



The Dignity Digest

Issue # 189


May 28, 2024

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

	<p>*May require registration before accessing article.</p>
<p>DignityMA Zoom Sessions</p>	<p>Dignity Alliance Massachusetts participants meet via Zoom every other Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. Sessions are open to all. To receive session notices with agenda and Zoom links, please send a request via info@DignityAllianceMA.org.</p>
<p>Support Dignity Alliance Massachusetts during May, Older Americans Month.</p> <p>Please Donate!</p>	<p>Dignity Alliance Massachusetts is a grassroots, volunteer-run 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to transformative change to ensure the dignity of older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers. We are committed to advancing ways of providing long-term services, support, living options and care that respect individual choice and self-determination. Through education, legislation, regulatory reform, and legal strategies, this mission will become reality throughout the Commonwealth.</p> <p>As a fully volunteer operation, our financial needs are modest, but also real. Your donation helps to produce and distribute <i>The Dignity Digest</i> weekly free of charge to almost 1,000 recipients and maintain our website, www.DignityAllianceMA.org, which has thousands of visits each month.</p> <p>Consider a donation in memory or honor of someone. Names of those recognized will be included in The Dignity Digest and posted on the website.</p> <p>https://dignityalliancema.org/donate/</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration!</p>
<p>DignityMA Survey</p>	<p>DignityMA Survey: The Personal Needs Allowance for Nursing Residents</p> <p>The Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) is the only monthly allowance that nursing home residents on Medicaid receive for all of their personal expenses. The current allowance falls far short of meeting the basic personal expenses of residents, limiting their ability to maintain dignity and experience a comfortable living environment. Raising the personal needs allowance would enhance the quality of life for nursing home residents, providing them with sufficient resources to pay for personal essentials, such as clothing, services of a hairdresser or barber, access to phone service, and similar expenses.</p> <p>At the federal level, the 1987 Nursing Home Reform Law set the minimum PNA rate for nursing homes residents receiving Medicaid</p>

	<p>at \$30 per month, however the law allows for a rate of up to \$200 per month. Many other states have increased their PNAs over the years. In Massachusetts, the current PNA amount is \$72.80 which has not changed in over 35 years.</p> <p>Survey form: https://forms.gle/7TPGAytL1NPiUvYd8</p>
<p>Quotes</p>	<p><i>“There’s a behavioral health workforce crisis and we need those funds [from the \$192 million behavioral health trust fund].”</i></p> <p>Rebekah Gewirtz, executive director of the National Association of Social Workers chapters in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, Behavioral health fund still largely untapped (*Boston Globe, May 26, 2024 (updated))</p> <p><i>“Supportive housing is a powerful force to lift up our most vulnerable residents and give them the tools they need to not just survive but to thrive. We look forward to seeing the Affordable Homes Act across the finish line this year and create even more much-needed supportive housing opportunities.”</i></p> <p>Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Ed Augustus, Healey-Driscoll Administration Announces Support for Seven Supportive Housing Projects for Families and Seniors, Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, May 20, 2024</p> <p><i>“Since its passage, the Older Americans Act has served as the foundation for community social services for older adults—from funding Meals on Wheels to local senior centers to home and community-based caregiving. . . Our Nation’s older adults have fought in our wars, raised our children and grandchildren, and built our communities—they deserve our support as they age.”</i></p> <p>U.S. Senator Bob Casey, Pennsylvanians testified at hearing about the importance of programs like Meals on Wheels, senior community centers, and home- and community-based services, which are funded by the Older Americans Act, Office of U.S. Senator Bob Casey, May 23, 2024</p>
<p>Marsters v. Healey Settlement Agreement</p>	<p>Bringing People Home</p> <p>Webinars explaining the Marsters v. Healey Settlement Agreement</p> <p>Marsters v. Healey was filed by seven individuals with disabilities who are living in nursing facilities in Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Senior Action Council brought against the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The</p>

