



# The Dignity Digest

Issue # 111

October 24, 2022

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

Mary Margaret Moore  
Tribute



## Remembering Mary Margaret Moore

By Jerry Halberstadt, Stop Bullying Coalition

We have all lost a friend, supporter, and partner, a persistent seeker for social justice. Mary Margaret Moore was born on December 27, 1948, and died on October 6, 2022, after a long and successful career working for the rights of people living with a disability. Others will write comprehensive eulogies, citing her many achievements and roles, her loving marriage to Marcia A Brennan, and her beloved family.

I will simply report on what MM, as she called herself, meant for me and the Stop Bullying Coalition because it exemplifies how she exerted such a broad influence for good.

MM was a visionary who knew how the gears worked in government and the world of social services, and she knew how to make the gears turn. And she showed up to advocate in person.

She taught me that every person is worthy of respect and love and opened me to seeing and appreciating the value and capabilities of everyone, including people in the disability community. Thus, the work of the Stop Bullying Coalition, which had begun with a focus on the elderly, expanded to an equal focus on the disabled, a focus that rewards us with talent and energy.

MM was the Executive Director of the Independent Living Center of the North Shore and Cape Ann for decades (now the Disability Resource Center), making it an active defender of and advocate for the rights and dignity of disabled persons. She fostered leaders like Shawn McDuff, whose volunteers educated store owners and others to provide universal access to their facilities, stressing that the improvements would benefit all comers, not only the disabled. In April 2013, the immediate, emotional response by Shawn McDuff and his group was positive feedback from people who had experienced bullying.

Bonny Zeh and I decided to seek legislation to provide protection against bullying. Encouraged by Senator Joan B. Lovely, I submitted a bill “by right” for the 2013-2014 legislative session.

MM boosted our visibility as advocates for legislation to protect the elderly and disabled from bullying and mobbing.

At the annual legislative breakfast of the Independent Living Center of the North Shore and Cape Ann on May 9, 2014. Mary Margaret Moore and Joan Adrien presented me with the 2014 Gil Adrien Award for Outstanding Advocacy in recognition of outstanding and invaluable service to the community, effectively for our efforts on the stop bullying legislation. This accolade was public recognition of the Stop Bullying Coalition and our goals and encouraged our advocacy.

In addition, this event introduced our movement to several of the elected legislators who were at the event. These connections proved instrumental in building partnerships, culminating in Senator Lovely presenting our legislation that created the milestone commission on bullying.

MM continued to provide advice and practical support until the end of her life when she urged me to continue our advocacy and promised to be with us always.

Let us not fail her faith in our mission; her spirit and love surely to live on in each of us. When faced with a challenge, let us recall the motto for her consulting service: “Fabulous Flamingo, What Would Mary Margaret Moore Do?”

In Jewish tradition, we say, “May her memory be a blessing.”

\*May require registration before accessing article.

*Quotes of the Week*

***We know that a huge increase in the need for long-term care that is barreling our way will arrive in about 10 years. We can plan ahead and be prepared or wait for it to arrive***

*and then deal with the crisis. Baby Boomers who will need the care should be urging state government to plan ahead. All of us who care about caregivers in Massachusetts should act now to improve their working conditions.*

*Care Work in Massachusetts: A Call for Racial and Economic Justice for a Neglected Sector, The Boston Foundation, September 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/CareworkReportSummary>*

*Nearly five million American seniors across the U.S. [are living below or at the poverty line.](#)*

*The Price of Poverty: Seniors are feeling the squeeze, 1A – NPR (Recorded report), October 19, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/1APriceOfPoverty>*

*“Physical health and moral virtue are not synonymous in Western culture, but they are closely related.”*

*Leonard Kriegel, in his essay included in “Falling into Life”, Leonard Kriegel, 89, Dies; Wrote Unflinchingly About His Disability, \*New York Times, October 11, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/WroteUnflinchingly>*

*Residents must be informed of all their options and be offered acceptable opportunities for appropriate relocation. . . Experience with previous closures demonstrates that nursing home residents are able to live safely in homes in the community when resources are made available.*

*Paul Lanzikos, Coordinator, Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, Community options eyed as senior care homes close, consolidate \*Boston Globe, October 18, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/CommunityOptionsEyed>*

*How we treat the vulnerable members of our society — homeless children, immigrants, people suffering from mental illness, people with disabilities, the elderly — is a reflection of our morality as a society.*

*Dr. Philip A. Lederer, Physicians for a National Health Program, Downsizing is appropriate, but rights of facilities’ residents should be respected, \*Boston Globe, October 18, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/CommunityOptionsEyed>*

*Each year more than 1 million Americans injure themselves on stairs — that’s an average of about 3,000 injuries per day, or one every 30 seconds — and the risk increases*

*dramatically with age. . . as you get older changes in your coordination, strength and vision can make navigating a stairway more challenging.*

*8 Ways to Make the Stairs Safer at Home*, **AARP**, October 8, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/8WaysStairsSafer>

*“We’re getting more and more older people who lived through this experiment with do-it-yourself pensions, and they’re coming into this age group without the same kind of incomes that older people have. I don’t think it’s a blip.”*

Teresa Ghilarducci, economics professor at the New School who specializes in retirement policy, *An Uptick in Elder Poverty: A Blip, or a Sign of Things to Come?*, **New York Times (free access)**, October 18, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/UptickElderPoverty>

*The CDC found that 24.3% of COVID deaths among adults 65 and older occurred in a nursing home or long-term care center, compared with 66.2% in a health care setting such as a hospital and 4.7% at home.*

*More older men than women died of COVID in 2020*, **Washington Times**, October 8, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/MoreOlderMenDied>

*“Homelessness is bad for your health.”*

Thomas Byrne, social welfare policy professor at Boston University, *Late baby boomers have long been vulnerable to homelessness. Now as they age, housing providers are struggling to keep up with their needs.*, **\*Boston Globe**, October 22, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/LateBabyBoomersVulnerable>

Dignity Votes 2022

**REMINDER: GENERAL ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8th**

**#TheArcVotes**

*Virtual Disability Forum with Gubernatorial Candidate Maura Healey*

Thursday, October 27, 2022, 12:00 p.m.

The Arc of Massachusetts, Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts, Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL), Disability Law Center (DLC), Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong (MASS), and the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC) are pleased to organize Virtual Disability Forums with Candidates running for Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The second forum, with Candidate Maura Healey (D), will be on October 27 at 12:00PM.

