



# The Dignity Digest

Issue # 98

July 18, 2022

*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.

## Editor's Note

This is an abbreviated issue of *The Dignity Digest* due to summer vacation. A full *Digest* is scheduled for next week (Monday, July 25).

## Spotlight: Tax relief and economic development bill

**The Senate is expected to release its tax relief and economic development bill on Monday July 18 for quick action this week. Sen. Comerford, lead sponsor with Rep Barber of a bill to reform MassHealth estate recovery, is expected to introduce an amendment to limit MassHealth estate recovery --the estate tax on the poor.**

**More information to follow as it becomes available.**

## Quotes of the Week

***"We don't do procedures for people in a wheelchair."***

A Planned Parenthood representative in New York City, *for a Woman in a Wheelchair, Abortion Access Was One More Challenge*, **New York Times**, July 14, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/WomanInAWheelchair>

***Regardless of your diet, "physical activity is important. And whatever your physical activity is, diet is important."***

Dr. Melody Ding, associate professor at the University of Sydney (Australia), *You Won't Live Longer by Diet or Exercise Alone, Study Says*, **New York Times (free access)**, July 15, 2022 (updated), <https://tinyurl.com/LiveLongerDietExercise>

***(E)ugenic 'science' is still a vibrant part of U.S. culture that interacts with and shapes the reproductive lives of disabled women in many ways.***

Mia Mingus, Georgians for Choice, *Reproductive Justice for Disabled Women: Ending Systemic Discrimination*, **AmericanProgress.com**, April 13, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/ReproductiveJusticeDisabled>

***"That girl had a guardian angel yesterday...and his name was Jake."***

	<p>Plymouth Police Officer Vinnie Roth <i>Solar Panel Installer Finds Missing 5-Year-Old with Autism in Plymouth</i>, <b>Patch.com</b>, July 14, 2022, <a href="https://tinyurl.com/SolarPanelistFindsGirl">https://tinyurl.com/SolarPanelistFindsGirl</a></p> <p><i>“Being able to take a shower and have access to hygiene products is a fundamental human right and helps restore a person’s dignity.”</i></p> <p>Julio Meran, a former homeless person in Lawrence who now runs the nonprofit agency Merrimack Valley Dream Center, <i>Homelessness a growing local, national crisis</i>, <b>Salem News</b>, July 18, 2022, <a href="https://tinyurl.com/HomelessnessGrowingCrisis">https://tinyurl.com/HomelessnessGrowingCrisis</a></p> <p><i>“If you don’t have stable work, what life do you live? I had 45 goats!”</i></p> <p>Antonio Brundu, 104, whose father lived to 103, oldest living resident of Perdasdefogu, Sardinia, <i>Who’s the oldest of them all?</i>, <b>*Boston Globe</b>, July 16, 2022, <a href="https://tinyurl.com/OldestOfThemAll">https://tinyurl.com/OldestOfThemAll</a></p>
<p>Dignity Votes 2022</p>	<p><b>Candidates for State Auditor: questionnaires and interviews</b></p> <p>Candidates for constitutional office have been invited to participate in individual interviews with a panel of Dignity Alliance Massachusetts members as well as to respond in writing to a set of questions pertinent to the office sought. Candidates for the office of state auditor were the first to be invited. The candidates are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arthur Amore (R)</li> <li>• Chris Dempsey (D)</li> <li>• Diana DiZoglio (D)</li> </ul> <p>They were interviewed by a panel consisting of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Richard Moore, former Massachusetts Senate President Pro Tempore and Senate Chair, Joint Health Care Finance Committee</li> <li>• Arlene Germain, Executive Director, Massachusetts Advocates for Nursing Home Reform</li> <li>• Sandy Alissa Novack, MBA, MSW</li> </ul> <p>Charles Carr, former Commissioner of the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, served as moderator.</p> <p>The recorded Interviews and the written responses to the questionnaire can be found at: <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/2022/06/27/state-auditor-q-and-a/">https://dignityalliancema.org/2022/06/27/state-auditor-q-and-a/</a></p> <p><b>Candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and Secretary State</b></p> <p>Questionnaires for these offices are in the process of being prepared and will be distributed in July. Invitations for an interview with a panel of Dignity Alliance Massachusetts will be extended.</p> <p><b>Congressional office candidates</b></p> <p>Questionnaires for congressional candidates are in the process of being prepared and will be distributed in July.</p> <p><b>State legislative candidates</b></p>

