. Interpretation can be especially scarce in safety net facilities, which often end up paying higher rates for call-in services. And physicians can be reticent to call in an interpreter for anything but the most mission-critical moments in a patient’s stay, like surgical consent, because it can take away precious minutes from their interaction with a patient. . . For patients and providers still wrestling to understand each other, validated clinical machine translation could be a boon. https://tinyurl.com/DoctorsTurnToGoogleTranslate</p> <p>44. AP News March 15, 2022 <i>NY lawmakers want to boost funding for housing, home care</i> The [New York] Democratic governor’s proposed budget included a \$2 billion pool of funding for extra COVID-19 relief. Both legislative proposals would boost funding for rental relief, utility debt and home care. Neither included extra relief for undocumented workers, while the Assembly’s lacked the Senate’s proposed statewide ban on fossil fuels in new construction. Both the Assembly and Senate are proposing to add at least \$1 billion more in funding to New York’s Emergency Rental Assistance Program, which has run out of money. The Assembly proposes spending \$1.25 billion, while the Senate would provide up to \$1 billion in state funds for any shortfalls. . . Advocates estimate that about one in five New Yorkers are currently in households that are nearly \$2 billion behind on electric or natural gas bills. . . The Senate proposes spending an additional \$625 million to boost pay for home care workers, and \$277.5 million to remove the existing eligibility requirement for personal and home care. The Assembly’s plan would set a minimum wage for home care workers at 150% of the regional minimum wage. https://tinyurl.com/BoostFundingHousing</p>
Assisted Living	<p>45. *Boston Globe March 10, 2022 <i>Leaving Cambridge for the comfort of strangers</i> We’re not old, but we will be. So, we went in search of a different kind of assisted living. In form, cohousing communities resemble condo complexes, with anywhere from 15 to 40 individually owned homes clustered around a common house — the gathering place for shared meals, meetings, and celebrations. But unlike people living in traditional condos, residents work five to 10 hours a month at tasks like landscaping, preparing group meals, and babysitting. The work</p>

	<p>requirement lowers costs and condo fees. But more important, it fuels emotional investment in the community, strengthening mutual-aid muscles and ensuring frequent, easy opportunities to interact with others. . .</p> <p>We have a mix of married and single and straight and gay, and a modicum of ethnic diversity. We have people who go to church every week and die-hard atheists; people who run marathons and people who walk with canes; climate activists and merely sympathetic bystanders. Our members are teachers, writers, dog groomers, lawyers, doctors, nurses, and retail clerks.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/ComfortOfStrangers</p>
<p>Behavioral Health / Substance Use Disorder</p>	<p>46. STAT News March 16, 2022 <i>Emergency response systems must not overlook people with substance use disorders</i></p> <p>In the first year of the pandemic, many people with opioid and other substance use disorders were cut off from treatment and harm reduction services. Overdose deaths rose exponentially. Individuals testing positive for Covid-19 faced especially limited options for initiating or maintaining addiction treatment. For others, accessing care meant risking infection. This was a particular problem for people receiving methadone at opioid treatment programs that require in-person dosing. . .</p> <p>As the U.S. confronts the health effects of climate change and related hazards, it is urgent that government agencies, policymakers, and medical and public health professionals include the needs of people who use substances and those with addiction in their preparedness planning. . .</p> <p>A good place to begin is building upon what has already achieved in terms of expanded access to treatment for opioid use disorder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase and diversify methadone access points by expanding take-home doses, as well as dispensing it in community pharmacies and mobile units. • Enable prescribers with the proper waiver to provide buprenorphine to more patients by eliminating caps on the number of patients a clinician can manage. • Ensure that people who use substances have what they need to stay safe by funding and implementing low barrier harm-reduction programs that offer naloxone, safer use supplies, supervised consumption, and other evidence-based interventions. <p>https://tinyurl.com/NotOverlookPeople</p> <p>47. AP News March 15, 2022 <i>Gov. Baker: Bill would expand mental health care services</i></p> <p>Gov. Charlie Baker unveiled a bill Tuesday that he said would help expand access to primary care and mental health services and help control rising health care and prescription drug costs. . . He said the bill aims to increase investments in behavioral health care services, control factors that drive up health care costs and improve access to high quality coordinated care for people dealing with multiple health care challenges. . . One of the top remaining challenges is making sure that those in need of behavioral health care services are treated on par with those with physical health care needs. The bill would require health care providers and payers to increase expenditures on primary care and behavioral</p>

