



The Dignity Digest

Issue # 85

April 15, 2022

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

*May require registration before accessing article.

Quotes of the Week

“The past two years have been a stark reminder of the critical role our frontline health care workers play in caring for our loved ones and neighbors. The men and women of Saugus Rehabilitation and Nursing Center deserve to be treated with respect and dignity. They deserve a competitive living wage.”

U. S. Seth Moulton, D-Salem, *Moulton, others back nursing home workers in one-day strike*, **Salem News**, April 14, 2022,

<https://tinyurl.com/NursingHomeOneDayStrike>

We must respect and protect nursing home caregiver wages. We simply cannot afford to go backwards.

Tara Gregorio, president, Massachusetts Senior Care Association, *Nursing home situation grows dire again*, **CommonWealth**, April 9, 2022,

<https://tinyurl.com/SituationGrowsDire>

“Their parents went away to the hospital and that was the last time they saw them. Some families had to delay funerals until very recently, and that lack of ritual leaves families floundering.”

Lane Pease Hendricks, program director at Kate’s Club in Atlanta, a children’s bereavement organization, *As Families Grieve, Grandparents Step Up*, **New York Times (free access)**, April 9, 2022,

<https://tinyurl.com/GrandparentsStepUp>

“[The budget proposal is] meant to be both transformational, aspirational, but also solidly grounded in the day-to-day realities of our residents.”

Michelle Wu, Mayor of Boston, *Michelle Wu’s Boston budget proposal goes big on housing, little change to police* **Boston Herald**, April 13, 2022,

<https://tinyurl.com/BigOnHousing>

	<p><i>According [to] an American study from 2016, fully 94% of those between the ages of 57-85 had some kind of sensory disability, and most suffered from impairments to at least two of the five senses.</i></p> <p><i>The rise of buildings for the deaf and blind, The Economist, December 18, 2018, https://tinyurl.com/BuildingsForDeafBlind</i></p> <p><i>“Although ‘vaccine hesitancy’ dominates media coverage, in fact, language barriers, lack of regular health providers, absence of paid time off to get vaccinated and recover, and lack of trust in the health system all play a role in undermining vaccine coverage.”</i></p> <p><i>Team of researchers from Boston University’s School of Public Health and the city’s Public Health Commission, New COVID-19 vaccine study challenges stereotypes of who is getting the shots, *Boston Globe, April 14, 2022 (updated), https://tinyurl.com/StudyChallengesStereotypes</i></p> <p><i>“I expect that at some point in the not-too-distant future, Congress will agree on a Social Security package that includes some type of adjustment to the retirement age. Whether that’s in two years or 10 years, it’s very difficult to predict.”</i></p> <p><i>Shai Akabas, director of economic policy, Bipartisan Policy Center, Social Security’s retirement age is moving to 67. Some experts say that could go even higher, CNBC, April 3, 2022, https://tinyurl.com/SSREtirementMovingTo67</i></p> <p><i>“We’re seeing a huge boom in senior homelessness,” “These are not necessarily people who have mental illness or substance abuse problems. They are people being pushed into the streets by rising rents.”</i></p> <p><i>Kendra Hendry, a caseworker at Arizona’s largest shelter, where older people make up about 30% of those staying there, Senior homeless skyrockets, Salem News, April 12, 2022, https://tinyurl.com/SeniorHomelessnessSkyrockets</i></p>
Dignity Votes 2022	<p>1. Fact Sheets and Issue Briefs Prepared by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Workgroups</p> <p>Nursing Homes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing Home Fact Sheet • Nursing Home Staffing Issues • Pandemic Issues in Nursing Homes <p>Home and Community Based Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCBS Fact Sheet

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCBS Staffing Issues • HCBS Care Coordination Issues <p>Behavioral Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioral Health Fact Sheet • BH Elder Mental Health Outreach Teams (EMHOT) Issues • BH Nursing Homes and Psychotropic/Antipsychotic Drugs Issues • Social Work Staffing Issues <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Issues <p>Veterans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterans Issues <p>https://dignityalliancema.org/2022-facts-and-issues/</p>
National Poetry Month	<p style="text-align: center;">On Aging by Maya Angelou</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>When you see me sitting quietly, Like a sack left on the shelf, Don't think I need your chattering. I'm listening to myself. Hold! Stop! Don't pity me! Hold! Stop your sympathy! Understanding if you got it, Otherwise I'll do without it! When my bones are stiff and aching, And my feet won't climb the stair, I will only ask one favor: Don't bring me no rocking chair. When you see me walking, stumbling, Don't study and get it wrong. 'Cause tired don't mean lazy And every goodbye ain't gone. I'm the same person I was back then, A little less hair, a little less chin, A lot less lungs and much less wind. But ain't I lucky I can still breathe in.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">On Disability by Sarah Jackson Bennett</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>There is a person behind the disability. No need to judge them or stare. Disability, another word for what a person has. Ask, learn If you don't understand, there is a person there. Differently able sounds better to me. The person has less ability, not no ability. There</i></p>

*is more to them than
that. It's the ability they
do have and the person
they are, that they want
you to see.*

Blessed Are They
Author Unknown

*Blessed are they who understand
My faltering step and shaking hand.*

*Blessed are they who know my ears today
Must strain to hear the things they say.*

*Blessed are they who seem to know
My eyes are dim and my answers slow.*

*Blessed are they who look away
When my tea was spilled at the table today.*

*Blessed are they who with a cheery smile
Will stop to chat for a little while.*

*Blessed are they who never say
"You've told that story twice today."*

*Blessed are they who know my ways
And bring back memories of yesterdays.*

*Blessed are they who ease the days
And care for me in loving ways.*

*Blessed are they who make it known
I'm loved, respected and not alone.*

Funding Opportunities

2. City of Boston

Request for Proposals: Homelessness Prevention and Emergency Housing Assistance Services

The Mayor's Office of Housing requests proposals from interested and qualified non-profit applicants for Homelessness Prevention and Emergency Housing Assistance contract services from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Applicants are encouraged to request funding from multiple categories, as it will enable them to provide multi-layered support to the households they serve.