	<p>Questionnaires for selective legislative office candidates are in the process of being prepared and will be distributed in July and August.</p> <p><b>Fact Sheets and Issue Briefs</b>  Prepared by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Workgroups</p> <p><b>Nursing Homes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Nursing Home Fact Sheet</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Nursing Home Staffing Issues</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Pandemic Issues in Nursing Homes</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Nursing Homes – Financial Responsibility</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Nursing Homes – Oversight, Licensures, Closures</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Nursing Homes – Small Home Model</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Home and Community Based Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">HCBS Fact Sheet</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">HCBS Staffing Issues</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">HCBS Care Coordination Issues</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Behavioral Health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Behavioral Health Fact Sheet</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">BH Elder Mental Health Outreach Teams (EMHOT) Issues</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">BH Nursing Homes and Psychotropic/Antipsychotic Drugs Issues</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Social Work Staffing Issues</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Housing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Housing Issues</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Veterans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Veterans Issues</a></li> </ul> <p><a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/2022-facts-and-issues/">https://dignityalliancema.org/2022-facts-and-issues/</a></p> <p><b>State Election Information</b></p> <p>The following websites contain useful, timely information about this year’s elections. (Source: <i>AARP Bulletin</i> July / August 2022)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>AARP Voter Guides</i>  Information about the voting process from registration to Election Day voting locations and hours.  <a href="http://www.aarp.org/electionguides">www.aarp.org/electionguides</a></li> <li>• <i>Ballotpedia</i>  Information about statewide races and ballot measures.  <a href="http://www.ballotpedia.org">www.ballotpedia.org</a></li> <li>• <i>OpenSecrets</i>  Tracks flow of money within the electoral process.  <a href="http://www.opensecrets.org">www.opensecrets.org</a></li> <li>• <i>Vote411</i>  Election year information provided by the League of Women Voters.  <a href="http://www.vote411.org">www.vote411.org</a></li> <li>• <i>Vote Smart</i>  On demand detailed information about individual candidates  <a href="http://www.votesmart.org">www.votesmart.org</a></li> </ul>
REV UP Massachusetts	<p><b>1. REV UP Massachusetts</b>  Dignity Alliance MA voted to endorse and support the upcoming REV UP conference.  REV UP Mass (Register! Educate! Vote! Use your Power!) is a local coalition that is part of the larger national REV UP network that exists to build the power of</p>

	<p>the disability vote. That means making sure that voters with disabilities are registered to vote and that they have equal access to democracy.</p> <p>REV UP Mass is holding the (free) virtual REV UP Mass Conference on July 21, 2022! The conference is currently planned for 10 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. with a break for lunch. The conference planning committee is hard at work finding Speakers and determining an Agenda that will highlight barriers to accessible voting in Mass, how to get out the disability vote, and why the disability vote is so important for the 2022 elections.</p> <p>If you have questions please do not hesitate to reach out to Amelia Fowler, Voting Rights Advocate at DLC, at <a href="mailto:afowler@dlc-ma.org">afowler@dlc-ma.org</a> OR 671-221-8451. Sign up for <a href="#">REV UP emails</a> or check the <a href="#">REV UP website</a> for more information.</p> <p><b>The 2022 REV UP MA Conference</b></p> <p>Thursday, July 21, 2022, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>Speakers, agenda, and location to be announced</p> <p>Agenda will highlight barriers to accessible voting in Massachusetts, how to get out the disability vote, and why the disability vote is so important for the 2022 elections.</p> <p>Coalition partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disability Law Center</li> <li>• Disability Policy Consortium</li> <li>• Mass. Developmental Disabilities Council</li> <li>• Mass. Advocates Standing Strong</li> <li>• MASS Rainbow</li> <li>• MetroWest Center for Independent Living</li> <li>• The Arc of Massachusetts</li> </ul> <p>Free registration; registration information forthcoming</p> <p><a href="https://tinyurl.com/REVUpMAE2022Conference">https://tinyurl.com/REVUpMAE2022Conference</a></p> <p><a href="https://revupma.org/wp/">https://revupma.org/wp/</a></p>
<p>Reports</p>	<p><b>2. AmericanProgress.com</b></p> <p>April 13, 2022</p> <p><i>Reproductive Justice for Disabled Women: Ending Systemic Discrimination</i></p> <p>There are several key issues essential to ensuring reproductive equity and justice for disabled women: access to reproductive health care; forced sterilization; guardianship; sex education; parenthood; and sexual violence.</p> <p>People with disabilities face numerous barriers to accessing reproductive health care, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessible facilities and resources</li> <li>• Accessible transportation.</li> <li>• Access to abortion services.</li> <li>• Access to contraceptives.</li> <li>• Access to preventative screenings.</li> </ul> <p>Other issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forced sterilization</li> <li>• Guardianship</li> <li>• Sex education</li> <li>• Parenthood</li> <li>• Sexual violence</li> </ul> <p>While the reproductive justice and disability justice movements share several fundamental goals surrounding enhanced bodily autonomy, self-determination,</p>