	<p>health by 30% over three years, with the initial performance period ending in 2024.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/BakerExpandMentalHealth</p>
Covid-19	<p>48. Institute for Women’s Policy Research March 2022 <i>Women Want Good Pay, Health Coverage, and Better Benefits as They Re-Enter Workforce</i> A new national survey by IWPR finds solid pay, health insurance, job security, retirement benefits, and paid leave top the list of considerations for women as they re-enter the workforce following the pandemic. TOPLINE SURVEY FINDINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good pay and health insurance are the top two desired benefits for women re-entering the workforce. When considering future jobs, a majority of women report a living wage (87.8 percent) and health insurance (86.0 percent) to be “very important” or “important” benefits, followed by retirement benefits (84.7 • percent) and job security (80.7 percent). Paid vacation (79.4 percent), paid sick time (77.3 percent), and paid family leave (76.6 percent) are also “very important” or “important” considerations. • Women also want flexibility as they consider future jobs. Over six in ten women (61.4 percent) surveyed consider control of their schedules to be “very important” or “important.” • Despite more than a year of the pandemic, paid sick and family leave remains an elusive benefit for many working women. Over one-third of women (37.5 percent) employed full-time report they do not have paid sick leave—and 65.2 percent of full-time workers surveyed report they do not have paid family leave. • Close to 70 percent of women report they do not have job security. Of women surveyed, just 31.6 percent felt that their current job offered security. <p>https://tinyurl.com/ThePandemicEffect</p> <p>49. *Washington Post March 16, 2022 <i>A covid surge in Western Europe has U.S. bracing for another wave</i> A surge in coronavirus infections in Western Europe has experts and health authorities on alert for another wave of the pandemic in the United States, even as most of the country has done away with restrictions after a sharp decline in cases. Infectious-disease experts are closely watching the subvariant of omicron known as BA.2, which appears to be more transmissible than the original strain, BA.1, and is fueling the outbreak overseas. . . In all, about a dozen nations are seeing spikes in coronavirus infections caused by BA.2, a cousin of the BA.1 form of the virus that tore through the United States over the past three months. https://tinyurl.com/CovidSurgeWesternEurope</p> <p>50. AP News March 16, 2022 <i>Diabetes & COVID-19: Scientists explore potential connection</i> Emerging evidence shows that the coronavirus — like some other viruses — can attack insulin-producing cells in the pancreas — a process that might trigger at</p>

least temporary diabetes in susceptible people. Rising cases might also reflect circumstances involving pandemic restrictions, including delayed medical care for early signs of diabetes or unhealthy eating habits and inactivity in people already at risk for Type 2 diabetes. . . A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report looked at two large U.S. insurance databases that included new diabetes cases from March 2020 through June 2021. Diabetes was substantially more common in kids who'd had COVID-19. The report didn't distinguish between Type 1, which typically starts in childhood, and Type 2, the kind tied to obesity.

<https://tinyurl.com/APDiabetesAndCovid19>

51. *New York Times

March 15, 2022

Pfizer asks the F.D.A. to authorize a second booster shot for older Americans

Pfizer and BioNTech said on Tuesday that they had sought emergency authorization for a second booster shot of their coronavirus vaccine for adults 65 and older. . .

Some senior administration officials say a fourth shot for all older Americans may make sense now, but that the general population should probably wait until the fall. The F.D.A. is expected to convene a meeting of its expert advisory committee next month to discuss the issue of fourth shots.

<https://tinyurl.com/PfizerSecondBooster>

52. *New York Times

March 15, 2022

Pfizer is expected to ask U.S. regulators to authorize a second booster shot of its Covid vaccine for adults 65 and older.

Pfizer and BioNTech said on Tuesday that they had sought emergency authorization for a second booster shot of their coronavirus vaccine for adults 65 and older.

<https://tinyurl.com/NYTPfizerSecondBooster>

53. Washington Post (free access)

March 15, 2022

Pfizer and BioNTech seek authorization of second coronavirus booster shot for people 65 and older

Pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and its partner, BioNTech, filed Tuesday for emergency authorization of a second booster shot of their [coronavirus](#) vaccine for people 65 and older, an effort to bolster waning immunity that occurs several months after the first booster, the [companies announced](#).

The submission to the Food and Drug Administration includes "real world data" collected in Israel, one of the few countries that has authorized a second booster for older people. The decision from the FDA could come relatively quickly, especially if officials conclude the data is straightforward and does not have to be reviewed by a panel of outside vaccine experts.