	<p>plaintiffs claimed that they had a right to live in the community but needed support from the State to do so.</p> <p>This Settlement Agreement will expand the resources available throughout Massachusetts for individuals such as the plaintiffs and thousands of people like them, allowing many nursing facility residents to receive residential services and supports provided in the community instead of in a nursing facility.</p> <p>The Center for Public Representation and Greater Boston Legal Services have prepared two webinars, one for attorneys, paralegals, and legal advocates and another for guardians, supporters in supported decision-making arrangements, and other advocates. The objectives of these webinar are to review basic provisions of the Agreement and describe avenues for ongoing advocacy for class members during the implementation period. The Agreement is anticipated to be finalized in federal court in later June.</p> <p><u>Webinar presentations for the legal community:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday, May 29, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Register in advance for this meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tdusqD4jH9GiO59ImhB-9aOOTK33386 • Friday, June 7, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Register in advance for this meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEud-yqqzsrG93YCV8zAa7ilqbUAC505j3 <p><u>Webinar presentation for guardians and supporters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday, May 29, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Register in advance for this meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkduCprTguHtC2YvmG08ConbpT29xtKpZ0 <p>After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.</p> <p>For questions about the Agreement, contact Kathy Walker, 413-341-5111 (kwalker@cpr-ma.org) or Deborah Filler, 617-603-2716 (dfiller@gbls.org).</p> <p>For questions about the webinar presentation, contact Paul Lanzikos, 978-210-1331, (paul.lanzikos@gmail.com).</p> <p>For more information about the <i>Marsters</i> class action law suit and Settlement Agreement see: https://dignityalliancema.org/2024/04/18/marsters-lawsuit/</p>
<p>Guide to news items in this week's <i>Dignity Digest</i></p>	<p>FY 2025 State Budget Senate Session Summary - Thursday, May 23, 2024 (*State House News, May 24, 2024 (updated)) Senate State Senate Debate (Massachusetts State Senate, May 24, 2024)</p> <p>Nursing Homes Final Rule Summary: Minimum Staffing Requirements for Long-Term Care Facilities (The Consumer Voice, April 2024)</p> <p>Housing The YIMBYs are coming to the suburbs (*Boston Globe, May 25, 2024) Healey-Driscoll Administration Announces Support for Seven Supportive Housing Projects for Families and Seniors (Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, May 20, 2024)</p>

	<p>Behavioral Health <u>Behavioral health fund still largely untapped</u> (*Boston Globe, May 26, 2024 (updated)) <u>Healey-Driscoll Administration Announces \$13 Million Investment to Expand BRYT Student Mental Health Program</u> (Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, May 21, 2024)</p> <p>Older Americans Act <u>The Older Americans Act: The Local Impact of the Law and the Upcoming Reauthorization</u> (recording) (U.S. Special Committee on Aging, May 23, 2024) <u>Pennsylvanians testified at hearing about the importance of programs like Meals on Wheels, senior community centers, and home- and community-based services, which are funded by the Older Americans Act</u> (Office of U.S. Senator Bob Casey, May 23, 2024)</p>
<p>Residents' Rights Month: October 2024</p> 	<p>October 2024 is Resident Rights Month</p> <p>October is Residents' Rights Month, an annual event designated by Consumer Voice to honor residents living in all long-term care facilities and those receiving care in their home or community. It is an opportunity to focus on and celebrate the dignity and rights of every individual receiving long-term services and supports.</p> <p>Residents have the right to self-determination and to use their voice to make their own choices. This year's Residents' Rights Month theme, The Power of My Voice, emphasizes self-empowerment and recognizes the power of residents being vocal about their interests, personal growth, and right to live full, enriching lives.</p> <p>The Resident's Voice Challenge is an opportunity for residents to reflect creatively on this year's theme. <u>Learn more about how to participate.</u></p> <p>Start planning for Residents' Rights Month now. <u>Visit the website for promotional materials and resources.</u></p>
<p>Listening Sessions</p>	<p>1. Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities <u>Statewide Housing Plan Regional Listening Sessions</u> Governor Healey has directed the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) to develop a five-year strategic Statewide Housing Plan – the first in MA in over 40 years! To ensure the Plan captures the voices of MA constituents and housing stakeholders, EOHLC is holding several Regional Listening Sessions across MA to seek input on the Plan.</p> <p>Regional Listening Sessions Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief overview of MA's housing environment • Breakout groups for attendees to discuss top housing challenges and potential solutions • Attendees reconvene for closing remarks