	<p>and community care, ableist assumptions contribute to a deep-seated distrust or cynicism among the disability community toward the reproductive rights movement. Instances of state-sanctioned eugenics campaigns only further cement such distrust. Health care providers and other authority figures must work to address the ableism in their fields and rebuild trust within the disability community in order to ensure that people with disabilities have access to the reproductive health care they need.</p> <p>Focusing on the intersection of disability and reproductive justice has important policy implications. Understanding the specific barriers that prevent disabled women, particularly disabled women of color, from accessing reproductive freedoms is a prerequisite to policymaking.</p> <p><a href="https://tinyurl.com/ReproductiveJusticeDisabled">https://tinyurl.com/ReproductiveJusticeDisabled</a></p> <p><b>3. British Journal of Sports Medicine</b>  <i>Physical activity, diet quality and all-cause cardiovascular disease and cancer mortality: a prospective study</i>  <b>Conclusions</b> Adhering to both quality diet and sufficient physical activity is important for optimally reducing the risk of mortality from all causes, CVD and PDAR cancers.  <a href="https://tinyurl.com/PhysicalActivityDietQuality">https://tinyurl.com/PhysicalActivityDietQuality</a></p>
<p>Resident Rights Month: October 2022</p>	<p><b>4. National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care</b>  <i>Residents' Rights Month (October 1 through 31, 2022)</i>  October is <b>Residents' Rights Month</b>, an annual event designated by Consumer Voice to honor residents living in all long-term care facilities and those receiving care in their home or community. It is an opportunity to focus on and celebrate the dignity and rights of every individual receiving long-term services and supports.</p> <p>Being a part of a community is essential to our well-being. Throughout the pandemic, residents of long-term care facilities were disconnected from the resident and staff communities within their facilities when activities and group dining were limited. Residents were disconnected from the broader local community when visitation was restricted and many residents were unable to leave their facilities to participate in outside activities. This year's Residents' Rights Month theme - <b>Inspiring Unity within Our Community</b> - emphasizes the importance of fostering meaningful community within the facility and encouraging residents' connection to their local community.</p> <p><a href="#">Promotional Materials</a>  <a href="#">Resident's Voice Challenge</a>  <a href="#">Activity Suggestions</a>  <a href="https://theconsumervoice.org/events/2022-residents-rights-month">https://theconsumervoice.org/events/2022-residents-rights-month</a></p>
<p>Webinars and online sessions</p>	<p><b>5. Encore Boston Network</b>  Tuesday, August 2, 2022, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.  <i>Back to School? Options for Pursuing an Academic Degree or Credential After 50</i>  This program will demystify the process and prepare you to tackle the challenges. We will explore options for returning to academic study, especially after a long time away. We will look at types of programs, financial considerations, application, and credit transfer processes. Older students will share their experiences and words of wisdom.</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sydney Morgan, Associate Director of Transfer Admissions, UMass Boston</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adrienne Franciosi, Assistant Vice President, Graduate and Professional Studies, Lasell University</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">REGISTER HERE</a></p>
Previously posted webinars and online sessions	<p><b>Previously posted webinars and online sessions can be viewed at:</b>  <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/">https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/</a></p>
Behavioral Health	<p><b>6. The White House</b>  <i>988 Announcement and Briefing Invitation</i>  Monday, July 18, 2022, 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>On July 16, 2022, the ten-digit suicide prevention lifeline will be transitioning to a three-digit number, 9-8-8, where compassionate, accessible care and support is available for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress. Americans can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support. To help YOU, our partners, communicate about 988, we have developed a downloadable print files for wallet cards, magnets, and posters to its <a href="#">988 Partner Toolkit</a>. The toolkit already includes logo and brand guidelines, key messages, frequently asked questions, fact sheets (English and Spanish), radio PSA scripts (English and Spanish), and more.</p> <p>You are also invited to join Secretary Becerra, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, and HHS senior leadership on Monday, July 18th at 3:00PM ET for a briefing on the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline’s transition to 988 this upcoming weekend. All information is below.</p> <p>Register for the briefing here: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/988TransitionBriefing">https://tinyurl.com/988TransitionBriefing</a></p>
Housing	<p><b>7. Salem News</b>  July 18, 2022  <i>Homelessness a growing local, national crisis</i></p> <p>Unfortunately, it’s a problem that is getting more and more severe, leading some public health officials to call it a national crisis. . .</p> <p>The solution, of course, is to build more housing to take the pressure off the supply side of the equation. But that’s not always easy. Witness the fight in Manchester-by-the-Sea over a 40B affordable housing development that is currently being challenged by opponents who claim the project will destroy one of the town’s most scenic and valued open spaces.</p> <p><a href="https://tinyurl.com/HomelessnessGrowingCrisis">https://tinyurl.com/HomelessnessGrowingCrisis</a></p>
Veteran Services	<p><b>8. Salem News</b>  July 18, 2022  <i>‘We’re sick and tired of it’</i></p> <p>The 95-year-old Jamieson led the way as about 65 people, some with walkers or wheelchairs, rode in a caravan from Lynn to Salem to present (Congressman Seth)Moulton’s office with a petition opposing the potential closing of the Veterans Affairs Clinic in Lynn.</p> <p>The VA’s recommendations are part of a nationwide review of the agency’s health care services. They include the closing or overhauling of hospitals and medical facilities across the country, including the VA medical center in Bedford, as part of a modernizing plan. The report must be submitted to Congress and to a presidentially appointed commission. That commission will conduct public hearings before submitting its own recommendations to the president for further review in 2023, according to the VA.</p> <p><a href="https://tinyurl.com/SickAndTiredOfit">https://tinyurl.com/SickAndTiredOfit</a></p>
Disability Topics	<p><b>9. *New York Times</b></p>