<https://tinyurl.com/PfizerBioNTech2ndBooster>

54. Patch

March 10, 2022

MA's COVID Death Toll to Drop by Thousands Under New Criteria

The state's new criteria for attributing deaths to COVID-19 will be retroactively applied to the total since the start of the pandemic.

	<p>The Massachusetts Department of Public Health will update its criteria for codifying COVID-19 deaths on Monday, lowering the total number of deaths attributed to the pandemic by thousands.</p> <p>A COVID-related death is currently defined as anyone who has COVID listed as a cause of death on their death certificate, and people who had a COVID-19 diagnosis within 60 days of their death but did not have it listed as their cause of death.</p> <p>Until April 2021, the DPH counted anyone who had tested positive for the virus as a COVID death. That criteria were updated after about a year to include a 60-day timeframe between a COVID diagnosis and death. Now it will be updated again, reducing the timeframe from 60 days to 30 days for people without a COVID diagnosis on their death certificate. . .</p> <p>Deaths in long-term care facilities will continue to be reported directly from those facilities, but the updated definition will align surveillance deaths more closely with the reported counts, the DPH said.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/MADeathToll</p> <p>55. Administration on Community Living and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)</p> <p>February 16, 2022</p> <p>ACL and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) have partnered to ensure older adults and people with disabilities have the resources they need to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In a recently released joint letter, ACL and HRSA announced an opportunity for the aging and disability networks to partner with HRSA-supported health centers and Medicare-certified rural health clinics to distribute at-home tests and N95 masks to people with disabilities and older adults.</p> <p>HRSA's COVID-19 Testing Supply Program began in late December, and its Health Center COVID-19 N95 Mask Program launched in January. Both programs are now available to all community health centers and rural health clinics. It is crucial that the health centers and rural clinics hear from our networks about the needs of the people we serve and our networks' interest in partnering. This will help them accurately assess the needs in their communities and place orders to meet them.</p> <p>To find a potential community health center partner, visit Find A Health Center. You can also see a list of health centers currently participating in the mask program here. (While there is not an online list of participants in the testing program, all health centers are eligible to participate.)</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/ACLHRSAMasks</p>
Veteran Services	<p>56. Veterans Administration</p> <p>March 14, 2022</p> <p><i>Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) Report</i></p> <p>VA's recommendations to the AIR Commission are focused on designing high-performing integrated delivery networks (HPIDNs) of care that will allow VA to provide equitable access to quality care for Veterans now and in the future. These networks include care provided by VA, as well as supplemental care provided by DoD, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), other Federal partners, teaching hospitals, and community providers across the country. VA will remain the primary, world-class provider and coordinator of Veterans' health care for generations to come. An overview of VA's key objectives for planning is provided below: Provide equitable access to outpatient care through</p>

modern facilities close to where Veterans live and through the integration of virtual care:

- Invest in expanded ambulatory (outpatient) sites offering primary care, mental health, and lower acuity specialty services to better distribute care and relocate some outpatient care from crowded medical center campuses to modern, conveniently located outpatient points of care.

Enhance VA's unique strengths in caring for Veterans with complex needs:

- Enhance inpatient mental health services within VA-owned facilities and through partnerships;
- Invest in modern community living center (CLC) facilities to improve facilities-based care for eligible Veterans with the most complex needs. This investment is balanced with VA's commitment – aligned with broader U.S. health care trends and patient preferences – to expand Veterans' ability to remain independent as long as possible and age in place, in their homes;
- Invest in modern, geographically distributed, and accessible residential rehabilitation treatment program (RRTP) facilities to provide care not readily available in the community; and

Align spinal cord injuries and disorders (SCI/D) inpatient infrastructure with the needs of Veterans – rebalancing acute/sustaining and long-term care beds as demand shifts and the SCI/D population ages. Provide equitable access to quality inpatient medical and surgical care through the optimized use of care delivered in VA facilities and through partnerships, community providers, and virtual care:

- Invest in sustainable programs within VA facilities, expand utilization of partnerships that facilitate VA delivered care in non-VA facilities, and utilize virtual care to provide inpatient medical and surgical care when appropriate. Strengthen VA's ability to execute its second, third, and fourth health-related missions: education, research, and emergency preparedness:
- Strengthen VA's ability to carry out its mission to educate the Nation's health care workforce – serving as the largest provider of health care training;
- Strengthen VA's ability to advance cutting edge health care research, including in health services, biomedicine, clinical science, and rehabilitation – with particular emphasis on serviceconnected conditions; and
- Strengthen VA's ability to serve as the emergency backstop for the U.S. health care system – continuously serving Veterans during disasters and emergencies and supporting emergency management at national, state, and local levels.