Categories include:

- Case Management for Households at Risk of Displacement
- Housing Search Support for Households at Risk of Displacement
- Eviction Prevention Legal Services
- Homelessness Prevention Data Collection
- Small Landlord Assistance

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Management for Households Experiencing Homelessness • Housing Search Support for Households Experiencing Homelessness • Legal Services for Households Experiencing Homelessness • Sheltering for Households Experiencing Homelessness • Financial Assistance <p>The RFP package is live and accessible from the City’s Purchasing Supplier Portal website: boston.gov/Procurement, locating EV00010434</p> <p>For more information, visit https://www.boston.gov/bid-listings/ev00010434.</p> <p>The Mayor’s Office of Housing will host an Applicant’s Conference via teleconference on April 14, 2022 at 2:00pm. Attendance is not mandatory but is highly encouraged. Interested applicants should contact Catherine.Miranda@boston.gov.</p> <p>Completed proposal packages must be submitted, as specified, electronically via the Supplier Portal by April 29, 2022, no later than 4:00pm. https://tinyurl.com/RFPBostonHomelessness</p> <p>3. National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research <i>New Funding Opportunity for Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Recreational, Sport, and Exercise Technologies for People with Disabilities from NIDILRR</i></p> <p>Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERC) Program</p> <p>The purpose of the RERC program is to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act by conducting advanced engineering research on and development of innovative technologies that are designed to solve particular rehabilitation problems or to remove environmental barriers. RERCs also demonstrate and evaluate such technologies, facilitate service delivery system changes, stimulate the production and distribution of new technologies and equipment in the private sector, and provide training opportunities.</p> <p>RERC on Recreational, Sport, and Exercise Technologies for People with Disabilities: This particular opportunity is for an RERC to conduct research and development activities toward technologies that promote exercise and health among people with disabilities.</p> <p>View more details and application instructions.</p> <p>Please visit the link above for more details about the grant opportunity and application process. This grant opportunity closes on June 13, 2022.</p>
Reports	<p>4. medRxiv April 7, 2022 <i>Inequities in COVID-19 vaccine and booster coverage across Massachusetts ZIP codes: large gaps persist after the 2021/22 Omicron wave</i></p> <p>Abstract</p> <p>Background. Inequities in COVID-19 vaccine coverage may contribute to future disparities in morbidity and mortality between Massachusetts (MA) communities. Methods. We obtained public-use data on residents vaccinated and boosted by ZIP code (and by age group: 5-19, 20-39, 40-64, 65+) from MA Department of Public Health. We constructed population denominators for postal ZIP codes by aggregating Census-tract population estimates from the 2015-2019 American Community Survey. We excluded non-residential ZIP codes and the smallest ZIP codes containing 1% of the state’s population. We mapped variation in ZIP-code level primary series vaccine and booster coverage and used regression models to evaluate the association of these measures with ZIP-code-level socioeconomic and demographic characteristics. Because age is strongly associated with COVID-19</p>

	<p>severity and vaccine access/uptake, we assessed whether observed socioeconomic and racial inequities persisted after adjusting for age composition and plotted age-specific vaccine and booster coverage by deciles of ZIP-code characteristics. Results. We analyzed data on 418 ZIP codes. We observed wide geographic variation in primary series vaccination and booster rates, with marked inequities by ZIP-code-level education, median household income, essential worker share, and racial-ethnic composition. In age-stratified analyses, primary series vaccine coverage was very high among the elderly. However, we found large inequities in vaccination rates among younger adults and children, and very large inequities in booster rates for all age groups. In multivariable regression models, each 10 percentage point increase in "percent college educated" was associated with a 5.0 percentage point increase in primary series vaccine coverage and a 4.9 percentage point increase in booster coverage. Although ZIP codes with higher "percent Black/Latino/Indigenous" and higher "percent essential workers" had lower vaccine coverage, these associations became strongly positive after adjusting for age and education, consistent with high demand for vaccines among Black/Latino/Indigenous and essential worker populations. Conclusion. One year into MA's vaccine rollout, large disparities in COVID-19 primary series vaccine and booster coverage persist across MA ZIP codes.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/InequitiesCovid19</p>
Study Input Sought	<p>5. Brandeis University <i>Looking for Parents with a Disability That Have Had Involvement with the Child Welfare System</i> If you are a parent with a disability who has been involved with the child welfare system (also known as child protective services), we want to talk to you about your experiences - participation is voluntary. Researchers are particularly interested in understanding how the child welfare agency supported you and your family and whether they provided you with reasonable accommodations. You will be compensated with a \$15 gift card for your time. Contact Robyn Powell at rpowell@brandeis.edu</p> <p>6. Independent Living Research Utilization <i>Falls and Fear of Falling in Adults who Require Wheelchairs for Locomotion</i> Participate in the study: Falls and Fear of Falling in Adults who Require Wheelchairs for Locomotion. To participate you must be an adult who: is at least 18 years old; has a neurological diagnosis (such as but not limited to post-polio syndrome, spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis) for at least 6 months; use a wheelchair (manual or power) at least 75% of your mobility time inside your home and 100% of the time outside your home; has a computer with internet access; is able to read and understand English. If you are interested in completing an anonymous on-line survey about your medical condition, falls, risk of falling, and fear of falling click here.</p> <p>7. Alzheimers.gov <i>Information on dementia research, clinical trials, and resources</i> Volunteer opportunities to participate in research on Alzheimer's disease, related dementias, and cognitive health. https://tinyurl.com/AlzheimersResearchOpps</p>
Webinars / Online sessions	<p>8. Gray Panthers of New York City Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 2:00 p.m. <i>Nursing Home Policy Updates: What's the Strategy?</i> Speakers:</p>