July 14, 2022

*For a Woman in a Wheelchair, Abortion Access Was One More Challenge*

Roxanne Schiebergen, a writer and actress, has become skilled at navigating New York City since she was a student at N.Y.U. Then came an unexpected pregnancy. The everyday discrimination faced by Ms. Schiebergen is all too common, said [Robert Fuller](#), an associate professor of obstetrics, gynecology and maternal-fetal medicine at the University of Virginia. "In doctor's offices, in taxis, in shopping malls and restaurants, this is what happens to people with paralysis every single day," said Dr. Fuller, who specializes in high-risk maternal care, often for paralyzed women.

<https://tinyurl.com/WomanInAWheelchair>

**10. Patch.com**

July 14, 2022

*Solar Panel Installer Finds Missing 5-Year-Old with Autism in Plymouth*

A solar panel installer stopped everything to help assist people nearby who said they were looking for a missing 5-year-old girl with autism. Now police are calling Jake Manna a hero for finding the little girl Wednesday.

<https://tinyurl.com/SolarPanelistFindsGirl>

**11. AmericanProgress.com**

April 13, 2022

*Reproductive Justice for Disabled Women: Ending Systemic Discrimination*

There are several key issues essential to ensuring reproductive equity and justice for disabled women: access to reproductive health care; forced sterilization; guardianship; sex education; parenthood; and sexual violence.

People with disabilities face numerous barriers to accessing reproductive health care, including:

- Accessible facilities and resources
- Accessible transportation.
- Access to abortion services.
- Access to contraceptives.
- Access to preventative screenings.

Other issues:

- Forced sterilization
- Guardianship
- Sex education
- Parenthood
- Sexual violence

While the reproductive justice and disability justice movements share several fundamental goals surrounding enhanced bodily autonomy, self-determination, and community care, ableist assumptions contribute to a deep-seated distrust or cynicism among the disability community toward the reproductive rights movement. Instances of state-sanctioned eugenics campaigns only further cement such distrust. Health care providers and other authority figures must work to address the ableism in their fields and rebuild trust within the disability community in order to ensure that people with disabilities have access to the reproductive health care they need.

Focusing on the intersection of disability and reproductive justice has important policy implications. Understanding the specific barriers that prevent disabled women, particularly disabled women of color, from accessing reproductive freedoms is a prerequisite to policymaking.