<https://www.va.gov/aircommissionreport/>

See especially pages 4 to 18 for Eastern MA and pages 45 to 60 for Western MA in: <https://www.va.gov/AIRCOMMISSIONREPORT/docs/VISN01-Market-Recommendation.pdf>

57. VA Advantage Point

March 2, 2022

VA to publish recommendations to realign and modernize VA health care nationwide

What's in the report?

The recommended investments in the report include constructing new and modernizing existing VA health care facilities, as well as expanding VA partnerships with organizations that supplement VA's own care delivery, such as the Department of Defense, Indian Health Service, academic institutions, and community providers. The report also includes recommendations to close or relocate aged and underused VA health care facilities within some markets in a

	<p>manner that will maintain the level of care VA currently offers and improve Veteran access in that market. Taken as a whole, the recommendations seek to maximize VA’s opportunities to provide Veterans a modern care experience; it also puts VA on a path to remain the primary, world-class provider, and coordinator of Veterans health care for generations to come.</p> <p>In the near-term, the AIR Report will have no significant impact on Veterans, VA employees and the VA facilities where Veterans receive care.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/AIRReportMarch14</p>
<p>Disability Rights / Disability Topics</p>	<p>58. Kaiser Health News March 11, 2022 <i>Pandemic Medical Innovations Leave Behind People with Disabilities</i> Divya Goel, a 35-year-old deaf-blind woman in Orlando, Florida, has had two telemedicine doctors’ appointments during the pandemic. Each time, she was denied an interpreter.</p> <p>Her doctors told her she would have to get insurance to pay for an interpreter, which is incorrect: Under federal law, it is the physician’s responsibility to provide one.</p> <p>Goel’s mother stepped in to interpret instead. But her signing is limited, so Goel, who has only some vision, is not sure her mother fully conveyed what the doctors said. Goel worries about the medical ramifications — a wrong medicine or treatment — if something got lost in translation. . .</p> <p>Telemedicine, teleworking, rapid tests, virtual school, and vaccine drive-thrus have become part of Americans’ routines as they enter Year 3 of life amid covid-19. But as innovators have raced to make living in a pandemic world safer, some people with disabilities have been left behind. . .</p> <p>Michelle Hackman, a blind Wall Street Journal reporter in Washington, D.C., tried to get her rapid covid tests reimbursed via her Aetna health care flexible spending account. But Aetna insisted she print out and mail or fax the receipts, even after she called and explained how difficult that would be for her. It then asked her to have someone help her — something Hackman is all too used to hearing.</p> <p>“That’s really the indignity,” she said, especially when she didn’t want to risk infecting anyone. Eventually, she talked a manager at Aetna into letting her forward her Amazon receipts.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/PandemicMedicalInnovations</p> <p>59. WBUR March 10, 2022 <i>Facing breakdowns and slow repairs, Mass. wheelchair users call for stronger state law</i> Wheelchairs fail frequently. Researchers estimate that, in a typical six-month period, more than half of wheelchairs break down. And getting them repaired can take a month or longer, leaving wheelchair users stuck at home or in bed, and at an increased risk of medical complications.</p> <p>The problems are particularly bad in Massachusetts, according to disability advocates. They say the commonwealth’s consumer protections for wheelchair users don’t measure up well to other states. They’re sparring with the wheelchair industry on Beacon Hill over legislation aimed at changing that. . .</p> <p>“Massachusetts law is definitely behind most of the country,” said attorney Sam Shepard, who worked as a fellow for the Disability Law Center and the National</p>

Consumer Law Center. He compared Massachusetts' wheelchair warranty law with that of every other state in the U.S.

"What I found was pretty unsettling," he said.

Shepard uncovered quite a few differences between the commonwealth and other states. For example, 16 states require a back-up chair be provided while major repairs are underway. Massachusetts does not.

Another example: Rhode Island and Connecticut require that wheelchair warranties last at least two years. In Massachusetts, the requirement is half that. Warranties can help protect consumers from hefty bills or shoddy products. They also mean less paperwork so repairs can happen faster.

He's part of a team of wheelchair users and disability advocates pushing for a bill in Massachusetts to provide stronger consumer protections for wheelchair users. [The bill](#) is currently working its way through the state legislature. . .

