



The Dignity Digest

Issue # 154

September 19, 2023

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

***May require registration before accessing article.**

Quotes

All this talk of age — Biden is only eight years older than I am — has put more pressure on senior citizens to look and act youthful, but I’m not sitting at home waiting for my library books to be delivered — I’m still working.”

Annie Blatz, 72, a sales manager with Kinlin Grover Compass and a past president of the Cape Cod & Islands Association of Realtors, [The real grandparents of Washington, D. C.: The reality show no one wants](#), **Boston Globe**, September 16, 2023 (updated)

In short, money [spent](#) on implementing work requirements could be better spent on investments in the direct care workforce and improving the quality of their jobs rather than on efforts to take direct care workers’ health insurance away.

[Medicaid Work Requirements Will Harm Direct Care Workers](#), **PHI**, August 17, 2023

“The largest decline in purpose in life occurred following onset of cognitive impairment. . . Purpose can be increased through engagement in goal-directed activities among individuals with dementia.”

[Lack of purpose in life linked to cognitive decline, study finds](#), **McKnight’s Long-Term Care News**, September 18, 2023

“Insurers are, in effect, denying Americans necessary care in order to fatten and pad their bottom lines, and that phenomenon is unacceptable. I want to put these companies on notice. If you deny life-saving coverage to seniors, we are watching, we will expose you, we will demand better, we will pass legislation if necessary.”

Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), [‘Impossible’ Medicare Advantage denials decried during Senate hearing](#), **McKnight’s Long-Term Care News**, May 18, 2023

	<p><i>It is time to finish the revolution. Mandating developmental disability services in adulthood and investing in home- and community-based care are not optional. Accessing employment in adulthood is as necessary as accessing education in childhood—and arguably more valuable.</i></p> <p>A Broken Employment System Leaves Autistic Adults Stranded, Scientific American, September 13, 2023</p> <p><i>“We call this the dignity of failure - a place where mistakes can be made; where mistakes are even welcomed.”</i></p> <p>Tom D’Eri, owner, Rising Tide Car Wash in Florida, Car Wash Empowers Autistic Employees with a Sense of Self Worth, Sunday Today (NBC Video), September 17, 2023</p>
<p>Webinars regarding Proposed Nursing Home Staffing Rule</p>	<p>Long Term Care Community Coalition <i>New Proposed Federal Nursing Home Standard: The Good, The Bad, and The Data Essentials</i> Tuesday, September 19, 2023, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Register: http://bit.ly/nh411-sept2023</p> <p>Editor’s Note: Dignity Alliance Massachusetts plans to conduct a webinar on CMS’s Proposed Nursing Home Staffing Rule. Further information will be posted in The Dignity Digest and on www.dignityalliancema.org when available.</p>
<p>DignityMA Study Sessions <i>Live one-hour sessions with key individuals or specific topics. Open to all via Zoom. Sessions will be recorded and posted on DignityMA website.</i></p>	<p>1. Using Class Actions to Promote System Change Presenter: Steven Schwartz, JD, Legal Director Center for Public Representation Friday, September 22, 2023, 2:00 p.m. Steven J. Schwartz currently is the Center’s Legal Director, after founding the Center in 1976 and then serving as its Executive Director for 38 years. After graduating from Harvard Law School in 1971, he represented thousands of people with disabilities over the past fifty years. He has testified before Congress on numerous occasions, successfully resolved a number of damage cases for institutionalized individuals with disabilities, and litigated dozens of class action cases that challenge the unnecessary segregation of people with disabilities in psychiatric hospitals, developmental disability institutions, nursing facilities, and juvenile justice settings. He has provided training and technical assistance to disability rights programs in more than 40 states, authored a number of law review articles, and served on the faculty of the Harvard and Western New England Law Schools. Attorney Schwartz will review the purposes and methods involved with using class action lawsuits to affect change in public policies and practices. He will provide information about the results from some of the most prominent lawsuit outcomes in recent Massachusetts history.</p>