Aging Topics	<p><a href="https://tinyurl.com/ReproductiveJusticeDisabled">https://tinyurl.com/ReproductiveJusticeDisabled</a></p> <p><b>12. *Boston Globe</b>  July 16, 2022  <i>Who’s the oldest of them all?</i>  Deep in the Sardinian mountains, a sign on a winding road opposite an abandoned playground welcomes visitors to Perdasdefogu, home of the “World Record of Family Longevity.” . .  The two offered all sorts of explanations for the longevity of the townspeople. They pointed at the many vegetable gardens with their oversized zucchinis; talked up the local potato bread that they suggested was studied by geneticists; and exalted the natural digestive aids, including an acidic cheese that jiggled like a chalky cube of Jell-O. . .  Gutted like so many Italian towns by the loss of jobs, low birthrates, and the fleeing of young people, Perdasdefogu is seizing on its recognition from Guinness World Records as the municipality with “the largest concentration of centenarians” — currently seven of them in a population of about 1,780 — to spur an economic rejuvenation. . .  Murgia said the town’s five living centenarians — with two more on the near horizon — gave Seulo, with only 790 people, a much higher density of the super old than Perdasdefogu. (On Saturday, one, Pietrina Murgia, died, at age 100, bringing the number down to four.)  <a href="https://tinyurl.com/OldestOfThemAll">https://tinyurl.com/OldestOfThemAll</a></p> <p><b>13. New York Times (free access)</b>  July 15, 2022 (updated)  <i>You Won’t Live Longer by Diet or Exercise Alone, Study Says</i>  Sprawling new research showed that healthy eating and regular workouts do not, in isolation, stave off later health issues. They need to be done together. Health food or exercise alone isn’t enough to prevent chronic disease, new research shows. Contrary to popular belief, you can’t outrun the toll of a poor diet — and healthy eating, on its own, won’t ward off disease.  Most people know that working out and eating well are critical components of overall health. But a <a href="#">sweeping study published</a> this week in the British Journal of Sports Medicine suggests that hitting the gym won’t counteract the consequences of consuming fat-laden foods, and mainlining kale can’t cancel out sedentary habits. . .  Not surprisingly, people with both higher levels of physical activity and better quality diets had the lowest mortality risk. Overall physical activity levels were associated with a lower mortality risk, but those who regularly engaged in vigorous exercise — the kind that makes you break a sweat — had a particularly lower risk of cardiovascular disease mortality. And even just 10 to 75 minutes per week made a difference.  Regardless of your diet, Dr. Ding said, “physical activity is important. And whatever your physical activity is, diet is important.” . .  On the flip side, even those with the most nutritious diets in the study saw considerably worse outcomes without some form of regular fitness regimen.  <a href="https://tinyurl.com/LiveLongerDietExercise">https://tinyurl.com/LiveLongerDietExercise</a></p>
	*May require registration before accessing article.
Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Legislative Endorsements	Information about the legislative bills which have been endorsed by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, including the text of the bills, can be viewed at: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/DignityLegislativeEndorsements">https://tinyurl.com/DignityLegislativeEndorsements</a>



	Questions or comments can be directed to Legislative Work Group Chair Richard (Dick) Moore at <a href="mailto:rmoore8473@charter.net">rmoore8473@charter.net</a> .
Websites	<p><b>The White House Office of Public Engagement</b>  <a href="https://www.whitehouse.gov/ope/">https://www.whitehouse.gov/ope/</a>  The Office of Public Engagement works at the local, state, and national levels to ensure community leaders, diverse perspectives, and new voices all have the opportunity to inform the work of the President.  Sign up to receive newsletters using the following link.  <a href="http://eepurl.com/hldkdf">http://eepurl.com/hldkdf</a>.</p> <p><b>American Progress Disability Initiative</b>  <a href="https://www.americanprogress.org/team/disability-justice-initiative/">https://www.americanprogress.org/team/disability-justice-initiative/</a>  We promote policies to ensure disabled people of color and those most marginalized by ableism and other forms of oppression can participate in the economy and democracy.  Ensuring an equitable economy for people with disabilities  Centering multimarginalized identities  Repairing the social safety net for people with disabilities  Advancing disability-forward, pro-voter legislation</p> <p><b>State Election Information</b>  The following websites contain useful, timely information about this year’s elections. (Source: <i>AARP Bulletin</i> July / August 2022)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>AARP Voter Guides</i>  Information about the voting process from registration to Election Day voting locations and hours.  <a href="http://www.aarp.org/electionguides">www.aarp.org/electionguides</a></li> <li>• <i>Ballotpedia</i>  Information about statewide races and ballot measures.  <a href="http://www.ballotpedia.org">www.ballotpedia.org</a></li> <li>• <i>OpenSecrets</i>  Tracks flow of money within the electoral process.  <a href="http://www.opensecrets.org">www.opensecrets.org</a></li> <li>• <i>Vote411</i>  Election year information provided by the League of Women Voters.  <a href="http://www.vote411.org">www.vote411.org</a></li> <li>• <i>Vote Smart</i>  On demand detailed information about individual candidates  <a href="http://www.votesmart.org">www.votesmart.org</a></li> </ul>
Previously recommended websites	The comprehensive list of recommended websites has migrated to the Dignity Alliance MA website: <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/resources/">https://dignityalliancema.org/resources/</a> . 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 <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/funding-opportunities/">https://dignityalliancema.org/funding-opportunities/</a> .
Nursing Home Closures	Closure Notices and Relocation Plans available at: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/MANursingHomeClosures">https://tinyurl.com/MANursingHomeClosures</a>
Websites of Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Members	See: <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/about/organizations/">https://dignityalliancema.org/about/organizations/</a>
State Budget FY 2023	<b>Commonwealth of Massachusetts</b> The Governor has submitted his proposed budget for FY 2023.