- Katelyn Andrews, Director of Public Policy and External Affairs, LiveOn New York
 - Tina Kim, Deputy Comptroller for State Accountability, Office of the New York State Comptroller
 - Honorable Rachel Ma, New York State Senate, 53rd District
- Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/TransformationTuesdayApr19>

9. The Boston Globe Sustainable Week 2022

Wednesday, April 20, 2022, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Exploring Environmental Benefits of Digital Healthcare Tools and Other Approaches to the Greening of Healthcare

From innovations like telehealth to remote patient monitoring, digital health tools are making healthcare more convenient and controlled for patients and providers alike. They also have environmental benefits as the healthcare industry seeks to reduce carbon emissions. This panel will explore the adoption of digital technology to protect the planet while empowering health-conscious consumers to take better care of their health and capacity-stressed health systems to better address their challenges.

Speakers:

- Robert Metzke, Head of Sustainability, Philips
- David Y. Ting, MD, Chief Digital Health Officer, Massachusetts General Hospital
- Gary Cohen, Co-founder and President, Health Care without Harm

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

10. National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems

Wednesday, April 20, 2022, 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed how people access healthcare. Telehealth and house call visits are two approaches that have helped people with disabilities access health care while avoiding the challenges of leaving their home for healthcare.

In this webinar, people with lived experience of disability will interview a panel of physicians on the most person-centered ways of delivering healthcare to people with disabilities. The webinar will include tips for patients, their families, and healthcare providers on how to make the best of telehealth or home visit opportunities where they exist. Panelists will share examples from existing programs, reflect on their experiences and challenges, outline best practices, and identify strategies to ensure culturally responsive practices and equitable opportunities for access to person-centered healthcare through telehealth or home visits.

[Register for the webinar.](#)

11. Bipartisan Policy Center

Thursday, April 21, 2022, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Corporate Initiatives to Boost Housing Affordability

Communities across the country have been underproducing new housing, resulting in an acute lack of affordable and available homes. The housing supply challenge is so profound that businesses, of all sizes, increasingly cite housing unaffordability as a primary barrier to attracting, retaining, and developing diverse and productive workforces. It is a critical factor guiding where companies decide to locate their operations and where workers search for jobs in such a competitive labor market. This webinar—the fifth in the [Getting Serious About Housing Supply](#) series—will

	<p>explore how corporate America is taking action, recognizing how they both affect and have been affected by fast-rising housing costs. A panel of experts will discuss how companies are getting involved—from investing directly in new housing developments to advocating for durable policy change—to help tackle fundamental barriers to housing construction, boost supply, and build stronger communities.</p> <p>Featured Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catherine Buell, Director, Housing Equity Fund, Amazon • Eileen Fitzgerald, Head of Housing Affordability Philanthropy, Wells Fargo • Sally A. Kraft, MD, MPH, Vice President, Population Health, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center <p><i>Moderated by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andy Winkler, Director, Housing and Infrastructure Project, BPC https://tinyurl.com/BoostHousingAffordability <p>12. Convergence, BridgeUSA, Encore.org, and the Millennial Action Project Monday, April 25, 2022, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. <i>Bridging Across Generations</i> Leaders from Convergence, BridgeUSA, Encore.org, and the Millennial Action Project discuss bridging the generational divide. About this event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do younger and older groups differ on such issues as religion and politics? • How do different age groups feel about Cancel Culture? • Does being "Woke" mean the same thing at different ages? • How do we prevent overgeneralizing and speaking about individual age groups as if they are monolithic? <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Eisner Convergence • Layla Zaidane Millennial Action Project • Manu Meel BridgeUSA • Marc Freedman Encore.org <p>Registration: https://tinyurl.com/BridgingAcrossGenerations</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>13. Salem News April 14, 2022 <i>Moulton, others back nursing home workers in one-day strike</i> Almost 40 workers at a nursing home in Saugus launched a one-day strike Wednesday morning to call for higher wages with the support of U.S. Rep. Seth Moulton and state-level elected officials. Nursing home workers with 1199SEIU at the 80-bed Saugus Rehabilitation and Nursing Center went on strike. . . The workers were joined Wednesday morning by Sen. Brendan Crighton of Lynn, Rep. Jessica Giannino of Revere and Rep. Peter Capano of Lynn. . . A union official said that the Saugus nursing home was one of just 52 homes across Massachusetts that did not comply with the state’s new Direct Care Cost Quotient regulation that requires all Massachusetts nursing homes to spend at least 75 percent of total facility revenue on direct care. https://tinyurl.com/NursingHomeOneDayStrike</p> <p>14. CommonWealth April 9, 2022</p>