	<p>There will also be a dialogue with participants during which questions can be asked and comments made.</p> <p>Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82279049961?pwd=RjN4VzhwdG9BdjUvbVhmb01BWTVDZz09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 822 7904 9961 Passcode: 391230 One tap mobile: +16469313860,,82279049961#,,,,*391230# US Telephone: +1 646 931 3860 US</p> <p>2. The Future of Nursing Homes: Navigator Homes of Martha’s Vineyard – A case Study</p> <p>Presenters: Patricia Moore, Founding Member David Roush, President, Strategic Care Solutions, LLC Wednesday, September 27, 2023, 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88482595765?pwd=S0pWl0wzSFdzalJ0aTRzZmZPMYtTdz09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 884 8259 5765 Passcode: 128306 One tap mobile: +19294362866,,88482595765#,,,,*128306# US Telephone: +1 305 224 1968 US</p> <p>3. PACE Program 101 and More</p> <p>Presenter: Candace Kuebel, LCSW, MSW, MBA, Executive Director, MassPACE Association Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81798483893?pwd=cWZXdlZvWG12WGMva2VUSUUrBDQxUT09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 817 9848 3893 Passcode: 334338 One tap mobile: +13052241968,,81798483893#,,,,*334338# US Telephone: +1 305 224 1968 US</p> <p>4. ReFraming Aging</p> <p>Presenter: Melissa Donegan, LSW, Director, Healthy Living Center of Excellence, AgeSpan Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 10:00 a.m. Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85666698185?pwd=QUp0RHR3OENJQTZNS1RSeVlxa01mZz09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 856 6669 8185 Passcode: 394342 One tap mobile: +13052241968,,85666698185#,,,,*394342# US Telephone: +1 305 224 1968 US</p>
Webinars and Online Sessions	<p>5. Boston Globe Globe Summit 2023 September 19 through 21, 2023</p>

	<p>Globe Summit 2023 will take The Boston Globe's journalism beyond the page during three days of thought-provoking panels, networking opportunities, fireside chats, book talks, and more led by our journalists and partners. Under this year's theme of "Today's Innovators. Tomorrow's Leaders.", we will shine a light on the people who will drive our industries forward tomorrow. This year's Summit will take place in-person at WBUR CitySpace with the option to also tune in virtually via livestream.</p> <p>Thursday Afternoon Schedule on Health Care:</p> <p>1:15PM EST Igniting Change: David Hogg on Youth Leading the Way</p> <p>1:40PM EST Gen Z, Mental Health, and Technology's Impact</p> <p>2:20PM EST The New Generation of Obesity Drugs <i>(special collaboration with STAT News)</i></p> <p>3:00PM EST The Future of Hospitals and Care Coordination</p> <p>3:40PM EST Boston's Transformation Into the Silicon Valley of Longevity <i>(sponsored by Point32Health, John Hancock, and GRAIL)</i></p> <p>6. AARP Massachusetts Thursday, September 28, 2023, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Let's Talk, Massachusetts: Embracing Conversations to Build Community Join the Massachusetts Taskforce to End Loneliness and Build Community for National Good Neighbor Day, September 28. This year's theme is "Let's Talk, Massachusetts: Embracing Conversations to Build Community" is a call to action to create spaces and opportunity in our communities for us to listen to, learn from, connect to, and honor all residents.</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Introduction and Welcoming Remarks 10:30 a.m. Meeting People Where They Are 11:00 a.m. ConversationMA 11:30 a.m. Conversations Stations 12:05 p.m. Q&A 12:15 p.m. Call to Action: Moving Forward to 2024</p>
<p>Previously posted webinars and online sessions</p>	<p>Previously posted webinars and online sessions can be viewed at: https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/</p>
<p>Nursing Homes</p>	<p>7. McKnight's Long-Term Care Nes September 18, 2023 Post-acute rehab at SNFs did not improve seniors' physical function, study finds By John Roszkowski Older residents, with or without dementia, who underwent physical rehabilitation at skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) following hospital discharge did not experience significant improvement in their physical function, according to new research.</p> <p>Published online in the <i>Annals of Long-Term Care</i> on Sept. 12, the study sought to examine the effects of physical therapy and occupational therapy on changes in physical function, from admission to quarterly assessment or discharge, in older patients with and without dementia. . .</p> <p>After controlling for demographic factors such as age, sex and race, and other factors such as dementia, vision, hearing and delirium, the researchers did not</p>