[Registration is now open here.](#)

**The Consumer Voice**

*Voting Rights for Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities*

Individuals receiving long-term services and supports retain their voting rights, no matter where they live or what type of care they receive.

Fortunately, there are many resources available for residents of long-term care facilities to help them register to vote, obtain mail-in ballots, and learn what to expect on the ballot.

- [Questions for nursing home residents to ask to make sure you're ready to vote.](#)
- [Everything you need to know about voting rules in your state including upcoming elections, registration, and mail-in ballots.](#)
- [Find out what's on your ballot and learn about candidates.](#)  
<https://tinyurl.com/ConsumerVoiceVoterRights>

#### **Candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary State, and State Auditor**

Responses to questionnaires from candidates for these offices have been posted at <https://dignityalliancema.org/state-candidates/>.

- *Forum with gubernatorial candidate Geoff Diehl*

The forum, held on Wednesday, September 28, was organized by Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts, Boston Center for Independent Living, the Disability Law Center, Mass Advocates Standing Strong, Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council, and the ark of Massachusetts. The transcript is posted on <https://dignityalliancema.org/state-candidates/>.

#### **Congressional office candidates**

Questionnaires for congressional candidates have been distributed. Responses are being posted on <https://dignityalliancema.org/congressional-candidates/> as they are received.

#### **State legislative candidates**

Questionnaires for legislative office candidates have been distributed. Responses are being posted on <https://dignityalliancema.org/state-candidates/> as they are received.

#### **Fact Sheets and Issue Briefs**

Prepared by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Workgroups

##### **Nursing Homes**

- [Nursing Home Fact Sheet](#)
- [Nursing Home Staffing Issues](#)
- [Pandemic Issues in Nursing Homes](#)
- [Nursing Homes – Financial Responsibility](#)
- [Nursing Homes – Oversight, Licensures, Closures](#)
- [Nursing Homes – Small Home Model](#)

##### **Home and Community Based Services**

- [HCBS Fact Sheet](#)
- [HCBS Staffing Issues](#)
- [HCBS Care Coordination Issues](#)

##### **Behavioral Health**

- [Behavioral Health Fact Sheet](#)
- [BH Elder Mental Health Outreach Teams \(EMHOT\) Issues](#)
- [BH Nursing Homes and Psychotropic/Antipsychotic Drugs Issues](#)
- [Social Work Staffing Issues](#)

##### **Housing**

- [Housing Issues](#)

##### **Veterans**

- [Veterans Issues](#)

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <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><br/>Information about the voting process from registration to Election Day voting locations and hours.<br/><a href="http://www.aarp.org/electionguides">www.aarp.org/electionguides</a></li> <li>• <i>Ballotpedia</i><br/>Information about statewide races and ballot measures.<br/><a href="http://www.ballotpedia.org">www.ballotpedia.org</a></li> <li>• <i>OpenSecrets</i><br/>Tracks flow of money within the electoral process.<br/><a href="http://www.opensecrets.org">www.opensecrets.org</a></li> <li>• <i>Vote411</i><br/>Election year information provided by the League of Women Voters.<br/><a href="http://www.vote411.org">www.vote411.org</a></li> <li>• <i>Vote Smart</i><br/>On demand detailed information about individual candidates<br/><a href="http://www.votesmart.org">www.votesmart.org</a></li> </ul> |
| <p><i>October: Resident Rights Month</i></p> | <p><b>1. October is Resident Rights Month</b></p> <p><i>October 1st marked the beginning of a month-long celebration of residents' rights. Spend time this month honoring residents living in all long-term care facilities, including nursing homes, sub-acute units, assisted living, board and care, and retirement communities. Plus, take time to focus on individuals receiving care in their homes or communities.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>This year's Residents' Rights Month theme - <a href="#">Inspiring Unity within Our Community</a> - emphasizes the importance of fostering meaningful community within the facility and encouraging residents' connection to their local community.</i></p> <p><a href="#">Learn More →</a></p>                  |
| <p>Reports</p>                               | <p><b>2. The Boston Foundation</b></p> <p>September 2022</p> <p><i>Care Work in Massachusetts: A Call for Racial and Economic Justice for a Neglected Sector</i></p> <p>The Boston Foundation, along with SkillWorks, a partnership between the Foundation and the City of Boston to improve workforce development statewide, has issued a report describing the challenge of caregiving in Massachusetts for both those giving and receiving care. “Care Work in Massachusetts: A Call for Racial and Economic Justice for a Neglected Sector” highlights the gendered and racial makeup of the caregiving workforce, as well as its low pay and poor benefits. Both the difficult working conditions and our dependence on care workers were made more apparent by the pandemic.</p>   |

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
|                          | <p>(While the report covers childcare as well elder care, this summary will focus on its findings about home care and long-term care facility workers.)</p> <p>Recommendations of the report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue strengthening the state minimum wage.</li> <li>• Develop a licensing process for home care agencies.</li> <li>• Expand the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to include unpaid caregivers.</li> <li>• Pass labor reforms that make it easier for workers to exercise collective power.</li> <li>• Improve public transit and expand affordable housing opportunities.</li> </ul> <p>Summary: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/CareworkReportSummary">https://tinyurl.com/CareworkReportSummary</a><br/> Report: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/CareworkInMassachusetts">https://tinyurl.com/CareworkInMassachusetts</a></p>  |
| Biden / Federal Policies | <p><b>3. Health Affairs</b><br/> October 20, 2022<br/> <i>Payment Policy And the Challenges of Medicare and Medicaid Integration for Dual-Eligible Beneficiaries</i></p> <p>Medicare and Medicaid have different payment strategies that often work at cross-purposes. This tension represents an ongoing obstacle to controlling costs and improving care and services for beneficiaries enrolled in both programs.</p> <p>KEY POINTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On a per service basis, providers are often paid less to treat dual-eligible beneficiaries than they would be paid to treat Medicare-only beneficiaries because of “lesser-of” payment policies.</li> <li>• Current capitated payment approaches benefit Medicare Advantage plans serving dual-eligible beneficiaries, even though there are limited data about the quality and effectiveness of managed care for dual-eligible beneficiaries.</li> <li>• To avoid penalizing safety-net providers, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has introduced risk adjustment in comparisons of quality, relying almost exclusively on dual-eligibility status as a proxy for patients at high risk for poor outcomes because of social risk factors.</li> <li>• As strategies for integrating Medicare and Medicaid evolve, so should strategies for how Medicare and Medicaid pay for services for dual-eligible beneficiaries.</li> </ul> <p>The new Realizing Equity, Access, and Community Health (REACH) model proposed for accountable care organizations includes <a href="https://tinyurl.com/PaymentPolicyChallenges">some promising components for developing other measures to use in addition to dual-eligible status</a>. Organizations participating in the model will be required to collect information on social risk factors among their patient populations. A new risk-adjustment approach will increase payments for providers who treat more at-risk populations on the basis of a metric that combines area-level deprivation index scores and the percentage of accountable care organization patients who are dually eligible.</p> <p><a href="https://tinyurl.com/PaymentPolicyChallenges">https://tinyurl.com/PaymentPolicyChallenges</a></p> |
| Spotlight                | <p><b>4. Citizens’ Housing &amp; Planning Association (CHAPA)</b><br/> <i>Shaya French and R Feynman: Recipients of Policy Leadership Award</i></p> <p>Two Dignity Alliance Massachusetts participants were honored this month by the Citizens’ Housing &amp; Planning Association with the Policy Leadership Award. Shaya French is a Senior Community Organizer with the Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL) for the past five years. Leading efforts at BCIL, they have increased the annual allocation for the Alternative Housing Voucher</p>   |