	<p><i>Nursing home situation grows dire again</i></p> <p>For nursing homes, the impact was especially severe as we came to understand that elders with underlying medical conditions, which describes most of our residents, were the most vulnerable population to this insidious disease. And, because of the communal nature of facilities, coupled with the contagiousness of the disease, it moved swiftly throughout our buildings with dire results at the outset. . .</p> <p>Over the course of the pandemic, our 45,000 diverse front-line staff have worked tirelessly to provide their residents with hands-on personal care and vital companionship. Approximately two-thirds of our direct care staff are people of color and 39 percent are new Americans, and most do not yet earn a living wage. . .</p> <p>Already, most of the state’s nursing homes are denying new admissions from the community and hospitals due to staffing shortages, which is disrupting access to care for patients and their families across the Commonwealth. That’s with current occupancy rates hovering around 80 percent, and we project the need for nursing home care will sharply increase over the next several months. That will mean even <i>more</i> admission denials.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/SituationGrowsDire</p>
Housing	<p>15. Boston Herald April 13, 2022 <i>Michelle Wu’s Boston budget proposal goes big on housing, little change to police</i></p> <p>Housing made many of the big headlines, as [Boston’s Mayor Michelle] Wu touted \$380 million in new funding “to build and acquire new affordable units, invest in affordable homeownership, and fund housing stability services and an expanded voucher program.” That spending comes through a combination of the operating budget, capital budget and, substantially, a \$206 million one-time chunk of ARPA cash.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/BigOnHousing</p> <p>16. Salem News April 12, 2022 <i>Senior homeless skyrockets</i></p> <p>Academics project their numbers will nearly triple over the next decade, challenging policy makers from Los Angeles to New York to imagine new ideas for sheltering the last of the baby boomers as they get older, sicker, and less able to pay spiraling rents. Advocates say much more housing is needed, especially for extremely low-income people.</p> <p>Navigating sidewalks in wheelchairs and walkers, the aging homeless have medical ages greater than their years, with mobility, cognitive and chronic problems like diabetes. Many contracted COVID-19 or couldn’t work because of pandemic restrictions. . .</p> <p>A 2019 study of aging homeless people led by the University of Pennsylvania drew on 30 years of census data to project the U.S. population of people 65 and older experiencing homelessness will nearly triple from 40,000 to 106,000 by 2030, resulting in a public health crisis as their age-related medical problems multiply.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/SeniorHomelessnessSkyrockets</p>
Workforce / Caregivers	<p>17. The Milbank Quarterly April 13, 2022 <i>Getting Health Care Workers Back to Work and Other Workforce Shortage Challenges</i></p> <p>Although it may be premature to regard the United States as in a post pandemic</p>

	<p>world, the health care workforce is showing signs of returning to its pre-pandemic level. In December 2021, employment in health care remained largely flat, followed by a relatively small gain of 17,000 jobs in January 2022. After adding 64,000 jobs in February 2022—including gains in home health services of 20,000, physician offices of 15,000, and other practitioners’ offices of 12,000—health care employment remains down approximately 2% from what it was in February 2020. . .</p> <p>As late as November 2021, when most of the economy had reopened, employment in health care was still 2.7% below what it had been immediately before the start of the pandemic. In non-health-care sectors, employment was 2.5% lower than it had been. The number of people who had decided not to return to the labor force—which impacts the labor force participation rate—was also down almost two full percentage points, from 63.3% to 61.6%.</p> <p>The way health care will be organized and delivered over the next decade will affect the numbers of physicians, nurses, and other health care workers that will be needed, but the shortages that had been predicted for nurses and physicians before the pandemic make it highly likely that post pandemic shortages will be substantial. Pre-pandemic predictions estimated shortages of 139,000 physicians and 500,000 nurses.^{4,5} Even if the majority of these professionals become part of integrated delivery systems, such as Kaiser Permanente, Intermountain Healthcare, and Geisinger Health, and even if the mix of nurses at various levels of training and physicians of various specialties approached the care delivery models used by the military and the Veterans Health Administration, it would be hard to imagine the United States not needing significant numbers of new health care workers.</p> <p>Over the long term, US policymakers will need to decide whether to expand the number of nursing schools or the class sizes of existing nursing schools. . .</p> <p>Employers can also help. Experts recommend conducting “stay interviews” rather than exit interviews to find out what keeps employees working, rather than focusing on what has driven people to quit. Interviewers also should spend more time helping employees think about career paths.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/WorkersBackToWork</p> <p>18. GBH News (YouTube) April 13, 2022 <i>Unpaid family caregivers try to keep up in a pandemic world</i> Taking care of family members when they need it most coupled with working full time has turned into a juggling act especially amid the pandemic. Alexandra Drane, co-founder and CEO of Archangels, and Peri Beltre, an attorney and full-time caregiver, spoke with Jim Braude about the challenges of working and caring for loved ones.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/UnpaidCaregiverTryKeepUp</p>
Covid-19	<p>19. *Boston Globe April 14, 2022 (updated) <i>New COVID-19 vaccine study challenges stereotypes of who is getting the shots</i> Overall, the researchers found that stark disparities in vaccine and booster coverage persist in the state, leaving thousands vulnerable to severe illness as increasingly more transmissible forms of the virus circulate. . .</p> <p>In the study, which was posted online Monday but not yet published in a peer-reviewed journal, the team analyzed state data on residents vaccinated and boosted by ZIP code through March 1. They also examined census-tract population estimates and ZIP-code-level socioeconomic and demographic data, including education level, household income, and profession.</p>

When the researchers took education and age into account, they found that many communities with large concentrations of Black and Latino residents and essential workers had higher levels of vaccination than similar communities with many white residents and fewer essential workers. . .