[W]heelchair providers and manufacturers are paid upfront, sometimes as much as \$30,000 for a complex wheelchair. But they often lose money on repairs, according to Schmeler's research. He has proposed a monthly payment system that would task the companies with regularly maintaining and repairing the chairs. Under such a system, he argued, fewer breakdowns would mean more profit, providing a financial incentive for better-functioning chairs.

<https://tinyurl.com/WBURWheelchairMarch10>

60. WBUR

March 9, 2022

Wheelchairs repairs can take a month, or longer, leaving people stranded

Researchers estimate that [more than 50%](#) of wheelchairs break down in a typical six-month period. One study found that among veterans the number is [as high as 88%](#). When a chair breaks, it can take a long time to get it fixed. Experts put the average at two to four weeks, but stories of people waiting six months or longer for a wheelchair repair are common.

Experts pointed to several reasons why wheelchairs break down frequently and why fixing them takes time. Some attributed it to a lack of routine maintenance, others pointed to the sheer complexity of modern power wheelchairs. Repairs can also be delayed by everything from documentation required by insurance companies to a limited inventory of common parts.

For the roughly [5.5 million](#) Americans using wheelchairs, this is more than an inconvenience. While waiting for repairs, people can be stranded at home, stuck in bed, or forced to use a chair that doesn't fit. When this happens, a person is at an increased risk of developing medical complications and being hospitalized, [research suggests](#). . .

For nearly 15 years, researcher Lynn Worobey has been collecting data on wheelchair breakdowns and repairs. . .

In a study of wheelchair users with spinal cord injuries, 28% of people who experienced breakdowns over a six-month period reported at least one adverse consequence, [Worobey found](#), such as getting stranded. The same study revealed people of color and low-income individuals experienced more frequent wheelchair problems. . .

Mark Schmeler, an associate professor in the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology, lays much of the blame for frequent wheelchair breakdowns on Medicare. With more than 60 million older and disabled beneficiaries, Medicare is among the largest health insurance

providers in the country. Plus, many private health insurers adopt policies similar to those Medicare has established. . .

The Medicare Benefit Policies [Manual](#) states that wheelchair owners are expected to perform routine maintenance. The document says owners “normally” receive operating manuals that can serve as a guide: “It is reasonable to expect that beneficiaries will perform this maintenance.”

To Schmeler, this approach allows preventable issues to progress to the point where chairs unexpectedly become inoperable — or dangerous. . .

When insurers do not require authorization, a repair typically takes a week, Sargeant estimated, but when insurers mandate prior authorization, it takes closer to 50 days. He said he hopes to develop an industry standard for documentation that would catch fraud while minimizing wait times.

<https://tinyurl.com/WBURWheelchairMarch9>

61. Colorado Sun

March 4, 2022

Colorado violates Americans with Disabilities Act, U.S. Justice Department finds
Colorado “unnecessarily” segregates people with physical disabilities in nursing homes, the department found.

Colorado has violated the Americans with Disabilities Act and a major Supreme Court ruling by “unnecessarily” segregating people with physical disabilities in nursing facilities, the U.S. Justice Department announced.

The investigation found that a “significant number” of residents at Colorado’s Medicaid-funded nursing facilities are interested in transitioning to community-based settings and could do so successfully with appropriate support. However, few Coloradans with physical disabilities who want to move out of their nursing facilities are able to do so because most are unaware of services that could help them make the transition, according to the Justice Department. . .

The ADA and the [Supreme Court’s Olmstead](#) ruling require state and local governments to make services available to people with disabilities in “the most integrated setting appropriate for their needs,” regardless of their age or disability. However, many Coloradans with disabilities don’t receive the services they need in their own homes and communities, such as help with bathing, dressing, medications and preparing meals, according to the investigation, which was conducted by the Civil Rights Division’s Disability Rights section with help from the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Colorado.

<https://tinyurl.com/ColotadoViolatesDisabilityAct>

62. U. S. Department of Justice

March 3, 2022

Justice Department Finds that Colorado Violates the Americans with Disabilities Act

The Justice Department concluded today that Colorado unnecessarily segregates people with physical disabilities in nursing facilities, in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Supreme Court’s decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.* The department’s [findings](#), detailed in a letter to Colorado Governor Jared Polis, follow a thorough and multi-year investigation into the state’s system of care for people with physical disabilities.