	<p>find any significant effect in charges in physical function for patients who had undergone physical rehabilitation at a skilled nursing facility 60 days after admission. The findings were true for both dementia and non-dementia patients.</p>
Loneliness	<p>8. McKnight’s Long-Term Care News September 18, 2023 <i>Lack of purpose in life linked to cognitive decline, study finds</i> By John Roszkowski Older adults who are experiencing cognitive decline may have increased feelings of a lack of purpose in life, according to new research. The new study, led by researchers at Florida State University, sought to answer the question of whether there are changes in purpose in life among older adults before and after the onset of cognitive decline. . . The researchers found purpose in life decreased significantly in older adults prior to onset of cognitive impairment and declined significantly even more rapidly following onset of cognitive impairment.</p>
Workforce	<p>9. PHI August 17, 2023 <i>Medicaid Work Requirements Will Harm Direct Care Workers</i> By Jessica King Recently, federal budget negotiations have revived a dangerous policy proposal to institute work requirements for those receiving Medicaid. These requirements tie eligibility for Medicaid coverage to minimum weekly or monthly employment—such as 80 hours per month—for enrollees without exemptions. They have been proposed as a way to curb the national debt by reducing Medicaid enrollment. Such work requirements—which many states are also considering—pose a considerable threat to the health of direct care workers and the stability of this essential workforce. . . About one-quarter of all direct care workers rely on Medicaid for their health insurance due to low wages and limited access to affordable employer-sponsored insurance. Medicaid is also the largest payer of services provided by direct care workers, covering more than 42 percent of all spending on long-term care services. Medicaid work requirement proposals are therefore likely to hit the direct care workforce from both sides—both in their own health insurance coverage and in how they are paid, since long-term care consumers who are eligible for Medicaid may also be vulnerable to the unintended consequences of these requirements. . . Across the board, Medicaid work requirements are likely to increase health care costs. Even short periods of uninsurance—known as “churn”—can prevent people from accessing preventative and lower-cost levels of care, leading to delayed, higher-cost health care utilization. Administrative costs associated with disruptions in coverage will also increase. In short, money spent on implementing work requirements could be better spent on investments in the direct care workforce and improving the quality of their jobs rather than on efforts to take direct care workers’ health insurance away.</p>
Medicare	<p>10. McKnight’s Long-Term Care News August 23, 2023 <i>Less post-acute care worsens outcomes, Medicare Advantage patients reveal in new study</i></p>

	<p>Fewer Medicare Advantage enrollees report using post-acute care services than traditional Medicare beneficiaries. But even when they do use them, a new study finds that those MA patients report more undesirable outcomes. . . They found that MA enrollees had shorter duration of services versus traditional Medicare patients. The MA patients also reported less functional improvement while receiving services. Among respondents with a self-reported hospitalization; fall; hip or knee surgery in the past year; arthritis; or osteoporosis, the MA enrollees reported both negative outcomes: They used less post-acute care and had less functional improvement.</p> <p>11. Mcknight’s Long-Term Care News May 18, 2023 ‘Impossible’ Medicare Advantage denials decried during Senate hearing By Kimberly Marselas “There is growing evidence that insurance companies are relying on algorithms rather than doctors or other clinicians to make decisions to deny patient care,” said Chairman Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), during the subcommittee’s first session of the new Congress. “Our subcommittee has been hearing from patients and providers alike who have stories of care being delayed or denied. And many of these stories involve patients who have been hospitalized for serious medical issues and need nursing home or rehabilitative care before they are ready to return home.” “The insurers may refer to these algorithms as tools used for guidance, but the denials they generate are too systematic to ignore. All too often, black box AI [and algorithms] have become a blanket mechanism for denial.”</p>
<p>MassHealth Redetermination</p>	<p>12. MassHealth MassHealth Redetermination Dashboard This dashboard provides key metrics for the eligibility redeterminations process. Federal continuous coverage requirements ended on April 1, 2023. MassHealth has begun the process of renewing all members’ health coverage to ensure they still qualify for their current benefit. These renewals will take place over 12 months, from April 2023 to April 2024. The dashboard below will be updated on a monthly basis, outlining how MassHealth’s caseload changes month-to-month during the redetermination process. The dashboard is interactive and can be filtered by certain demographics.</p> <p>MassHealth Dashboard Information (data as of August 6, 2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,386,937 MassHealth caseload as of July 31, 2023 • 262,508 MassHealth members age 65+ were active in MassHealth • 267,700 MassHealth and Health Connector Caseload of members age 65+ • 319,419 MassHealth members identified as living with a disability and any age were active in MassHealth • 7,591 MassHealth members age 65+ have departed MassHealth in July • 440,366 Member renewals occurred between April 1, 2023 and July 31, 2023 • 1,022 Age 65+ became New MassHealth Members <p>Upcoming Redetermination Community Visits for Older Adults</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 1:00PM-3:30PM Pittsfield Council on Aging at 330 North St. Pittsfield To sign up call: 413-499-9346 • Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 1:00PM-3:30PM