	<p align="center">Schedule:</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date:</th> <th>Location:</th> <th>City:</th> <th>Time:</th> <th>RSVP:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Wed, May 29</td> <td>Virtual</td> <td>ZOOM</td> <td>5:30pm- 7:30pm</td> <td>Register here</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday, May 31</td> <td>Framingham State University</td> <td>Framingham</td> <td>1pm-3pm</td> <td>Register here</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday, June 3</td> <td>Cape Cod Community College</td> <td>Barnstable</td> <td>10am-12pm</td> <td>Register here</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday, June 4</td> <td>Oak Bluffs Library</td> <td>Martha's Vineyard</td> <td>1pm-3pm</td> <td>Register here</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Downloads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statewide Housing Plan Regional Listening Sessions Overview Presentation • Data from North Shore Regional Listening Session 	Date:	Location:	City:	Time:	RSVP:	Wed, May 29	Virtual	ZOOM	5:30pm- 7:30pm	Register here	Friday, May 31	Framingham State University	Framingham	1pm-3pm	Register here	Monday, June 3	Cape Cod Community College	Barnstable	10am-12pm	Register here	Tuesday, June 4	Oak Bluffs Library	Martha's Vineyard	1pm-3pm	Register here
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State Elections	<p>2. Office of the Massachusetts Secretary of State Candidate Filing Deadline May 28, 2024</p> <p>Tuesday is the filing deadline for certified signatures from district and county candidates, one of the last steps before the Sept. 3 primary ballots can take shape. All 160 seats in the House and 40 seats in the Senate are up for reelection every two years, and the deadline will nail down what kind of challenges incumbents face and which districts have wide-open contests. It will also confirm which of the Republicans hoping to unseat U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren will be on the ballot. Candidates had to file their nomination papers with local elections officials by April 30 for signature certification, and the May 28 deadline is for certified papers to be filed with Secretary of State Galvin's office.</p> <p>Candidates must file the necessary paperwork, including their certified nomination papers, a certified enrollment certificate, a written acceptance of the nomination, and a receipt from the State Ethics Commission. Additional information may be found on the Elections Division's website.</p>																									
In Person Events	<p>3. Abundant Housing Lobby Day Wednesday, May 29, 2024, 10:00 a.m. State House Steps</p> <p>Abundant Housing Massachusetts joins other housing advocates for a lobby day focused on supporting increased production, by-right allowance for accessory dwelling units and removal of "historically discriminatory zoning practices." Organizers say Lt. Gov. Driscoll, Housing Secretary Augustus and Sen. Crighton will speak, joined by local housing officials and advocates.</p> <p>Register</p>																									
Webinars and Other Online Sessions	<p>4. The Betsy Lehman Center Thursday, May 30, 2024, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Creating Connections for PFAC Impact: Diversifying Membership and Engaging with Leadership: PFAC Spring Forum 2024</p>																									

	Join the Betsy Lehman Center for the first virtual forum for council members. The theme is creating connections to strengthen the impact of PFACs, with feature presentations and discussions on leadership engagement and bringing diversity to PFAC membership.
Previously posted webinars and online sessions	Previously posted webinars and online sessions can be viewed at: https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/
<p>Independent Assessment Entity</p> <p><i>Request for Information</i></p> <p>The submission deadline date has been extended. Responses must be submitted electronically no later than 3:00 p.m. Friday, June 28, 2024.</p>	<p>5. COMMBUYS <i>Executive Office of Health and Human Services</i> <u>Independent Assessment Entity Request for Information</u></p> <p>MassHealth is exploring whether an Independent Assessment Entity (IAE) can improve the MassHealth member experience by simplifying and streamlining the clinical assessment process for certain long-term services and supports. The IAE would conduct required assessments for personal care attendant services (PCA), Adult Day Health (ADH), Group Adult Foster Care (GAFC), Adult Foster Care (AFC), Day Habilitation, Senior Care Options (SCO), PACE, and One Care. Currently, more than 400 entities administer clinical eligibility assessments and/or rating category assessments for these LTSS programs.</p> <p>Responses must be submitted electronically. Questions should be answered in order of appearance and numbered according to the RFI question number. Respondents are invited to respond to a subset or all the RFI questions; please respond to as many as you feel are appropriate.</p> <p>Questions regarding COMMBUYS should be directed to the OSD Help Desk at OSDHelpDesk@mass.gov.</p>
FY 2025 State Budget	<p>6. *State House News May 24, 2024 (updated) <u>Senate Session Summary - Thursday, May 23, 2024</u></p> <p>The Senate passed its fiscal year 2025 budget just past midnight on Thursday night, adding more than 450 amendments over the past three days and swelling the budget's bottom line to \$57.999 billion. Senators voted unanimously in support of the bill following about 14 hours of budget debate on Thursday -- with a half hour interruption from an emergency evacuation caused by a leak in the State House basement.</p> <p>7. Massachusetts State Senate May 24, 2024 <u>Senate State Senate Debate</u></p>
Nursing Homes	<p>8. The Consumer Voice April 2024 <u>Final Rule Summary: Minimum Staffing Requirements for Long-Term Care Facilities</u></p> <p>On Monday, April 22, 2024, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the long-awaited final <u>rule</u> implementing a minimum staffing standard in nursing homes. The culmination of a two-year process, including a request for information, a study, and a comment period, CMS has introduced a staffing rule designed to address the poorest-performing homes in the United States. The final total staffing rule is well below the 4.2 hours of direct care</p>