The budget has been considered, amended, and voted on by the House of Representatives.

The results of the debate in the Senate and outcome of proposed amendments can be viewed at: <https://malegislature.gov/Budget/FY2023/SenateDebate>

The Senate adopted the following amendment:

*Transparency and Accountability for Assisted Living Residences*

“SECTION 56A. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be an assisted living commission to study and recommend policies to ensure assisted living residences adequately meet the health and safety needs of residents. The study shall examine: (i) the current statutory and regulatory oversight of assisted living residences; (ii) assisted living best practices in other states; (iii) the benefits and disadvantages of licensing or certifying residences; (iv) marketing information communicated by residences to potential residents and families; (v) regulatory procedures for opening, closing or changing ownership of a residence including determination of need processes and clustering of facilities; (vi) trends in incident reports made to the executive office of elder affairs and the long term care ombudsman’s office and resolutions of such incidents; (vii) methods to provide transparency of information for potential consumers and family members researching and comparing residences; (viii) safety standards; (ix) existing consumer protections in statute and regulation; and (x) the provision of health care services in residences.

The commission shall consist of: the secretary of elder affairs or a designee, who shall serve as chair; the commissioner of public health or a designee; the assistant secretary of MassHealth or a designee; the long term care ombudsman or a designee; the chairs of the joint committee on elder affairs or designees; and 8 members to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, 1 of whom shall be a representative of LeadingAge Massachusetts, Inc., 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Assisted Living Association, Inc., 1 of whom shall be a representative of AARP Massachusetts, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the New England chapter of the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association and 2 of whom shall be residents or family members of residents at an assisted living residence.

The commission shall meet not less than 6 times, including at least 1 public hearing, and shall produce a report detailing recommendations, which shall be published online by the executive office of elder affairs.

The commission shall file its report and recommendations, including proposed drafts of any necessary legislation or regulations, to the clerks of the senate and house of representatives, the joint committee on elder affairs and the house and senate committees on ways and means not more than 1 year following the effective date of this act.”.

The Senate budget included \$75 million in funding for nursing homes of which \$56.25 million would go for an add-on for direct care staffing costs, \$18.75 million for supplemental payments for quality improvement, and \$10 million in funding for rest home rate increases as well as language setting the asset limit at \$2,000 for eligibility for EAEDC for rest home residents, fixing a change that had been made in the FY22 budget that had eliminated the asset limit.