	<p>Hosted by Ethos and Boston SHINE at 555 Amory Street, Jamaica Plain To sign up call: 617-522-9270</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, September 21, 2023, 9:00AM-3:00PM Hosted by Mystic Valley Elder Services and Malden Council on Aging at 7 Washington Street, Malden To sign up call: 781-324-7705, ext. 100 • Thursday, September 21, 2023, 9:00AM-3:30PM Hosted by Elder Services Worcester Area at 67 Millbrook Street, Suite 100, Worcester To sign up call: 508-756-1545 • Thursday, September 28, 2023, 11AM-4PM Hosted by Greater Lynn Senior Services at 8 Silsbee Street, Lynn To sign up call: 781-586-8619 • Thursday, September 28, 2023, 9:30AM-1:30PM Hosted by AgeSpan at 280 Merrimack Street, Suite 400, Lawrence To sign up call: 978-296-4299 • Wednesday, October 4, 2023, 10:00AM-3:00PM Hosted by Old Colony Elder Services at 1 Feinberg Way, Brockton To sign up call: 508-580-7811 and ask for Lauren • Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 9:30AM-1:30PM Hosted by Boston Senior Home Care at 702 Washington Street, Boston To sign up call: 617-451-6400 • Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 10:00AM-3:00PM Hosted by Ethos and Boston SHINE at 555 Amory Street, Jamaica Plain To sign up call: 617-522-9270 • Thursday, October 19, 2023, 9:30AM-3:30PM Hosted by Elder Services Worcester Area at 67 Millbrook Street, Suite 100, Worcester To sign up call: 508-756-1545 <p>Helpful Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for People 65+ on MassHealth Renewals • Phase 2 Redeterminations Outreach Toolkit • MassHealth Renewal Help Guide • Sign up for the MassHealth Eligibility Redeterminations Email List • Join the Massachusetts Health Care Training Forum (MTF) Email List <p>August MassHealth Redeterminations Dashboard Monthly Takeaways</p>
Disability Topics	<p>13. Sunday Today (NBC Video) September 17, 2023 Car Wash Empowers Autistic Employees with a Sense of Self Worth Rising Tide Car Wash in Florida is helping to change the stigma of autism by hiring and empowering autistic workers. NBC's Harry Smith reports in this week's Sunday Spotlight.</p> <p>14. Scientific American September 13, 2023 A Broken Employment System Leaves Autistic Adults Stranded Only 1.1 percent of autistic adults in the U.S. access key publicly funded employment services. A broken disability service system is why. . .</p>

[Autistic people have](#) differences from one another in their interests, behaviors, and level of social interaction, and these can each serve as challenges and strengths. The term [autism spectrum](#) appropriately reflects the expansive range of abilities and differences in [support needs](#) across the rapidly growing population of individuals who have been diagnosed. We conservatively estimate that half of autistic individuals in the U.S., or about 2.7 million people, require some services to find and keep a job. [Poverty rates](#) are higher than average among families with autistic individuals, so many autistic people must rely on public employment services. Unfortunately, most of these individuals will never receive them. . .

The contradictions are astounding. Having a job is associated with health and wellness, largely because of the tie between health insurance and employment. Yet states are considering tethering Medicaid insurance to [work requirements](#) while simultaneously not providing the assistance autistic adults and others require to find and keep work. This leaves these individuals, some of whom would benefit from even a minimal level of support, entirely out in the cold, including for needed health and behavioral health care.

It is time to finish the revolution. Mandating developmental disability services in adulthood and investing in home- and community-based care are not optional. Accessing employment in adulthood is as necessary as accessing education in childhood—and arguably more valuable. Most of our lives are spent in adulthood, a time when we are, hopefully, thriving. Yet without public funding, only those wealthy enough to afford employment services have this chance—one that is denied to the most vulnerable.

15. Administration on Community Living

Voting Accessibility Resources from ACL

The ability to participate in our democracy by voting in elections is a foundational right of citizenship that we cherish as Americans. No adult should be denied this right because of their age or ability. This principle is clearly reflected in the Biden-Harris Administration's [Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting](#).