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | <p>Program from \$4.6 million to \$14.2 million. They have also prevented cuts to the MBTA’s paratransit service, helped preserve the Affordable Care Act, and advocated for the maintenance funding to create 25 accessible units a year in Massachusetts.</p> <p>R Feynman has been the Senior Community Organizer with the Disability Policy Consortium for the past three years. Their focus is on increasing housing support for low-income people with disabilities, improving accessibility of existing housing, and fostering connections between disability groups at the municipal level. They have also worked on food insecurity, the intersection of transness and disability, and disability issues within environmental justice. Prior to organizing professionally, R was an experimental physicist, but the ableism they encountered pushed them towards advocacy.</p>   |
| <p>Dignity Alliance<br/>Massachusetts in the News</p> | <p><b>5. *Boston Globe</b><br/>October 18, 2022<br/><i>Community options eyed as senior care homes close, consolidate<br/>Downsizing is appropriate, but rights of facilities’ residents should be respected</i><br/>By Paul Lanzikos</p> <p>I write to clarify Dignity Alliance Massachusetts’ position on the closure of nursing facilities (“Seniors uprooted as nursing homes fail”).</p> <p>DignityMA supports the actions taken by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services to pursue adherence to stringent operating standards, which improve the quality of life for nursing home residents. We recognize that these necessary actions may result in the closing of some nursing facilities. With the steady decline of the overall population of nursing home residents over the past 20 years, and especially since the onset of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, downsizing of the number of facilities is appropriate and to be expected. However, the closure process must occur responsibly, respecting residents’ rights and honoring their choices.</p> <p>Residents must be informed of all their options and be offered acceptable opportunities for appropriate relocation. In fact, the best approach to the closures of nursing facilities was described in the <a href="#">Oct. 13 article</a> reporting on the Americans with Disabilities Act-related litigation seeking the expansion of residential options in the Commonwealth (“Mass. residents with disabilities file suit over living options: Say they are unnecessarily in nursing homes,” Metro). Experience with previous closures demonstrates that nursing home residents are able to live safely in homes in the community when resources are made available. This benefits residents and their families as well as taxpayers who fund MassHealth, the principal source of funding for nursing homes.</p> <p><a href="https://tinyurl.com/CommunityOptionsEyed">https://tinyurl.com/CommunityOptionsEyed</a></p> |
| <p>Webinars and Online<br/>Sessions</p>               | <p><b>6. Bipartisan Policy Center</b><br/>Tuesday, October 25, 2022, 1:00 to 1:45 p.m.<br/><i>Preserving Affordable Housing: New Ideas, New Approaches</i></p> <p>With the U.S. suffering from an acute shortage of affordable homes, the preservation of the existing affordable housing stock is more critical than ever before. Even when combined with repairs and rehabilitation, preserving a home that is affordable to a low- or moderate-income household is generally less expensive and more cost-effective than new construction. It also prevents the displacement of households that otherwise would be forced to relocate. This webinar, the eighth in our Getting Serious About Housing Supply series, will</p>   |



explore new ideas and approaches to the preservation of affordable housing both for rent and sale.

Panel discussion with:

Dan Magder

CEO and Founder, Center Creek Capitol Group, LLC

Kristin Siglin

Vice President for Policy and Partnerships, National Community Stabilization Trust

Moderated by Dennis Shea

Executive Director, J. Ronald Terwilliger Center for Housing Policy, Bipartisan Policy Center

[Register Now](#)

**7. Harvard Law School Project on Disability**

Monday, October 31, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

*Disability Rights in Israel: Taking Stock of a Decade of CRPD Implementation*

On September 28, 2012, Israel ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Since then, Israel has made noteworthy advances in implementing its CRPD obligations, including by reforming its guardianship laws to recognize supported decision-making, raising its disability allowance to the equivalent of the minimum wage, and enacting legislation designed to spur deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities. At the same time, there remain important gaps in Israel's CRPD implementation, such as its slow progress towards assisting persons with disabilities residing in institutions to move into the community.

Now, a decade after Israel's ratification of the CRPD, and in the midst of Israel's first periodic review by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, panelists will take stock of the current status of Israel's CRPD implementation to identify the advocacy challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

The conversation is co-sponsored by HPOD and the Harvard Law School's Julis-Rabinowitz Program on Jewish and Israeli Law with important stakeholders in the ongoing efforts to promote, protect, and fulfill disability human rights in Israel, including Israel's Commissioner for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities and representatives from Beit Issie Shapiro, Bizchut, and AlManarah.

[REGISTER](#)

**8. Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences**

Tuesday, November 15, 2022, 1:00 p.m.

Planning for the Inevitable: Medication Errors

This event is intended for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. Content will cover case studies of medication errors and review the root cause analysis (RCA) and action plan development processes, demonstrating the benefit of both as a preventative measure.

**Learning**

**Objectives:**

- Discuss the contributing factors most likely to cause a wrong-drug or wrong-dose error.
- Review best practices aimed at reducing medication errors in your pharmacy.