	<p>On May 26, 2022, the Senate passed the budget to be engrossed. It is now numbered <a href="#">H4701</a>.</p> <p>The budget will now be considered by a Conference Committee consisting of three Senators (Sen. Rodrigues of Westport, Sen. Friedman of Arlington, and Sen. O'Connor of Weymouth) and three Representatives (Rep. Michlewitz of Boston, Rep. Ferrante of Gloucester, and Rep. Smola of Sturbridge).  <a href="https://malegislature.gov/Budget">https://malegislature.gov/Budget</a></p>																																								
<p>Nursing homes with admission freezes</p>	<p><b>Massachusetts Department of Public Health</b>  <i>Temporary admissions freeze</i></p> <p>On November 6, the state <a href="#">announced</a> 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"> <li>• Number of new COVID-19 cases within the facility</li> <li>• Staffing levels</li> <li>• Failure to report a lack of adequate PPE, supplies, or staff</li> <li>• Infection control survey results</li> <li>• Surveillance testing non-compliance</li> </ul> <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><b>Updated on July 15, 2022.</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="500 1310 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>Dedham Healthcare</td> <td>Dedham</td> <td>7/6/2022</td> <td>Infection Control</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Norwood Healthcare</td> <td>Norwood</td> <td>6/28/2022</td> <td>New cases</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oosterman's Melrose Rest Home</td> <td>Melrose</td> <td>12/18/2021</td> <td>Noncompliance Testing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overlook Masonic He6althcare</td> <td>Charlton</td> <td>6/28/2022</td> <td>New cases</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Regalcare at Worcester</td> <td>Worcester</td> <td>7/6/2022</td> <td>Infection control</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rivercrest Long Term Care</td> <td>Concord</td> <td>6/28/2022</td> <td>Noncompliance Testing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Royal of Cotuit</td> <td>Mashpee</td> <td>6/28/2002</td> <td>New cases</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Savoy Nursing and Rehab Center</td> <td>New Bedford</td> <td>4/19/2022</td> <td>Infection control</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sudbury Pines Extended Care</td> <td>Sudbury</td> <td>7/6/2022</td> <td>New cases</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name of Facility	City/Town	Date of Freeze	Qualifying Factor	Dedham Healthcare	Dedham	7/6/2022	Infection Control	Norwood Healthcare	Norwood	6/28/2022	New cases	Oosterman's Melrose Rest Home	Melrose	12/18/2021	Noncompliance Testing	Overlook Masonic He6althcare	Charlton	6/28/2022	New cases	Regalcare at Worcester	Worcester	7/6/2022	Infection control	Rivercrest Long Term Care	Concord	6/28/2022	Noncompliance Testing	Royal of Cotuit	Mashpee	6/28/2002	New cases	Savoy Nursing and Rehab Center	New Bedford	4/19/2022	Infection control	Sudbury Pines Extended Care	Sudbury	7/6/2022	New cases
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<p>List of Special Focus Facilities</p>	<p><b>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services</b>  <i>List of Special Focus Facilities and Candidates</i>  <a href="https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram">https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram</a>  <b>Updated June 29, 2022</b></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 (updated April 27, 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**

- **Highview of Northampton (added in June)**  
<https://highviewnorthampton.com/>
- Parkway Health and Rehabilitation Center  
<https://tinyurl.com/ParkwayHealthCenter>
- Plymouth Rehabilitation and Health Care Center (added in May)  
<https://plymouthrehab.com/>
- Revolution Charwell  
<https://tinyurl.com/RevolutionCharwell>
- **Savoy Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, New Bedford (added in June)**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No website</b></li> <li>• Tremont Health Care Center, Wareham (added in May) <a href="https://thetremontrehabcare.com/">https://thetremontrehabcare.com/</a></li> <li>• Vantage at South Hadley No website</li> <li>• Vero Health and Rehabilitation Center of Amesbury <a href="https://tinyurl.com/VeroAmesbury">https://tinyurl.com/VeroAmesbury</a></li> <li>• Vero Health and Rehabilitation Center of Revere <a href="https://tinyurl.com/VeroRevere">https://tinyurl.com/VeroRevere</a></li> <li>• <b>Watertown Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Watertown (added in June)</b> <b>No website</b> <a href="https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram">https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram</a></li> </ul>																				
<p><i>Nursing Home Inspect</i></p>	<p><b>ProPublica</b> <b><i>Nursing Home Inspect</i></b> 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: <a href="https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/state/MA">https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/state/MA</a> <b>Deficiencies By Severity in Massachusetts</b> <a href="#">(What do the severity ratings mean?)</a></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th># reported</th> <th>Deficiency Tag</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><a href="#">233</a></td> <td><a href="#">B</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">70</a></td> <td><a href="#">C</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">6,739</a></td> <td><a href="#">D</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">1,754</a></td> <td><a href="#">E</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">452</a></td> <td><a href="#">F</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">517</a></td> <td><a href="#">G</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">23</a></td> <td><a href="#">H</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">59</a></td> <td><a href="#">J</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">22</a></td> <td><a href="#">K</a></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	# reported	Deficiency Tag	<a href="#">233</a>	<a href="#">B</a>	<a href="#">70</a>	<a href="#">C</a>	<a href="#">6,739</a>	<a href="#">D</a>	<a href="#">1,754</a>	<a href="#">E</a>	<a href="#">452</a>	<a href="#">F</a>	<a href="#">517</a>	<a href="#">G</a>	<a href="#">23</a>	<a href="#">H</a>	<a href="#">59</a>	<a href="#">J</a>	<a href="#">22</a>	<a href="#">K</a>
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<p>Nursing Home Compare</p>	<p><b>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)</b> <i>Nursing Home Compare Website</i> 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"> <li>• <b>Staff turnover:</b> 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.</li> <li>• <b>Weekend staff:</b> The level of weekend staffing for nurses and registered nurses at a nursing home over a three-month period.</li> </ul> <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,</p>																				