ACL and the disability and aging networks are working together to ensure that older adults and people with disabilities can exercise their right to vote. ACL's programs provide a variety of resources, including information and education, supportive services, and legal assistance. They also work with their states and communities to improve access to the voting process. This includes a number of grants funded through the [Help America Vote Act](#).

As [Disability Voting Rights Week](#) comes to a close, we wanted to share ACL's recently updated voting resource "hub." This page includes a variety of resources to support disabled people and older adults in exercising their right to vote.

[View ACL's Voting Resources Page](#)

16. Commonwealth of Massachusetts

New Disability Hire Credit

The FY22 Budget adds a new credit for employers that hire disabled employees. Specifically, the FY22 Budget adds G.L. c. 62, § 6(z) and new G.L. c. 63, § 38JJ. These provisions allow employers subject to tax under G.L. c. 62 or G.L. c. 63 to claim a nontransferable, refundable credit equal to (i) the lesser of \$5,000 or 30% of the wages paid to a disabled employee in the employee's first year of employment, and (ii) the lesser of \$2,000 or 30% of the wages paid to a disabled

	<p>employee in each subsequent year of the employee’s employment.[12] The credit is available to employers subject to tax under G.L. c. 62 or G.L. c. 63 provided that:</p> <p>(1) the employee is certified by the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission as having a disability as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12102;</p> <p>(2) the employee is capable of working independently;</p> <p>(3) the employee has a mental or physical disability that constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment; (4) the employee is hired after July 1, 2021;</p> <p>(5) the employee’s primary place of employment and primary place of residence is in Massachusetts;</p> <p>(6) the employer must obtain certification from the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission that the employee is qualified no later than the employee’s first day of work; and(7) the employer employs the employee for at least 12 consecutive months prior to and in the taxable year in which the credit is claimed. For employers subject to tax under G.L. c. 62, the credit will be attributed on a pro rata basis to the owners, partners, or members of the legal entity that hires eligible employees.[13] For employers subject to an excise under G.L. c. 63, the credit cannot reduce the excise due below the minimum excise.[14] The FY22 Budget requires that the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Commissioner, promulgate regulations establishing an application process for the credit.[15] The Commissioner and the Secretary intend to issue further guidance on the credit. The credit is available for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2023.[16]</p> <p>https://www.mass.gov/info-details/disability-employment-tax-credit-detc Disability Hire Credit</p>
Ageism	<p>17. Boston Globe September 16, 2023 (updated) The real grandparents of Washington, D. C.: The reality show no one wants By Beth Teitell</p> <p>As Biden, McConnell, and other politicians are blasted as “too old,” is ageism splashing back on civilians?</p> <p>No question — we’re living in a golden age of aging. Sports Illustrated put Martha Stewart on the cover of its swimsuit edition — at age 81, décolletage and all. Toddlers are being instructed to call their grandparents names like “Tootsie” and “Ace.” In polite society, ageism has become so unacceptable that you can’t say the word “old.”</p> <p>And yet. Thanks to a pride of politicians who are very visibly aging in place, age-shaming has turned into a national sport. . .</p> <p>“Old age is the last thing you can make fun of,” said comedian Tony Viveiros, who is 70. “I have young comedians coming up behind me all the time who just wish I would die.”</p> <p>How old is old? Once you pass 55, he said, your specific age doesn’t even matter. He pointed to surveys that ask respondents to list their age range — 18 to 29, 30 to 40, 40-55 — “then it’s 55 plus. You could be 56. You could be 106. They don’t care.”</p>
Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Legislative Endorsements	<p>Information about the legislative bills which have been endorsed by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, including the text of the bills, can be viewed at: https://tinyurl.com/DignityLegislativeEndorsements</p>