“Our analysis shows that education and income are better explanations for the patterns than race or ethnicity itself,” said Dr. Jonathan Levy, who chairs the department of environmental health at BU’s School of Public Health and is senior author of the research.

But despite high, relatively equitable coverage for the original vaccine schedule in adults, researchers found large inequities in rates among children, and very large inequities for booster shots in all age groups. . .

“This report highlights that people with complicated lives, and a lot of folks stereotyped as being hesitant, actually had high vaccination rates. And it really points to this being an access issue and we have to be better,” said Atyia Martin, executive director for Next Leadership Development, a nonprofit that focuses on building resilience in Black communities.

<https://tinyurl.com/StudyChallengesStereotypes>

20. WCVB

April 13, 2022

COVID-19, overdoses contributed to the country's highest death total ever in 2021

Federal data confirms 2021 was the deadliest year in U.S. history, and new research is offering more insights into how it got that bad.

The main reason for the increase in deaths? COVID-19, said Robert Anderson, who oversees the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s work on death statistics. Advertisement

The agency this month quietly updated its provisional death tally. It showed there were 3.465 million deaths last year, or about 80,000 more than 2020’s record-setting total. . .

COVID-19 deaths rose in 2021 — to more than 415,000, up from 351,000 the year before — as new coronavirus variants emerged and an unexpectedly large number of Americans refused to get vaccinated or were hesitant to wear masks, experts said. The coronavirus is not solely to blame. Preliminary CDC data also shows the crude death rate for cancer rose slightly, and rates continued to increase for diabetes, chronic liver disease and stroke. . .

Preliminary — and incomplete — CDC data suggests there were at least 805,000 U.S. deaths in about the first three months of this year. That’s well below the same period last year, but higher than the comparable period in 2020.

<https://tinyurl.com/HighestDeathTotal>

21. New York Times (free access)

April 9, 2022

As Families Grieve, Grandparents Step Up

In December, a coalition called [the Covid Collaborative estimated](#) that about 167,000 American children . . . had lost a parent or primary caregiver to the pandemic, with much higher rates among communities of color. More recently, [researchers at Imperial College London](#) put the number of children who have lost one or both parents at nearly 200,000.

Grandparents have always been the first line of defense in the wake of such tragedies. The nonprofit Generations United reports that pre-pandemic, 2.6 million American children already lived in “grandfamilies,” raised by relatives for reasons ranging from military deployment and incarceration to deaths from substance

	<p>abuse, other illnesses, or accidents. https://tinyurl.com/GrandparentsStepUp</p> <p>22. On the Media (NPR) April 8, 2022 <i>Our Unfinished Pandemic</i> Congress is threatening to cut billions in COVID aid even as a new variant emerges. On this week’s On the Media, how our policy debate reveals an indifference for long COVID disabilities and death on a staggering scale. And, how that apathy tracks with a pattern of past pandemics. Plus, a look at the novelist Kurt Vonnegut’s theory of storytelling, and what it tells us about why so many Americans have stopped paying attention to the virus.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ed Yong [@edyong209], staff writer at <i>The Atlantic</i>, on why mass deaths from COVID have failed to provoke a strong political and social reckoning. Listen. 2. Laura Spinney, [@lspinney], author and science journalist on how pandemics have historically disabled people, and what this teaches us about Covid long-haulers. Listen. 3. Micah Loewinger [@MicahLoewinger], OTM correspondent, on how to make sense of Covid's ever-changing plot, using Kurt Vonnegut's theory of "the shapes of stories." Listen. <p>23. NPR Health April 8, 2022 <i>What Fauci sees coming with the BA.2 coronavirus subvariant in the U.S.</i> New modeling from the Commonwealth Fund shows the vaccination campaign in the U.S. has saved more than 2 million lives and has prevented 17 million hospitalizations. Dr. Fauci: I think we're going to be seeing an uptick of cases that we are already seeing in certain states. We had a very sharp and steady decline in everything from cases to hospitalizations to deaths, and in general, on a countrywide basis, we're still seeing that. But there are some areas, particularly in the Northeast, where we are seeing a turnaround and an uptick in cases. . . I don't foresee the need to boost every four months. But what I would imagine might happen, as all of this turns around, we will get into what might be a yearly, seasonal type of an approach. We have something perhaps similar to flu. https://tinyurl.com/SubvariantComing</p>
Disability topics	<p>24. The Economist December 18, 2018 <i>The rise of buildings for the deaf and blind</i> Architects are adapting to the need for more multisensory design. [P]eople need more from the spaces they occupy. About 466m people worldwide have significant hearing problems and 36m are blind. According to an American study from 2016, fully 94% of those between the ages of 57-85 had some kind of sensory disability, and most suffered from impairments to at least two of the five senses. As people now live much longer lives, the numbers will climb: the World Health Organisation predicts that the number of people with hearing disabilities will double by 2050. . . DeafSpace is very different from ideas such as “human-centred design” and “universal design”. Architecture for the deaf community should go beyond the goal of producing a design that simply suits its users well, he says. Instead, spaces built for the deaf should understand and promote their community’s culture, too.</p>