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe root cause analysis and when it should be conducted in your pharmacy.</li> <li>Identify risk management strategies in the medication use process that can minimize or prevent medication errors.</li> </ul> <p>Featured Speaker<br/>Donna Horn, MS, RPh, DPh, CHC, Senior Ethics and Compliance Officer at Fresenius Medical Care<br/><a href="#">registration</a></p>  |
| Previously posted webinars and online sessions | <p><b>Previously posted webinars and online sessions can be viewed at:</b><br/><a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/">https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/</a></p>  |
| Nursing Homes                                  | <p><b>9. *Boston Globe</b><br/>October 18, 2022<br/><i>People were uprooted already when they were placed in these facilities</i><br/>Re <a href="#">“Seniors uprooted as nursing homes fail”</a> (Page A1, Oct. 10): This article seemed to me to be slanted toward the nursing facility industry and lobby. There are countless studies, books, and articles that demonstrate better health outcomes and quality of life for seniors and individuals living with disabilities when they receive care in the community as opposed to in the institutional setting of a skilled nursing facility. It has long been the goal of Governor Charlie Baker’s administration to close underperforming and poor-quality nursing facilities, and the article rightfully cites its support of “right-sizing the industry.” Per capita, Massachusetts still has more nursing homes than many other states. The residents there were uprooted from their homes when they were placed in those facilities. The administration has numerous options to transition individuals back into the community with all the appropriate resources to ensure true integration and a sustainable placement with the right home health and community-based services. Secretary Marylou Sudders should be leveraging the <a href="#">Aging Services Access Points</a> and <a href="#">Independent Living Centers</a> networks to work side-by-side with nursing facility staff social workers to tenderly assist with these placements.<br/>In a nice juxtaposition, your editorial in the same edition advocated for an additional solution (<a href="#">“Raising wages for an overlooked workforce: home health caregivers”</a>). We need to compensate these workers for their invaluable service, which saves the Commonwealth tens of millions of dollars each year by providing care for individuals in the least restrictive environment: their own home or a community-based arrangement.<br/><a href="https://tinyurl.com/CommunityOptionsEyed">https://tinyurl.com/CommunityOptionsEyed</a></p> <p><b>10. *Boston Globe</b><br/>October 18, 2022<br/><i>Profit-oriented nursing home system widens inequities</i><br/>How we treat the vulnerable members of our society — homeless children, immigrants, people suffering from mental illness, people with disabilities, the elderly — is a reflection of our morality as a society.<br/>Because of our profit-oriented nursing home system, people with money do well while those without resources find themselves being evicted. Why don’t we ensure that the impoverished elderly have high-quality housing?<br/>A single-payer national health program would be a better solution than our current fragmented health insurance system. Reimbursements for nursing homes would be boosted above current MassHealth levels; evictions would be prevented.</p> |

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
|               | <p>It is the responsibility of our political leaders to protect marginalized people. When they abdicate their duty, voters should hold them accountable at the ballot box.</p> <p><a href="https://tinyurl.com/CommunityOptionsEyed">https://tinyurl.com/CommunityOptionsEyed</a></p>  |
| Housing       | <p><b>11. *Boston Globe</b><br/> October 22, 2022<br/> <i>Late baby boomers have long been vulnerable to homelessness. Now as they age, housing providers are struggling to keep up with their needs.</i><br/> [S]tudies show those born in the latter half of the baby boomer generation, now ages 58 to 67, remain more susceptible to homelessness nationwide because they faced decades of economic hardship. . .<br/> This year, almost 1,700 adults experiencing homelessness in Boston are age 55 and older, comprising more than a quarter of the entire adult homeless population in the city, according to an e-mail statement from the Mayor’s Office of Housing.<br/> This age group has made up the largest bulk of the US homeless population for three decades, according to a 2019 University of Pennsylvania <a href="#">study</a>, and faced competitive job markets, back-to-back economic recessions, and skyrocketing housing costs during the 1970s and ’80s. As a result, they’ve remained more susceptible to homelessness ever since. . .<br/> While the city’s efforts are useful, officials say there’s more to be done by the federal government. Emily Shea, the Age Strong commissioner, said the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, or HUD, should funnel more dollars into the <a href="#">Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program</a>, which funds affordable housing projects for older adults with very low income, supplemented with resources to assist them with tasks like cooking, cleaning, and transportation.<br/> After a decade without funding, HUD made a \$174.6 million grant to the national program this September, according to a <a href="#">press release</a> on the department’s website. This is a good start, but Shea said more is needed as Boston’s older adult population continues to grow. For instance, Shea said she wants increased investment in the <a href="#">Older Americans Act</a>, which, like PACE, funds services to keep the nation’s older adults healthy and independent, according to the National Council on Aging.<br/> <a href="https://tinyurl.com/LateBabyBoomersVulnerable">https://tinyurl.com/LateBabyBoomersVulnerable</a></p> |
| Accessibility | <p><b>12. Administration on Community Living</b><br/> <i>FEMA Assistance for Accessibility Items for Homeowners and Renters</i><br/> Replacing adaptive or accessibility items damaged during a disaster is an important part of the recovery process. It helps people maintain and/or re-establish their independence and quality of life after experiencing a disaster. FEMA assistance for specific accessibility items does not count toward Housing Assistance or Personal Property maximum awards and is limited to the below items for homeowners and renters.</p> <p>For homeowners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exterior ramp</li> <li>• Grab bars</li> <li>• Paved pathway to the home’s entrance from a vehicle</li> </ul> <p>For homeowners and renters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessible beds</li> <li>• Raised toilet seats and shower chairs</li> </ul>   |