	<p>Questions or comments can be directed to Legislative Work Group Chair Richard (Dick) Moore at rmoore8473@charter.net.</p>
Websites	<p>MassHealth Redetermination Dashboard https://www.mass.gov/info-details/masshealth-redetermination-dashboard This dashboard provides key metrics for the eligibility redeterminations process.</p> <p><i>Voting Accessibility Resources from ACL</i> https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/voting-resources-older-americans-and-people-disabilities ACL compiled this page to serve as a resource "hub" to make it easier for disabled people and older adults to find the voting resources they need.</p>
Previously recommended websites	<p>The comprehensive list of recommended websites has migrated to the Dignity Alliance MA website: https://dignityalliancema.org/resources/. Only new recommendations will be listed in <i>The Dignity Digest</i>.</p>
Previously posted funding opportunities	<p>For open funding opportunities previously posted in <i>The Tuesday Digest</i> please see https://dignityalliancema.org/funding-opportunities/.</p>
Websites of Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Members	<p>See: https://dignityalliancema.org/about/organizations/</p>
Nursing homes with admission freezes	<p>Massachusetts Department of Public Health <i>Temporary admissions freeze</i> There have been no new postings on the DPH website since May 10, 2023.</p>
Massachusetts Department of Public Health Determination of Need Projects	<p>Massachusetts Department of Public Health <i>Determination of Need Projects: Long Term Care</i> 2023 Navigator Homes of Martha's Vineyard, Inc. – Long Term Care Substantial Capital Expenditure Royal Wayland Nursing Home, LLC – Conservation Long Term Care Project 2022 Ascentria Care Alliance – Laurel Ridge Ascentria Care Alliance – Lutheran Housing Ascentria Care Alliance – Quaboag Berkshire Healthcare Systems, Inc. – Windsor Long Term Care Conservation Fairlawn Rehabilitation Hospital-Hospital/Clinic Substantial Capital Expenditure Long Term Centers of Lexington – Pine Knoll – Long Term Care Conservation Long Term Centers of Wrentham – Serenity Hill – Long Term Care Conservation Next Step Healthcare LLC-Conservation Long Term Care Project Royal Falmouth – Conservation Long Term Care Royal Norwell – Long Term Care Conservation Wellman Healthcare Group, Inc 2020 Advocate Healthcare, LLC Amendment Campion Health & Wellness, Inc. – LTC - Substantial Change in Service Heywood Healthcare, Inc. – Hospital/Clinic Substantial Capital Expenditure Notre Dame Health Care Center, Inc. – LTC Conservation 2020 Advocate Healthcare of East Boston, LLC. Belmont Manor Nursing Home, Inc.</p>

List of Special Focus Facilities

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

List of Special Focus Facilities and Candidates

<https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram>

Updated March 29, 2023

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 March 29, 2023)

Newly added to the listing

- Somerset Ridge Center, Somerset
<https://somersetridgesrehab.com/>
Nursing home inspect information:
<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225747>
- South Dennis Healthcare
<https://www.nextstephc.com/southdennis>
Nursing home inspect information:
<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225320>

Massachusetts facilities not improved

- None

Massachusetts facilities which showed improvement

- Marlborough Hills Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, Marlborough
<https://tinyurl.com/MarlboroughHills>
Nursing home inspect information:
<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225063>

	<p>Massachusetts facilities which have graduated from the program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Oxford Rehabilitation & Health Care Center, Haverhill https://theoxfordrehabhealth.com/ Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225218 • Worcester Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, Worcester https://worcesterrehabcare.com/ Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225199 <p>Massachusetts facilities that are candidates for listing (months on list)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charwell House Health and Rehabilitation, Norwood (15) https://tinyurl.com/Charwell Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225208 • Glen Ridge Nursing Care Center (1) https://www.genesishcc.com/glenridge Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225523 • Hathaway Manor Extended Care (1) https://hathawaymanor.org/ Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225366 • Medway Country Manor Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation, Medway (1) https://www.medwaymanor.com/ Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225412 • Mill Town Health and Rehabilitation, Amesbury (14) No website Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225318 • Plymouth Rehabilitation and Health Care Center (10) https://plymouthrehab.com/ Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225207 • Tremont Health Care Center, Wareham (10) https://thetremontrehabcare.com/ Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225488 • Vantage at Wilbraham (5) No website Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225295 • Vantage at South Hadley (12) No website Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225757 https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram
<p><i>Nursing Home Inspect</i></p>	<p>ProPublica <i>Nursing Home Inspect</i> Data updated November 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: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/state/MA Deficiencies By Severity in Massachusetts (What do the severity ratings mean?)</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td># reported</td> <td>Deficiency Tag</td> </tr> <tr> <td>250</td> <td>B</td> </tr> <tr> <td>82</td> <td>C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7,056</td> <td>D</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1,850</td> <td>E</td> </tr> <tr> <td>546</td> <td>F</td> </tr> <tr> <td>487</td> <td>G</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td> <td>H</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>I</td> </tr> <tr> <td>40</td> <td>J</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>K</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>L</td> </tr> </table>	# reported	Deficiency Tag	250	B	82	C	7,056	D	1,850	E	546	F	487	G	31	H	1	I	40	J	7	K	2	L
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Nursing Home Compare	<p>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) <i>Nursing Home Compare Website</i> Beginning January 26, 2022, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is posting new information that will help consumers have a better understanding of certain staffing information and concerns at facilities. This information will be posted for each facility and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff turnover: The percentage of nursing staff as well as the number of administrators who have stopped working at a nursing home over the past 12-month period. • Weekend staff: The level of weekend staffing for nurses and registered nurses at a nursing home over a three-month period. <p>Posting 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. https://tinyurl.com/NursingHomeCompareWebsite</p>																								
Data on Ownership of Nursing Homes	<p>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services <i>Data on Ownership of Nursing Homes</i> 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 data.cms.gov and updated monthly.</p>																								