	https://tinyurl.com/BuildingsForDeafBlind
Retirement	<p>25. CNBC April 3, 2022 <i>Social Security’s retirement age is moving to 67. Some experts say that could go even higher</i> Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While many people hope to retire at 62, Social Security doesn’t pay full benefits until as late as age 67. • That normal retirement age could get pushed even higher based on how lawmakers choose to address the program’s solvency issues. <p>[T]he House of Representatives . . . approved a retirement bill that would push out the age for required minimum distributions on certain savings accounts to 75, up from the current age of 72. That change, if it passes the Senate, would be gradually phased in by 2032.</p> <p>[I]f you’re 45 to 60 years old, it’s reasonable to plan for benefit reductions of about 5%, he said. For those who are even younger, a 10% to 15% cut is possible. Moreover, people of all ages should also plan for worst-case scenarios in which the program does reach a point where it can only pay a portion of benefits, which may prompt as much as a 24% benefit cut for retirees.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/SSREtirementMovingTo67</p> <p>26. Bipartisan Policy Center March 29, 2022 <i>House Passes SECURE 2.0, Would Bolster Retirement Security for Millions of Americans</i></p> <p>The Securing a Strong Retirement Act of 2022 (SECURE 2.0) would make vital financial tools available to a broader swath of Americans and increase the ability of small businesses to offer competitive benefits to help employees prepare for retirement. Although the bill would benefit from a few changes as it moves through the legislative process, its House passage marks a significant step forward for millions of workers currently without the tools to effectively save for retirement. . . . Most Americans worry about running out of money in retirement, making it one of the top financial concerns across the nation. Projections from the Employee Benefit Research Institute show that 41% of households headed by working-age adults will run short of money in retirement, indicating that this fear is well-founded. And while retirement security is important for all Americans, it is hardest to achieve for low-income workers, those without college degrees, people of color, and single women—groups that often have limited access to both the financial tools and the income required to build robust savings. . . . Policymakers have a variety of options for boosting emergency savings, from providing incentives to reducing regulatory barriers, but all policy innovations should adhere to five key principles developed by a coalition of organizations, including BPC, focused on financial security: New emergency savings policies should allow for automatic enrollment, keep emergency savings distinct from other funds, promote a wide range of savings options, work to meet household needs, and safeguard retirement savings.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/SECURE2point0</p>
	*May require registration before accessing article.
Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Legislative	Information about the legislative bills which have been endorsed by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, including the text of the bills, can be viewed at:

Endorsements	https://tinyurl.com/DignityLegislativeEndorsements Questions or comments can be directed to Legislative Work Group Chair Richard (Dick) Moore at rmoore8473@charter.net .
Websites	Alzheimers.gov Alzheimers.gov Information for individuals, caregivers, and professions.
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/
State Budget	Commonwealth of Massachusetts <i>House Ways and Means Budget</i> April 13, 2022 Excerpts from Rep. Aaron Michlewitz’s, Chair of the House Ways and Means, transmittal letter: “With this document, the House Committee on Ways and Means presents its recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2023 General Appropriations Act. . . In January, the House and Senate Committees on Ways & Means, working closely with the office of Administration & Finance, agreed to a consensus revenue number for FY23 in the amount of \$36.92 billion, a 2.7% growth over the revised FY22 projections. Of this total amount, \$29.78 billion is available for the FY23 budget after the transfers to the pension fund, MBTA, and other agencies. . . In FY22, one of the main funding priorities of the House was in housing and homelessness. That budget funded programs like the Rental Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) and Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) at historically high levels. As we move into FY23, we plan to continue to prioritize these needs and build on previous investments to support individuals, families, and youth in this budget. This FY23 budget funds RAFT at \$140 million, MRVP at \$150 million, \$100 million for programs for Homeless Individuals, \$92 million for Public Housing, and \$59.4 million for HomeBASE. Our investments in healthcare comprise a significant portion of the budget. Due to the federal public health emergency, MassHealth has received enhanced federal funding for money spent on services, often referred to as Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). In order to receive this funding, MassHealth is unable to re-determine eligibility for members until July of 2022, at the earliest. As a result, the House budget includes \$18.406 billion in spending to fully fund the MassHealth caseload, a \$595 million gross increase over H.2. The costs of this increase are more than covered by the FMAP funds the Commonwealth receives and as a result the net cost for MassHealth decreases. The House remains committed to expanding treatment options and providing resources for those struggling with mental health and substance use disorders. We have focused on prevention, intervention, and long-term recovery. This budget will invest \$188.6 million into the Substance Use Disorder Trust Fund, allowing individuals across the addiction spectrum to access the services they need.” Highlighted components: <u>MassHealth</u> As the Commonwealth has provided safety net services to those hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the most important investments has been ensuring that low-income residents have access to affordable, high-quality healthcare. MassHealth has seen its

caseload grow over the course of pandemic, now covering close to 2.2 million lives. The House Committee on Ways and Means budget proposal includes \$18.406B for MassHealth programmatic spending to fully support the increase in caseload during the federal public health emergency, ensuring that residents who need coverage are able to access it.