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
|                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessible refrigerators and washers</li> <li>• Computers or adaptive technology, such as screen readers or adapted keyboards</li> <li>• Motorized or manual wheelchairs, or walkers</li> <li>• Visual and/or vibrating fire signals</li> </ul> <p>Assistance for other damaged accessibility items or medical equipment, such as CPAP, oxygen supplies, and catheters may be covered by FEMA's Medical and Dental Assistance.</p> <p>For more information, visit <a href="http://www.fema.gov/expanded-assistance">www.fema.gov/expanded-assistance</a> or call FEMA's Helpline at 800-621-3362.</p>  |
| Caregiving        | <p><b>13. The Boston Foundation</b><br/>September 2022<br/><i>Care Work in Massachusetts: A Call for Racial and Economic Justice for a Neglected Sector</i></p> <p>The Boston Foundation, along with SkillWorks, a partnership between the Foundation and the City of Boston to improve workforce development statewide, has issued a report describing the challenge of caregiving in Massachusetts for both those giving and receiving care. “Care Work in Massachusetts: A Call for Racial and Economic Justice for a Neglected Sector” highlights the gendered and racial makeup of the caregiving workforce, as well as its low pay and poor benefits. Both the difficult working conditions and our dependence on care workers were made more apparent by the pandemic. (While the report covers childcare as well elder care, this summary will focus on its findings about home care and long-term care facility workers.)</p> <p>Recommendations of the report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue strengthening the state minimum wage.</li> <li>• Develop a licensing process for home care agencies.</li> <li>• Expand the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to include unpaid caregivers.</li> <li>• Pass labor reforms that make it easier for workers to exercise collective power.</li> <li>• Improve public transit and expand affordable housing opportunities.</li> </ul> <p>Summary: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/CareworkReportSummary">https://tinyurl.com/CareworkReportSummary</a><br/>Report: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/CareworkInMassachusetts">https://tinyurl.com/CareworkInMassachusetts</a></p> |
| Covid             | <p><b>14. Washington Times</b><br/>October 8, 2022<br/><i>More older men than women died of COVID in 2020</i></p> <p>More older men than women died from COVID-19 in the first year of the outbreak, according to a report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.</p> <p>The CDC found that 309.6 of every 100,000 men aged 65-74 died of COVID in 2020, compared with a rate of 168.5 for women.</p> <p>Death rates were also much higher for men aged 75-84 (757.5 men, 458.5 women) and for those 85 and older (1,925.3 men, 1,485.5 women), according to an age-adjusted <a href="#">analysis</a> of 2020 death certificates for Americans 65 and older in a National Center for Health Statistics data brief released Friday.</p> <p><a href="https://tinyurl.com/MoreOlderMenDied">https://tinyurl.com/MoreOlderMenDied</a></p>   |
| Disability Topics | <p><b>15. *New York Times</b><br/>October 11, 2022<br/><i>Leonard Kriegel, 89, Dies; Wrote Unflinchingly About His Disability</i></p>   |

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
|              | <p>He was known for his scholarly and popular writings about historical phenomena. But he was best known for writing about losing the use of his legs. Leonard Kriegel, an American memoirist and essayist whose work blazed with rage at the loss of the use of his legs to polio, died on Sept. 25 in Manhattan. He was 89.</p> <p>An academic and literary critic who taught for many years at the City College of New York, Mr. Kriegel was known for scholarly and popular writings that examined large historical phenomena (the struggles of the labor movement, the social construction of masculinity, the treatment of disabled people) at the level of the individual life — often his own.</p> <p>Mr. Kriegel, whose essays appeared in The New York Times, The Nation and elsewhere, first came to wide attention in 1964 with a full-length memoir, “The Long Walk Home.”</p> <p>In it, he wrote unflinchingly of having contracted polio at 11, the painstaking odyssey of relearning to walk with crutches and leg braces and, most notably, his enduring anger.</p> <p><a href="https://tinyurl.com/WroteUnflinchingly">https://tinyurl.com/WroteUnflinchingly</a></p>   |
| Aging Topics | <p><b>16. 1A – NPR (Recorded report)</b><br/> October 19, 2022<br/> <i>The Price of Poverty: Seniors are feeling the squeeze</i><br/> Nearly five million American seniors across the U.S. <a href="#">are living below or at the poverty line</a>. And according to the latest Census data, <a href="#">a million new seniors</a> have fallen into poverty over the course of the past year.</p> <p>The Social Security administration recently announced benefits for the 2023 calendar year will <a href="#">increase by 8.7%</a> to adjust for the surging cost of inflation. [Medicare] premiums are set to decrease by a similar amount as well.</p> <p><a href="https://tinyurl.com/1APriceOfPoverty">https://tinyurl.com/1APriceOfPoverty</a></p> <p><b>17. New York Times (free access)</b><br/> October 18, 2022<br/> <i>An Uptick in Elder Poverty: A Blip, or a Sign of Things to Come?</i><br/> Seniors didn’t fare as well through the pandemic as most. But longer-term trends aren’t moving in their favor, either.</p> <p>In the 1960s, more than a third of older Americans lived in poverty. With the aid of federal programs like Medicare to help the elderly, the situation improved significantly. But last year, the poverty rate for those 65 or older increased, even as it <a href="#">sank for everyone else</a>.</p> <p>The uptick offers new evidence that elderly people haven’t fared as well as younger generations in recent years, and some experts worry that it may signal a broader setback in the financial security of those past their prime working years. While 9.5 percent of the elderly population lived in poverty in 2020, that figure rose to 10.7 percent last year, the Census Bureau reported. The coronavirus pandemic was a central driver, disproportionately disrupting the employment and income of older people. . .</p> <p>For many older Americans, an inflation adjustment to Social Security payments — an <a href="#">8.7 percent increase for 2023</a> was announced last week — will help next year. But people hitting retirement today often depend on Social Security as their only source of income, which wasn’t the program’s original intention. Older workers’ wages have <a href="#">grown more slowly compared with other groups</a> over the past few years, and many didn’t have 401(k) accounts, or didn’t contribute</p> |