The ADA and the *Olmstead* ruling require state and local governments to make services available to people with disabilities in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs, regardless of age or type of disability. However, many Coloradans with physical disabilities are denied a meaningful choice to

	<p>receive the services they need in their own homes and communities. Community-based services that can help people live at home successfully include help bathing, dressing, managing medications and preparing meals.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/JusticeFindsColoradoViolation</p>
Elder Abuse / Protection	<p>63. News 8 WTNH March 10, 2022 <i>'Elder Justice Hotline' helps combat senior abuse, financial fraud</i> There is now a single hotline for reporting all kinds of senior abuse [in Connecticut]. That includes phone scams, financial fraud, and physical abuse. The hotline is run by the Connecticut Attorney General's office.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/ElderJusticeHotline</p> <p>64. Federal Trade Commission March 10, 2022 <i>Fraud and older adults – what's your story?</i> Every year millions of people report fraud, scams, and bad business practices to the FTC. Your stories help us better understand how fraud affects every community. During National Consumer Protection Week, we're offering information and advice for some of these communities, and today we're focusing on scams that have an impact on older adults.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scammers are using social media for investment, romance, and online shopping scams. More than one in four people who reported losing money to fraud from 2020 - 2021 said it started on social media with an ad, a post, or a message. The most money was lost to investment and romance scams. • Romance scammers pursue people on dating apps and social media with fake tales of love, then demand payments with gift cards, wire transfers, and cryptocurrency. The median reported loss across all romance scam reports was \$2,400 last year, but the amount was higher among older adults. People 70 and over reported the highest median losses at \$9,000. • Imposters posing as Amazon workers tricked people with messages about suspicious activity or unauthorized purchases on their accounts. Among people age 60 and over who reported the calls in 2020-2021, the median reported loss was \$1,500, compared to \$814 for people under age 60. <p>If you spot one of these — or another — scam, report it at ReportFraud.ftc.gov. It's easy to report and the information you give helps protect your community. Want more consumer protection news? Read common scams and sign up for email updates.</p>
Retirement	<p>65. Wall Street Journal March 15, 2022 <i>Part-Time Retirement Programs Are on the Rise</i> Workers have longed for a way to ease into retirement while keeping some pay and benefits. More companies are giving it a try. Phased retirement programs—which allow workers nearing retirement age to cut back on their hours while keeping some pay and benefits—are growing in popularity. Human-resource executives say the pandemic has opened bosses to flexible work arrangements, while the fierce hiring market and higher-than-expected rate of retirements have motivated managers to find ways to retain older workers with key skills. . . The pandemic accelerated the pace of baby boomer retirements and created challenges for employers. From February 2020 through November 2021, up to 2.6 million more people retired than were expected to, given pre-pandemic trends.</p>

	https://tinyurl.com/PartTimeRetirement
Other	<p>66. Washington Post (free access) March 12, 2022 <i>The Forgotten Dead: Her body washed ashore in Connecticut. The search for her family began.</i> Police and medical examiners spend growing amounts of time tracking down relatives of those who die alone. There is no national count of how many lives end this way, but a Washington Post investigation that included interviews with more than 100 local officials from Hawaii to Maine who handle uncollected bodies found there are tens of thousands a year. Tens of thousands die each year in the United States and no one claims their bodies . . . There are more than 12,000 police departments across the nation, half with fewer than 10 officers, and the task of locating the family of a person who dies alone usually falls first to them. Medical examiners and coroners search, too, but police have the greatest access to databases that are especially crucial in tracking down out-of-state or foreign relatives. . . No one tracks exactly how many foreign nationals die each year in the United States, but it is many thousands. Mexico alone transported more than 7,600 bodies back to the country for burial in 2020, according to the Mexican government. U.S.-based diplomats from around the world say that repatriating bodies is a regular part of their workload. . . Massachusetts pays funeral homes \$1,100 for these cases, an amount that has not increased in nearly 40 years, leaving little incentive to handle the growing number of unclaimed bodies in the state. It is cheaper to cremate a body than to bury it, and most localities choose cremation for the bodies no one comes to collect. . . Stefan said government officials have not paid enough attention to the problem of unclaimed bodies. “Any dummy knows that there is a problem when the state hasn’t raised the fee they give for these cases in 39 years,” he said. “The system is broken. No one is looking at it. Maybe it would be different if the dead could vote.” https://wapo.st/3KP6kVS</p> <p>67. *New York Times March 9, 2022 <i>Patient in Groundbreaking Heart Transplant Dies</i> David Bennett Sr. had received a heart from a genetically modified pig, a procedure that may yet offer hope to millions of Americans needing transplants. The heart transplant was one of a number of pioneering procedures in recent months in which organs from genetically altered pigs were used to replace organs in humans. The process, called xenotransplantation, offers new hope for tens of thousands of patients with ailing kidneys, hearts, and other organs, as there is an acute shortage of donated organs. https://tinyurl.com/GroundbreakingHeartTransplant</p>
State Budget	<p>Commonwealth of Massachusetts <i>Governor’s Proposed Budget for FY 2023</i> January 26, 2022 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</p>