- Invests \$645M in spending for FY23 to fully fund MassHealth caseload for the remainder of the Federal Public Health Emergency
- Provides \$37M in spending to expand the eligibility for the Medicare Savings Program to 250% of the Federal Poverty Line
- Provides \$27M for nursing facility rates to be set using 2019 calendar year costs, an average increase of \$4.20 per day
- Prepares MassHealth for the introduction of a new 1115 waiver in FY23

Department of Transitional Assistance

The Department of Transitional Assistance works to ease the burdens on the Commonwealth's most vulnerable, ensuring that children, the elderly, the disabled, the unemployed and the underemployed have access to the services and the benefits that they need to achieve personal economic self-sufficiency and a better quality of life. The Department reaches one in eight Massachusetts residents through its economic assistance, food assistance, and workforce training programs, and the House Committee on Ways and Means budget proposal would protect and preserve these standards of support through the post-pandemic recovery and help guarantee opportunity for every resident of the Commonwealth.

- Provides \$3.5M for Two Generation Economic Mobility Programs
- Provides \$343.2M for Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children
- Provides \$137.2M for Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children
- Provides \$10M for Healthy Incentives Program

Department of Public Health

The Department of Public Health aims to ensure that all people of the Commonwealth remain healthy by promoting wellness and establishing health and safety regulations to prevent injury, illness, and premature death. The Department of Public Health also strives to eliminate health disparities within the Commonwealth by acknowledging and addressing social determinants of health. The House Committee on Ways and Means supports the Department's behavioral health efforts and proposes increases for the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services, Early Intervention Services, and School Based Health Programs to fund workforce development initiative

- Provides \$11.9M for chronic disease prevention

Department of Mental Health

As the Commonwealth's mental health authority, the Department of Mental Health provides community-based and continuing care inpatient services for over 20,000 individuals throughout the Commonwealth. The Department serves the severely, persistently mentally ill with the goal of enabling as many individuals as possible to live, work, and participate in their communities. The House Committee on Ways and Means Fiscal Year 2023 budget proposal continues this effort by supporting emergency department diversion boarding and funding a new loan forgiveness program to address workforce retention and development issues within clinical behavioral health.

- Provides \$514.3M for adult support services
- Provides \$111.8M for child and adolescent mental health services
- Provides \$10M for emergency department diversion programs
- Provides \$20M for a DMH loan forgiveness program to support workforce development among clinical behavioral health professionals

Executive Office of Elder Affairs

The Department of Elder Affairs provides services that promote independence and sustain a high quality of life for elders with support to their families and caregivers. These services range from community-based services and supports as well as nutrition programs, protective services, and housing, which are provided through a network of Aging Service Access Points and Councils on Aging Across the state. During the COVID-19 pandemic, these

services have become even more critical to keep older adults healthy. The House Committee on Ways and Means budget proposes a funding level of \$715.6M to ensure that these important services continue while recognizing the unprecedented, continued growth in the elder population and desire to age in the community.

- Provides \$284M for the Community Choices Program, which provides MassHealth-eligible elders with nursing facility levels of need with home care support
- Provides \$40.4M to maintain higher rates for home health aides and homemakers that provide vital services to older adults in our communities
- Provides \$22M for Grants to Councils on Aging to maintain the \$12 per elder funding formula
- Provides \$2.5M in funding for Elder Mental Health Outreach Teams, which link in-crisis elders with a wide variety of behavioral health services.
- Maintains \$1.6M in funding for 24 Elder Supportive Housing Sites
- Provides \$1M in funding to support the SHINE program to assist older adults in choosing and enrolling in benefits as well as book vaccine appointments during the pandemic

Department of Veterans' Services

The Department of Veterans' Services provides veterans with access to programs and services throughout the Commonwealth. The Department provides educational opportunities, outreach centers, service benefits, as well as personal care services through the Soldiers' Homes in Chelsea and Holyoke.

- Provides \$68.2M for Veterans' Benefit Payments
- Provides \$79M for the Soldiers' Homes in Chelsea and Holyoke
- Provides \$8.9M for Veterans' Outreach Centers
- Provides \$4.2M for assistance to homeless veterans

Department of Housing and Community Development

The Department of Housing and Community Development provides affordable housing options and essential financial support to vulnerable families and communities in Massachusetts. A safe housing environment provides a solid foundation from which families and individuals can lead stable, successful lives. As such, the House Committee on Ways and Means budget proposal preserves or expands funding for all emergency homeless assistance programs, as well as homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing for both families and individuals. The Fiscal Year 2023 budget includes \$853M to ensure that these important programs continue to support and provide safe housing for thousands of individuals and families across the Commonwealth.

- Provides \$218.2M for the Emergency Assistance Family Shelter Program
 - Includes immunosuppressed and immunocompromised shelter assistance
- Provides \$150M for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP)
 - Also carries forward \$21.9M in unspent funds from FY22
- Provides \$92M for Public Housing Authorities
- Provides \$100M for Homeless Individuals Assistance
 - Includes \$90M within the item for long-term shelter providers
- Provides \$59.4M for the HomeBASE Program, extending program benefits from one to two years
 - Includes immunosuppressed and immunocompromised rental assistance
- Provides \$140M for the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) Program
- Provides \$12.5M for Rental Subsidies to Eligible Department of Mental Health Clients
- Provides \$13.7M for the Alternative Voucher Housing Program (AVHP)
- Carries forward \$5.6M in unspent funds from FY22
- Provides \$9.7M for Housing Consumer Education Centers
- Provides \$5M for Rapid Re-Housing Programs for Homeless Individuals
- Provides \$6.4M for the Home and Healthy for Good Program