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | <p>enough to them, as companies closed their defined-benefit pension plans over the last couple of decades. . .</p> <p>The poverty rate is also not a bright line when it comes to financial hardship. It doesn't take into account debt, which more <a href="#">seniors have accumulated</a> since the Great Recession. Moreover, nearly one in four people 65 or older make less than 150 percent of the federal poverty line, or \$19,494 on average for those living alone. <a href="#">Another measure</a>, developed by the <a href="#">Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston</a> and called the Elder Index, finds that it takes \$22,476 for a single older person in good health with no mortgage to cover basic needs, with the cost escalating for renters and those with health problems. <a href="https://tinyurl.com/UptickElderPoverty">https://tinyurl.com/UptickElderPoverty</a></p> <p><b>18. AARP</b><br/> October 8, 2022<br/> <i>8 Ways to Make the Stairs Safer at Home</i><br/> Here are some ways experts suggest to make your stairs safer.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Add traction</li> <li>2. Light them up</li> <li>3. Enhance visual cues</li> <li>4. Make step height and depth consistent</li> <li>5. Eliminate the bottom-step illusion</li> <li>6. Upgrade your handrail</li> <li>7. Clear the clutter</li> <li>8. Consider a stair lift</li> </ol> <a href="https://tinyurl.com/8WaysStairsSafer">https://tinyurl.com/8WaysStairsSafer</a> |
|   | *May require registration before accessing article.   |
| Dignity Alliance<br>Massachusetts Legislative<br>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><br>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  |   |
| Previously recommended<br>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<br>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   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Quincy Health and Rehabilitation Center LLC, Quincy</b><br/> 126 beds; current census: 77<br/> Owner: Waschusett Healthcare<br/> Star rating: 2 stars<br/> Target closure: December 7</li> <li>● <b>Attleboro Healthcare, Attleboro</b><br/> 120 beds<br/> Owner: Next Step Healthcare<br/> Star rating: Special Focus Facility<br/> Target closure: December 29</li> <li>● <b>Dedham Healthcare, Dedham</b><br/> 145 beds</li> </ul>   |

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <p>Owner: Next Step Healthcare<br/> Star rating: 1 star<br/> Target closure: December 29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gloucester Healthcare, Gloucester</b><br/> 101 beds<br/> Owner: Next Step Healthcare<br/> Star rating: 3 stars<br/> Target closure: December 30</li> <li>• <b>Chetwynde Healthcare, West Newton</b><br/> 75 beds<br/> Owner: Next Step Healthcare<br/> Star rating: 2 stars<br/> Target closure: December 30</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE: Admission freezes have been initiated in all facilities with closure plans.</b><br/> Closure Notices and Relocation Plans available at:<br/> <a href="https://tinyurl.com/MANursingHomeClosures">https://tinyurl.com/MANursingHomeClosures</a></p>  |
| <p>Pending nursing home change of ownership in Massachusetts</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Royal Health Cape Cod</li> <li>• Royal Health Cotuit</li> <li>• Royal Health Falmouth</li> <li>• Royal Health Megansett</li> <li>• Royal Health Meadow View – North Reading</li> <li>• Royal Health Wayland</li> <li>• Royal Wood Mill – Lawrence</li> <li>• Royal Health Fairhaven</li> <li>• Royal Health Braintree</li> <li>• Royal Health Norwell</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.royalhealthgroup.com">https://www.royalhealthgroup.com</a></p>   |
| <p>Websites of Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Members</p>        | <p>See: <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/about/organizations/">https://dignityalliancema.org/about/organizations/</a></p>  |
| <p>Assisted Living Residences Closures</p>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Motif by Monarch</b> (previously Landmark at Ocean View), Beverly, July 2022</li> <li>• <b>Connemara Senior Living</b>, Brockton, Summer 2022</li> <li>• <b>Landmark at Longwood</b>, Mission Hill, Boston, October 5, 2022</li> </ul>   |
| <p>Nursing homes with admission freezes</p>                      | <p><b>Massachusetts Department of Public Health</b><br/> <i>Temporary admissions freeze</i><br/> 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> </ul> |

- Failure to report a lack of adequate PPE, supplies, or staff
  - Infection control survey results
  - Surveillance testing non-compliance
- Facilities are required to notify residents' designated family members and/or representative when the facility is subject to an admissions freeze. In addition, a list of facilities that are currently required to stop new admissions and the reason for this admissions freeze will be updated on Friday afternoons, and as needed when the Department of Public of Health determines a facility can be removed from the list.

**Updated on October 21, 2022. Red font – newly added**

| Name of Facility                                    | City/Town   | Date of Freeze | Qualifying Factor |
|---|-------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Attleboro Healthcare                                | Attleboro   | 8/31/2022      | Closure notice    |
| CareOne at Lowell                                   | Lowell      | 10/11/2022     | New cases         |
| Chetwynde   | West Newton | 9/1/2022       | Closure notice    |
| Dedham Healthcare                                   | Dedham      | 7/6/2022       | Infection Control |
| Gloucester Healthcare                               | Gloucester  | 9/1/2022       | Closure notice    |
| Lanessa Extended Care                               | Webster     | 10/4/2022      | Infection control |
| Quincy Health and Rehabilitation Center LLC, Quincy | Quincy      | 8/10/2022      | Closure notice    |
| Queen Anne Nursing Home                             | Hingham     | 10/4/2022      | New cases         |
| St. Patrick's Manor                                 | Framingham  | 10/11/2022     | New cases         |
| Sixteen Acres Healthcare                            | Springfield | 10/18/2022     | New cases         |

List of Special Focus Facilities

**Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services**

*List of Special Focus Facilities and Candidates*

<https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram>

**Updated June 29, 2022**

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.



|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
|                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p><b>Massachusetts facilities listed (updated July 27, 2022)</b></p> <p><b>Newly added to the listing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> <p><b>Massachusetts facilities not improved</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> <p><b>Massachusetts facilities which showed improvement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attleboro Healthcare, Attleboro<br/><a href="https://tinyurl.com/AttleboroHealthcare">https://tinyurl.com/AttleboroHealthcare</a></li> <li>• Marlborough Hills Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, Marlborough<br/><a href="https://tinyurl.com/MarlboroughHills">https://tinyurl.com/MarlboroughHills</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Massachusetts facilities which have graduated from the program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> <p><b>Massachusetts facilities that are candidates for listing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parkway Health and Rehabilitation Center<br/><a href="https://tinyurl.com/ParkwayHealthCenter">https://tinyurl.com/ParkwayHealthCenter</a></li> <li>• Plymouth Rehabilitation and Health Care Center<br/><a href="https://plymouthrehab.com/">https://plymouthrehab.com/</a></li> <li>• Revolution Charwell<br/><a href="https://tinyurl.com/RevolutionCharwell">https://tinyurl.com/RevolutionCharwell</a></li> <li>• Savoy Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, New Bedford (added in June)<br/>No website</li> <li>• South Dennis Healthcare, South Dennis (added in July)<br/><a href="https://www.nextstephpc.com/southdennis">https://www.nextstephpc.com/southdennis</a></li> <li>• Tremont Health Care Center, Wareham<br/><a href="https://thetremontrehabcare.com/">https://thetremontrehabcare.com/</a></li> <li>• Vantage at South Hadley<br/>No website</li> <li>• Vero Health and Rehabilitation Center of Amesbury<br/><a href="https://tinyurl.com/VeroAmesbury">https://tinyurl.com/VeroAmesbury</a></li> <li>• Vero Health and Rehabilitation Center of Revere<br/><a href="https://tinyurl.com/VeroRevere">https://tinyurl.com/VeroRevere</a></li> <li>• Watertown Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Watertown (added in June)<br/>No website<br/><a href="https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram">https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram</a></li> </ul> |
| <p><i>Nursing Home Inspect</i></p> | <p><b>ProPublica</b></p> <p><b><i>Nursing Home Inspect</i></b></p> <p>Data updated August 2022</p> <p>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).</p>  |