	<p>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. https://malegislature.gov/Budget</p>																																																				
<p>Nursing homes with admission freezes</p>	<p>Massachusetts Department of Public Health <i>Temporary admissions freeze</i></p> <p>On November 6, the state announced that it would require certain high risk nursing homes and rest homes to temporarily stop all new admissions to protect the health and safety of residents and prevent further COVID-19 transmission. Stopping admissions enables homes to focus resources such as staff and PPE on the health and safety of its current residents and enables the home to stabilize before taking on new residents. Homes that meet certain criteria will be required to stop any new admissions until the Department of Public Health has determined that conditions have improved and the facility is ready to safely care for new residents. The Commonwealth will work closely with homes during this time and provide supports as needed to ensure resident health and safety. There are a number of reasons why a facility may be required to stop admissions, and the situation in each facility is different. Some of the factors the state uses to make this decision include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new COVID-19 cases within the facility • Staffing levels • Failure to report a lack of adequate PPE, supplies, or staff • Infection control survey results • Surveillance testing non-compliance <p>Facilities are required to notify residents' designated family members and/or representative when the facility is subject to an admissions freeze. In addition, a list of facilities that are currently required to stop new admissions and the reason for this admissions freeze will be updated on Friday afternoons, and as needed when the Department of Public of Health determines a facility can be removed from the list. Updated on March 16, 2022</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="500 1171 1511 1724"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name of Facility</th> <th>City/Town</th> <th>Date of Freeze</th> <th>Qualifying Factor</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>West Side House LTC Facility</td> <td>Worcester</td> <td>3/3/22</td> <td>Infection Control</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Blue Hills Health and Rehabilitation Center</td> <td>Stoughton</td> <td>3/3/22</td> <td>Infection Control</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Labelle's Rest Home</td> <td>Shelburne</td> <td>3/3/22</td> <td>Noncompliance Testing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vero Health and Rehab of Watertown</td> <td>Watertown</td> <td>3/3/22</td> <td>Noncompliance Testing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Penacook Place</td> <td>Haverhill</td> <td>2/23/22</td> <td>Noncompliance Testing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wingate at Needham</td> <td>Needham</td> <td>2/16/22</td> <td>Infection Control</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Caldwell Home Extended Care</td> <td>Fitchburg</td> <td>2/9/22</td> <td>Noncompliance Testing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sixteen Acres Healthcare Center</td> <td>Springfield</td> <td>1/20/22</td> <td>New Cases</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South Dennis Healthcare</td> <td>Dennis</td> <td>1/20/22</td> <td>New Cases</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oosterman's Melrose Rest Home</td> <td>Melrose</td> <td>12/18/21</td> <td>Noncompliance Testing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plymouth Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center</td> <td>Plymouth</td> <td>10/27/21</td> <td>New Cases</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sea View Convalescent and Nursing Home</td> <td>Rowley</td> <td>8/17/21</td> <td>Noncompliance Testing</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name of Facility	City/Town	Date of Freeze	Qualifying Factor	West Side House LTC Facility	Worcester	3/3/22	Infection Control	Blue Hills Health and Rehabilitation Center	Stoughton	3/3/22	Infection Control	Labelle's Rest Home	Shelburne	3/3/22	Noncompliance Testing	Vero Health and Rehab of Watertown	Watertown	3/3/22	Noncompliance Testing	Penacook Place	Haverhill	2/23/22	Noncompliance Testing	Wingate at Needham	Needham	2/16/22	Infection Control	Caldwell Home Extended Care	Fitchburg	2/9/22	Noncompliance Testing	Sixteen Acres Healthcare Center	Springfield	1/20/22	New Cases	South Dennis Healthcare	Dennis	1/20/22	New Cases	Oosterman's Melrose Rest Home	Melrose	12/18/21	Noncompliance Testing	Plymouth Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center	Plymouth	10/27/21	New Cases	Sea View Convalescent and Nursing Home	Rowley	8/17/21	Noncompliance Testing
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<p>List of Special Focus Facilities</p>	<p>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services <i>List of Special Focus Facilities and Candidates</i> https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram</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.