	<p>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><a href="https://tinyurl.com/NursingHomeCompareWebsite">https://tinyurl.com/NursingHomeCompareWebsite</a></p>		
Long-Term Care Facilities Specific COVID-19 Data	<p><b>Massachusetts Department of Public Health</b>  <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><b>Table of Contents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">COVID-19 Daily Dashboard</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">COVID-19 Weekly Public Health Report</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Additional COVID-19 Data</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">CMS COVID-19 Nursing Home Data</a></li> </ul>		
DignityMA Call to Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MA Senate released a report in response to COVID-19. <b>Download the <a href="#">DignityMA Response to Reimagining the Future of MA</a>.</b></li> <li>• <b>Advocate</b> for state bills that advance the Dignity Alliance Massachusetts' Mission and Goals – <a href="#">State Legislative Endorsements</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Support</b> relevant bills in Washington – <a href="#">Federal Legislative Endorsements</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Join</b> our <a href="#">Work Groups</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Learn</b> to use and leverage Social Media at our workshops: <a href="#">Engaging Everyone: Creating Accessible, Powerful Social Media Content</a></li> </ul>		
Access to Dignity Alliance social media	<p>Email: <a href="mailto:info@DignityAllianceMA.org">info@DignityAllianceMA.org</a>  Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/DignityAllianceMA/">https://www.facebook.com/DignityAllianceMA/</a>  Instagram: <a href="https://www.instagram.com/dignityalliance/">https://www.instagram.com/dignityalliance/</a>  LinkedIn: <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/dignity-alliance-massachusetts">https://www.linkedin.com/company/dignity-alliance-massachusetts</a>  Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/dignity_ma?s=21">https://twitter.com/dignity_ma?s=21</a>  Website: <a href="http://www.DignityAllianceMA.org">www.DignityAllianceMA.org</a></p>		
<p><b>Participation opportunities with Dignity Alliance Massachusetts</b></p> <p>Most workgroups meet bi-weekly via Zoom.</p> <p>Please contact workgroup lead for more information</p>	<b>Workgroup</b>	<b>Workgroup lead</b>	<b>Email</b>
	General Membership	Bill Henning Paul Lanzikos	<a href="mailto:bhenning@bostoncil.org">bhenning@bostoncil.org</a> <a href="mailto:paul.lanzikos@gmail.com">paul.lanzikos@gmail.com</a>
	Behavioral Health	Frank Baskin	<a href="mailto:baskinfrank19@gmail.com">baskinfrank19@gmail.com</a>
	Communications	Pricilla O'Reilly Samantha VanSchoick Lachlan Forrow	<a href="mailto:prisoreilly@gmail.com">prisoreilly@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:svanschoick@cil.org">svanschoick@cil.org</a> <a href="mailto:lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu">lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu</a>
	Facilities (Nursing homes, rest homes, assisted living)	Arlene Germain	<a href="mailto:agermain@manhr.org">agermain@manhr.org</a>
	Home and Community Based Services	Meg Coffin	<a href="mailto:mcoffin@centerlw.org">mcoffin@centerlw.org</a>
	Housing	Shaya French	<a href="mailto:sfrench@bostoncil.org">sfrench@bostoncil.org</a>
	Legislative	Richard Moore	<a href="mailto:rmoore8743@charter.net">rmoore8743@charter.net</a>
	Legal Issues	Clarence Richardson	<a href="mailto:Clarence@massnaela.com">Clarence@massnaela.com</a>
	Veteran Services	James Lomastro	<a href="mailto:jimlomastro@comcast.net">jimlomastro@comcast.net</a>
<b>The Dignity Digest</b>	For a free weekly subscription to <i>The Dignity Digest</i> :		

	<p><a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/contact/sign-up-for-emails/">https://dignityalliancema.org/contact/sign-up-for-emails/</a>  Editor: Paul Lanzikos  Primary contributor: Sandy Novack  MailChimp Specialist: Sue Rorke</p>
<p>Note of thanks</p>	<p>Thanks to the contributors to this issue of <i>The Dignity Digest</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judi Fonsh</li> <li>• Dick Moore</li> </ul> <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>.</p> <p><i>If you have submissions for inclusion in <u>The Dignity Digest</u> or have questions or comments, please submit them to <a href="mailto:paul.lanzikos@gmail.com">paul.lanzikos@gmail.com</a>.</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.</i></p> <p><i>Previous issues of <u>The Tuesday Digest</u> and <u>The Dignity Digest</u> are available at: <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/dignity-digest/">https://dignityalliancema.org/dignity-digest/</a></i></p> <p><i>For more information about Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, please visit <a href="http://www.DignityAllianceMA.org">www.DignityAllianceMA.org</a>.</i></p>	