|  |   |            |                |                     |                   |                    |                   |                       |                   |                       |                   |                     |                   |                     |                   |                   |                   |                    |                   |                   |                   |
|--|---|------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|  | <p>Massachusetts listing:<br/> <a href="https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/state/MA">https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/state/MA</a><br/> <b>Deficiencies By Severity in Massachusetts</b><br/> <a href="#">(What do the severity ratings mean?)</a></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td># reported</td> <td>Deficiency Tag</td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">249</a></td> <td><a href="#">B</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">79</a></td> <td><a href="#">C</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">7,092</a></td> <td><a href="#">D</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">1,857</a></td> <td><a href="#">E</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">552</a></td> <td><a href="#">F</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">489</a></td> <td><a href="#">G</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">1</a></td> <td><a href="#">H</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">33</a></td> <td><a href="#">J</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">7</a></td> <td><a href="#">K</a></td> </tr> </table>  | # reported | Deficiency Tag | <a href="#">249</a> | <a href="#">B</a> | <a href="#">79</a> | <a href="#">C</a> | <a href="#">7,092</a> | <a href="#">D</a> | <a href="#">1,857</a> | <a href="#">E</a> | <a href="#">552</a> | <a href="#">F</a> | <a href="#">489</a> | <a href="#">G</a> | <a href="#">1</a> | <a href="#">H</a> | <a href="#">33</a> | <a href="#">J</a> | <a href="#">7</a> | <a href="#">K</a> |
| # reported                                       | Deficiency Tag  |            |                |                     |                   |                    |                   |                       |                   |                       |                   |                     |                   |                     |                   |                   |                   |                    |                   |                   |                   |
| <a href="#">249</a>                              | <a href="#">B</a>   |            |                |                     |                   |                    |                   |                       |                   |                       |                   |                     |                   |                     |                   |                   |                   |                    |                   |                   |                   |
| <a href="#">79</a>                               | <a href="#">C</a>   |            |                |                     |                   |                    |                   |                       |                   |                       |                   |                     |                   |                     |                   |                   |                   |                    |                   |                   |                   |
| <a href="#">7,092</a>                            | <a href="#">D</a>   |            |                |                     |                   |                    |                   |                       |                   |                       |                   |                     |                   |                     |                   |                   |                   |                    |                   |                   |                   |
| <a href="#">1,857</a>                            | <a href="#">E</a>   |            |                |                     |                   |                    |                   |                       |                   |                       |                   |                     |                   |                     |                   |                   |                   |                    |                   |                   |                   |
| <a href="#">552</a>                              | <a href="#">F</a>   |            |                |                     |                   |                    |                   |                       |                   |                       |                   |                     |                   |                     |                   |                   |                   |                    |                   |                   |                   |
| <a href="#">489</a>                              | <a href="#">G</a>   |            |                |                     |                   |                    |                   |                       |                   |                       |                   |                     |                   |                     |                   |                   |                   |                    |                   |                   |                   |
| <a href="#">1</a>                                | <a href="#">H</a>   |            |                |                     |                   |                    |                   |                       |                   |                       |                   |                     |                   |                     |                   |                   |                   |                    |                   |                   |                   |
| <a href="#">33</a>                               | <a href="#">J</a>   |            |                |                     |                   |                    |                   |                       |                   |                       |                   |                     |                   |                     |                   |                   |                   |                    |                   |                   |                   |
| <a href="#">7</a>                                | <a href="#">K</a>   |            |                |                     |                   |                    |                   |                       |                   |                       |                   |                     |                   |                     |                   |                   |                   |                    |                   |                   |                   |
| Nursing Home Compare                             | <p><b>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)</b><br/> <i>Nursing Home Compare Website</i><br/> 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, 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.<br/> <a href="https://tinyurl.com/NursingHomeCompareWebsite">https://tinyurl.com/NursingHomeCompareWebsite</a></p> |            |                |                     |                   |                    |                   |                       |                   |                       |                   |                     |                   |                     |                   |                   |                   |                    |                   |                   |                   |
| Data on Ownership of Nursing Homes               | <p><b>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services</b><br/> <i>Data on Ownership of Nursing Homes</i><br/> CMS has released data giving state licensing officials, state and federal law enforcement, researchers, and the public an enhanced ability to identify common owners of nursing homes across nursing home locations. This information can be linked to other data sources to identify the performance of facilities under common ownership, such as owners affiliated with multiple nursing homes with a record of poor performance. The data is available on nursing home ownership will be posted to <a href="https://data.cms.gov">data.cms.gov</a> and updated monthly.</p>  |            |                |                     |                   |                    |                   |                       |                   |                       |                   |                     |                   |                     |                   |                   |                   |                    |                   |                   |                   |
| Long-Term Care Facilities Specific COVID-19 Data | <p><b>Massachusetts Department of Public Health</b><br/> <i>Long-Term Care Facilities Specific COVID-19 Data</i><br/> <i>Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) reports related to long-term care facilities in Massachusetts.</i><br/> <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> </ul>  |            |                |                     |                   |                    |                   |                       |                   |                       |                   |                     |                   |                     |                   |                   |                   |                    |                   |                   |                   |