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.

This is important information for consumers – particularly as they consider a nursing home.

What can advocates do with this information?

- 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.

Massachusetts facilities listed

Newly added to the listing

- None

Massachusetts facilities not improved

- Attleboro Healthcare, Attleboro
<https://tinyurl.com/AttleboroHealthcare>
- Marlborough Hills Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, Marlborough
<https://tinyurl.com/MarlboroughHills>

Massachusetts facilities which showed improvement

- None

Massachusetts facilities which have graduated from the program

- Oxford Rehabilitation and Health Care Center , Haverhill
<https://tinyurl.com/OxfordRehab>

Massachusetts facilities that are candidates for listing

- 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

	<p>https://tinyurl.com/RevolutionCharwell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Braintree Manor Healthcare https://www.nextstephc.com/braintree • Hathaway Manor Extended Care https://hathawaymanor.org/ https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram
Nursing Home Compare	<p>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) <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 <i>Long-Term Care Facilities Specific COVID-19 Data</i> <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	Administration on Community Living Open Grant Opportunities

	<p>https://acl.gov/grants/open-opportunities</p> <p>ACL awards more than one billion dollars in grants, primarily to state and local governments, nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education and small businesses. Some are awarded in accordance with formulas (mandatory grants) established in legislation, while others are awarded in a competitive process (discretionary grants).</p> <p>ACL awards grants to states and organizations that provide services and supports for older adults and people with disabilities, conduct research, and develop innovative approaches to doing both. Learn more about the differences in grant types and how to apply.</p> <p>Hearing Loss Association of America https://www.hearingloss.org/</p> <p>The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) is the nation’s leading organization representing consumers with hearing loss. The mission of HLAA is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support, and advocacy.</p> <p>NY Caring Majority https://www.nycaringmajority.org/</p> <p>A movement of seniors, people with disabilities, family caregivers, and domestic and home care workers from all across New York State.</p>		
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/		
DignityMA Call to Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MA Senate released a report in response to COVID-19. Download the DignityMA Response to Reimagining the Future of MA. • Advocate for state bills that advance the Dignity Alliance Massachusetts’ Mission and Goals – State Legislative Endorsements. • Support relevant bills in Washington – Federal Legislative Endorsements. • Join our Work Groups. • Learn to use and leverage Social Media at our workshops: Engaging Everyone: Creating Accessible, Powerful Social Media Content. 		
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> <p>Twitter: https://twitter.com/dignity_ma?s=21</p> <p>Website: www.DignityAllianceMA.org</p>		
Participation opportunities with Dignity Alliance Massachusetts	Workgroup	Workgroup lead	Email
	General Membership	Bill Henning Paul Lanzikos	bhenning@bostoncil.org paul.lanzikos@gmail.com
	Behavioral Health	Frank Baskin	baskinfrank19@gmail.com
	Communications	Pricilla O’Reilly	prisoreilly@gmail.com

Most workgroups meet bi-weekly via Zoom.		Samantha VanSchoick	svanschoick@cil.org
Please contact workgroup lead for more information		Lachan Forrow	lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu
	Facilities (Nursing homes, rest homes, assisted living)	Arlene Germain	agermain@manhr.org
	Home and Community Based Services	Meg Coffin	mcoffin@centerlw.org
	Housing	Shaya French	sfrench@bostoncil.org
	Legislative	Richard Moore	rmoore8743@charter.net
	Veteran Services	James Lomastro	jimlomastro@comcast.net
<i>The Dignity Digest</i>	<p>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</p>		
Note of thanks	<p>Thanks to the contributors to this issue of <i>The Dignity Digest</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cassie Cramer • Chris Hoeh • Dick Moore <p>Special thanks to Paul Spooner with the MetroWest Center for Independent Living for assistance with the website and MailChimp versions of <i>The Dignity Digest</i>. <i>If you have submissions for inclusion in The Dignity Digest or have questions or comments, please submit them to paul.lanzikos@gmail.com.</i></p>		
<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. Previous issues of The Tuesday Digest and The Dignity Digest are available at: https://dignityalliancema.org/the-tuesday-digest/ For more information about Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, please visit www.DignityAllianceMA.org.</i></p>			