<p>Long-Term Care Facilities Specific COVID-19 Data</p>	<p>Massachusetts Department of Public Health <i>Long-Term Care Facilities Specific COVID-19 Data</i> <i>Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) reports related to long-term care facilities in Massachusetts.</i></p> <p>Table of Contents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Daily Dashboard • COVID-19 Weekly Public Health Report • Additional COVID-19 Data • CMS COVID-19 Nursing Home Data 		
<p>DignityMA Call Action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MA Senate released a report in response to COVID-19. Download the DignityMA Response to Reimagining the Future of MA. • Advocate for state bills that advance the Dignity Alliance Massachusetts' Mission and Goals – State Legislative Endorsements. • Support relevant bills in Washington – Federal Legislative Endorsements. • Join our Work Groups. • Learn to use and leverage Social Media at our workshops: Engaging Everyone: Creating Accessible, Powerful Social Media Content 		
<p>Access to Dignity Alliance social media</p>	<p>Email: info@DignityAllianceMA.org Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/DignityAllianceMA/ Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/dignityalliance/ LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/dignity-alliance-massachusetts Twitter: https://twitter.com/dignity_ma?s=21 Website: www.DignityAllianceMA.org</p>		
<p>Participation opportunities with Dignity Alliance Massachusetts</p> <p>Most workgroups meet bi-weekly via Zoom.</p> <p>Interest Groups meet periodically (monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly).</p> <p>Please contact group lead for more information.</p>	<p>Workgroup</p>	<p>Workgroup lead</p>	<p>Email</p>
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	<p>Home and Community Based Services</p>	<p>Meg Coffin</p>	<p>mcoffin@centerlw.org</p>
	<p>Legislative</p>	<p>Richard Moore</p>	<p>rmoore8743@charter.net</p>
	<p>Legal Issues</p>	<p>Jeni Kaplan</p>	<p>jkaplan@cpr-ma.org</p>
	<p>Interest Group</p>	<p>Group lead</p>	<p>Email</p>
	<p>Assisted Living and Rest Homes</p>	<p>In formation</p>	
	<p>Housing</p>	<p>Bill Henning</p>	<p>bhenning@bostoncouncil.org</p>
	<p>Veteran Services</p>	<p>James Lomastro</p>	<p>jiplomastro@comcast.net</p>
	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Frank Baskin Chris Hoeh</p>	<p>baskinfrank19@gmail.com cdhoeh@gmail.com</p>
	<p>Covid / Long Covid</p>	<p>James Lomastro</p>	<p>jiplomastro@comcast.net</p>
	<p>Incarcerated Persons</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>info@DignityAllianceMA.org</p>
<p>The Dignity Digest</p>	<p>For a free weekly subscription to <i>The Dignity Digest</i>: https://dignityalliancema.org/contact/sign-up-for-emails/ Editor: Paul Lanzikos</p>		

	<p>Primary contributor: Sandy Novack MailChimp Specialist: Sue Rorke</p>
Note of thanks	<p>Thanks to the contributors to this issue of <i>The Dignity Digest</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Lomastro • Dick Moore <p>Special thanks to the MetroWest Center for Independent Living for assistance with the website and MailChimp versions of <i>The Dignity Digest</i>. <i>If you have submissions for inclusion in <u>The Dignity Digest</u> or have questions or comments, please submit them to Digest@DignityAllianceMA.org.</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: https://dignityalliancema.org/dignity-digest/</i></p> <p><i>For more information about Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, please visit www.DignityAllianceMA.org.</i></p>	