|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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><br/> Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/DignityAllianceMA/">https://www.facebook.com/DignityAllianceMA/</a><br/> Instagram: <a href="https://www.instagram.com/dignityalliance/">https://www.instagram.com/dignityalliance/</a><br/> LinkedIn: <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/dignity-alliance-massachusetts">https://www.linkedin.com/company/dignity-alliance-massachusetts</a><br/> Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/dignity_ma?s=21">https://twitter.com/dignity_ma?s=21</a><br/> Website: <a href="http://www.DignityAllianceMA.org">www.DignityAllianceMA.org</a></p>   |  |  |       |                    |                               |  |                   |              |  |                |  |  |   |                |  |                                   |            |  |         |              |  |             |               |  |              |             |  |                  |                |  |
| <b>Participation opportunities with Dignity Alliance Massachusetts</b><br><br>Most workgroups meet bi-weekly via Zoom.<br><br>Please contact workgroup lead for more information | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Workgroup</th> <th>Workgroup lead</th> <th>Email</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>General Membership</td> <td>Bill Henning<br/>Paul Lanzikos</td> <td><a href="mailto:bhenning@bostoncil.org">bhenning@bostoncil.org</a><br/><a href="mailto:paul.lanzikos@gmail.com">paul.lanzikos@gmail.com</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Behavioral Health</td> <td>Frank Baskin</td> <td><a href="mailto:baskinfrank19@gmail.com">baskinfrank19@gmail.com</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Communications</td> <td>Pricilla O'Reilly<br/>Samantha VanSchoick<br/>Lachlan Forrow</td> <td><a href="mailto:prisoreilly@gmail.com">prisoreilly@gmail.com</a><br/><a href="mailto:svanschoick@cil.org">svanschoick@cil.org</a><br/><a href="mailto:lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu">lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Facilities (Nursing homes, rest homes, assisted living)</td> <td>Arlene Germain</td> <td><a href="mailto:agermain@manhr.org">agermain@manhr.org</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Home and Community Based Services</td> <td>Meg Coffin</td> <td><a href="mailto:mcoffin@centerlw.org">mcoffin@centerlw.org</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Housing</td> <td>Bill Henning</td> <td><a href="mailto:bhenning@bostoncil.org">bhenning@bostoncil.org</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Legislative</td> <td>Richard Moore</td> <td><a href="mailto:rmoore8743@charter.net">rmoore8743@charter.net</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Legal Issues</td> <td>Jeni Kaplan</td> <td><a href="mailto:jkaplan@cpr-ma.org">jkaplan@cpr-ma.org</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Veteran Services</td> <td>James Lomastro</td> <td><a href="mailto:jimlomastro@comcast.net">jimlomastro@comcast.net</a></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Workgroup  | Workgroup lead   | Email | General Membership | Bill Henning<br>Paul Lanzikos | <a href="mailto:bhenning@bostoncil.org">bhenning@bostoncil.org</a><br><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<br>Samantha VanSchoick<br>Lachlan Forrow | <a href="mailto:prisoreilly@gmail.com">prisoreilly@gmail.com</a><br><a href="mailto:svanschoick@cil.org">svanschoick@cil.org</a><br><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 | Bill Henning | <a href="mailto:bhenning@bostoncil.org">bhenning@bostoncil.org</a> | Legislative | Richard Moore | <a href="mailto:rmoore8743@charter.net">rmoore8743@charter.net</a> | Legal Issues | Jeni Kaplan | <a href="mailto:jkaplan@cpr-ma.org">jkaplan@cpr-ma.org</a> | Veteran Services | James Lomastro | <a href="mailto:jimlomastro@comcast.net">jimlomastro@comcast.net</a> |
|  | Workgroup   | Workgroup lead   | Email  |       |                    |                               |  |                   |              |  |                |  |  |   |                |  |                                   |            |  |         |              |  |             |               |  |              |             |  |                  |                |  |
|  | General Membership  | Bill Henning<br>Paul Lanzikos  | <a href="mailto:bhenning@bostoncil.org">bhenning@bostoncil.org</a><br><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<br>Samantha VanSchoick<br>Lachlan Forrow           | <a href="mailto:prisoreilly@gmail.com">prisoreilly@gmail.com</a><br><a href="mailto:svanschoick@cil.org">svanschoick@cil.org</a><br><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   | Bill Henning   | <a href="mailto:bhenning@bostoncil.org">bhenning@bostoncil.org</a>   |       |                    |                               |  |                   |              |  |                |  |  |   |                |  |                                   |            |  |         |              |  |             |               |  |              |             |  |                  |                |  |
|  | Legislative   | Richard Moore  | <a href="mailto:rmoore8743@charter.net">rmoore8743@charter.net</a>   |       |                    |                               |  |                   |              |  |                |  |  |   |                |  |                                   |            |  |         |              |  |             |               |  |              |             |  |                  |                |  |
|  | Legal Issues  | Jeni Kaplan  | <a href="mailto:jkaplan@cpr-ma.org">jkaplan@cpr-ma.org</a>   |       |                    |                               |  |                   |              |  |                |  |  |   |                |  |                                   |            |  |         |              |  |             |               |  |              |             |  |                  |                |  |
| Veteran Services   | James Lomastro  | <a href="mailto:jimlomastro@comcast.net">jimlomastro@comcast.net</a> |  |       |                    |                               |  |                   |              |  |                |  |  |   |                |  |                                   |            |  |         |              |  |             |               |  |              |             |  |                  |                |  |
| <b><i>The Dignity Digest</i></b>   | <p>For a free weekly subscription to <i>The Dignity Digest</i>:<br/> <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/contact/sign-up-for-emails/">https://dignityalliancema.org/contact/sign-up-for-emails/</a><br/> Editor: Paul Lanzikos<br/> Primary contributor: Sandy Novack<br/> MailChimp Specialist: Sue Rorke</p>   |  |  |       |                    |                               |  |                   |              |  |                |  |  |   |                |  |                                   |            |  |         |              |  |             |               |  |              |             |  |                  |                |  |
| Note of thanks   | <p>Thanks to the contributors to this issue of <i>The Dignity Digest</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trebor Boeding</li> <li>• Wynn Gerhard</li> <li>• Jerry Halberstadt</li> <li>• Dick Moore</li> </ul> <p>Special thanks to the MetroWest Center for Independent Living for assistance with the website and MailChimp versions of <i>The Dignity Digest</i>.<br/> <i>If you have submissions for inclusion in <a href="#">The Dignity Digest</a> or have questions or comments, please submit them to <a href="mailto:paul.lanzikos@gmail.com">paul.lanzikos@gmail.com</a>.</i></p>   |  |  |       |                    |                               |  |                   |              |  |                |  |  |   |                |  |                                   |            |  |         |              |  |             |               |  |              |             |  |                  |                |  |

*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/dignity-digest/>*

*For more information about Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, please visit [www.DignityAllianceMA.org](http://www.DignityAllianceMA.org).*