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides \$5M for the Service Coordinators Program • Provides \$2M for a Housing Assistance for Reentry Transition pilot program <p><i>Governor's Proposed Budget for FY 2023</i> January 26, 2022</p> <p>The annual budget process begins each year when the Governor files recommendations as a bill with the House of Representatives. Under the state Constitution, the Governor must submit a proposal by the 4th Wednesday of January or, in the event of a new term, within five weeks later. This bill is called House 1 or "House 2" depending on the year.</p> <p>https://malegislature.gov/Budget</p>																								
Nursing homes with admission freezes	<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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Updated on April 12, 2022</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="488 1360 1507 1633"> <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>Bear Mountain at Worcester</td> <td>Worcester</td> <td>3/29/2022</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>Highview of Northampton</td> <td>Northampton</td> <td>3/15/22</td> <td>Infection control</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> </tbody> </table>	Name of Facility	City/Town	Date of Freeze	Qualifying Factor	Bear Mountain at Worcester	Worcester	3/29/2022	Infection control	Caldwell Home Extended Care	Fitchburg	2/9/22	Noncompliance Testing	Highview of Northampton	Northampton	3/15/22	Infection control	Oosterman's Melrose Rest Home	Melrose	12/18/21	Noncompliance Testing	Plymouth Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center	Plymouth	10/27/21	New Cases
Name of Facility	City/Town	Date of Freeze	Qualifying Factor																						
Bear Mountain at Worcester	Worcester	3/29/2022	Infection control																						
Caldwell Home Extended Care	Fitchburg	2/9/22	Noncompliance Testing																						
Highview of Northampton	Northampton	3/15/22	Infection control																						
Oosterman's Melrose Rest Home	Melrose	12/18/21	Noncompliance Testing																						
Plymouth Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center	Plymouth	10/27/21	New Cases																						
List of Special Focus Facilities	<p>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services <i>List of Special Focus Facilities and Candidates</i></p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram</p> <p>CMS has published a new list of Special Focus Facilities (SFF). SFFs are nursing homes with serious quality issues based on a calculation of deficiencies cited during inspections and the scope and severity level of those citations. CMS publicly discloses the names of the facilities chosen to participate in this program and</p>																								

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 (updated March 30, 2022)

Newly added to the listing

- None

Massachusetts facilities not improved

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

Massachusetts facilities which showed improvement

- Attleboro Healthcare, Attleboro
<https://tinyurl.com/AttleboroHealthcare>

Massachusetts facilities which have graduated from the program

- None

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>
- RegalCare at Worcester
No website
- Revolution Charwell
<https://tinyurl.com/RevolutionCharwell>
- Vantage at South Hadley
No website
- Vero Health and Rehabilitation Center of Amesbury

	<p>https://tinyurl.com/VeroAmesbury</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vero Health and Rehabilitation Center of Revere https://tinyurl.com/VeroRevere • Braintree Manor Healthcare https://www.nextstephc.com/braintree • Hathaway Manor Extended Care https://hathawaymanor.org/ https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram 																				
<p><i>Nursing Home Inspect</i></p>	<p>ProPublica <i>Nursing Home Inspect</i></p> <p>Data updated November 2021 This app uses data from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Fines are listed for the past three years if a home has made partial or full payment (fines under appeal are not included). Information on deficiencies comes from a home’s last three inspection cycles, or roughly three years in total. The number of COVID-19 cases is since May 8, 2020, when homes were required to begin reporting this information to the federal government (some homes may have included data on earlier cases). Massachusetts listing: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/state/MA</p> <p>Deficiencies By Severity in Massachusetts (What do the severity ratings mean?)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th># reported</th> <th>Deficiency Tag</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>233</td> <td>B</td> </tr> <tr> <td>70</td> <td>C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6,739</td> <td>D</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1,754</td> <td>E</td> </tr> <tr> <td>452</td> <td>F</td> </tr> <tr> <td>517</td> <td>G</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>H</td> </tr> <tr> <td>59</td> <td>J</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td> <td>K</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	# reported	Deficiency Tag	233	B	70	C	6,739	D	1,754	E	452	F	517	G	23	H	59	J	22	K
# reported	Deficiency Tag																				
233	B																				
70	C																				
6,739	D																				
1,754	E																				
452	F																				
517	G																				
23	H																				
59	J																				
22	K																				
<p>Nursing Home Compare</p>	<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 that will help consumers have a better understanding of certain staffing information and concerns at facilities. 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>																				

	https://tinyurl.com/NursingHomeCompareWebsite		
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 		
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 Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/DignityAllianceMA/ Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/dignityalliance/ LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/dignity-alliance-massachusetts Twitter: https://twitter.com/dignity_ma?s=21 Website: www.DignityAllianceMA.org</p>		
<p>Participation opportunities with Dignity Alliance Massachusetts</p> <p>Most workgroups meet bi-weekly via Zoom.</p> <p>Please contact workgroup lead for more information</p>	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 Samantha VanSchoick Lachlan Forrow	prisoreilly@gmail.com svanschoick@cil.org 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
	Topical Conversations	Lachlan Forrow	lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu
	Veteran Services	James Lomastro	jimlomastro@comcast.net
The Tuesday Digest	<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	Thanks to the contributors to this issue of <i>The Dignity Digest</i>		

- Scott Harshbarger
- Dick Moore

Special thanks to Paul Spooner with the MetroWest Center for Independent Living for assistance with the website and MailChimp versions of *The Dignity Digest*.
If you have submissions for inclusion in The Dignity Digest or have questions or comments, please submit them to paul.lanzikos@gmail.com.

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.