	<p>per resident per day (HPRD) supported by Consumer Voice, and includes numerous waivers and delays in implementation for some areas for at least five years. While Consumer Voice recognizes the rule as an important first step in obtaining adequate staffing in nursing homes, continued advocacy is necessary to ensure all residents receive high-quality nursing care.</p> <p>Read Consumer Voice's summary of the rule.</p> <p>Materials are available from the webinar regarding the staffing rule. Get webinar materials.</p>
<p>Housing</p>	<p>9. *Boston Globe May 25, 2024 The YIMBYs are coming to the suburbs By Andrew Brinker <i>As the housing debate heats up in Boston-area suburbs, supporters are starting to organize to advocate for more</i> [A] fast-growing network of new pro-housing groups [has] sprung up in suburbs across Greater Boston in the last year or so. Suddenly, there are dozens of new local housing advocacy groups all over Eastern Massachusetts, showing up at public meetings in Norwood, Rockport, and other communities to argue in favor of new development. A major driving force is the MBTA Communities law, which requires cities and towns served by the T to make it easier to build multifamily housing and has sparked intense debates in many Eastern Massachusetts municipalities. As communities write new zoning rules mandated by the law, many of these new pro-housing groups have formed to urge local officials to go bigger and bolder and to counter opposition groups that have flooded meetings and social media. Once those plans are passed, they have lists of other policies to advocate for.</p> <p>10. Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll May 20, 2024 Healey-Driscoll Administration Announces Support for Seven Supportive Housing Projects for Families and Seniors Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll and Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Ed Augustus announced seven supportive housing projects will receive \$7.4 million in low-income housing tax credits and \$38.5 million in subsidy funds for a total commitment of \$46 million. The seven projects will produce or preserve 280 units of supportive housing for families, seniors, chronically homeless individuals, and other vulnerable residents. The awardees are located in Boston, Gloucester, Lowell, Quincy, Revere, Rowley and Somerville. Supportive housing is housing that has easy access to services, such as health care, mental health or addiction treatment to help support older adults, those transitioning out of chronic homelessness or other vulnerable people. . . . Of the 280 units, 256 will be affordable to residents earning less than 60% of AMI. One hundred forty-nine units will be further restricted for residents earning less than 30% of AMI and, in some cases, transitioning from homelessness.</p>
<p>Behavioral Health</p>	<p>11. *Boston Globe May 26, 2024 (updated)</p>

	<p><u>Behavioral health fund still largely untapped</u> By Jason Laughlin <i>State says money will start to flow this fall</i> Last year, Massachusetts established a \$192 million behavioral health trust fund, in part to prevent people like [Dulcelina] Miranda from facing such gut-wrenching decisions. The fund supports an array of incentives to attract and retain workers in behavioral health fields, including scholarships, loan repayment programs, and compensation for unpaid internships. But despite an urgent need to counter a serious behavioral health labor shortage in the state, the money has almost entirely stayed in the hands of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. HHS officials say some of the money, about \$75.8 million, will start flowing this fall, including \$25 million for scholarships, \$25 million in stipends for student field work or internships, and \$3 million to cover behavioral health licensure fees through the Department of Public Health. . . The health care industry as a whole is struggling with a workforce shortage but the lack of behavioral health workers has proven to be especially hard to address. More than a quarter of licensed clinician positions in behavioral health are unfilled, according to a study released this week by the state’s Center for Health Information and Analysis. Close to 1,500 patients each day wait in the state’s hospitals, sometimes for months, for care, because there are not enough workers to staff licensed inpatient psychiatric beds.</p> <p>12. Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll May 21, 2024 <u>Healey-Driscoll Administration Announces \$13 Million Investment to Expand BRYT Student Mental Health Program</u> <i>Funds will support students struggling with their mental health through the establishment of bridge programs in economically challenged and under-resourced communities.</i> [T]he Healey-Driscoll Administration announced an unprecedented \$13 million investment in the Bridge for Resilient Youth in Transition (BRYT) program, an in-school program supporting students who have fallen behind academically due to challenges with their mental health. . . . The \$13 million state investment will provide funding to establish BRYT programs at schools that otherwise wouldn’t have the resources to implement it, accelerating the statewide adoption of the program. Administered by the Department of Mental Health (DMH), today’s funding includes \$3 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and \$10 million from the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Trust Fund.</p>
<p>Older Americans Act</p>	<p>13. U.S. Special Committee on Aging May 23, 2024 <u>The Older Americans Act: The Local Impact of the Law and the Upcoming Reauthorization (recording)</u> The Senate Special Committee on Aging held a hearing on The Older Americans Act: The Local Impact of the Law and the Upcoming Reauthorization on Thursday, May 23rd, 2024. Mairead Painter, Connecticut State Long-Term Care Ombudsman; Janet Billotte, an</p>

	<p>individual who receives home-delivered meals; and executives of Area Agencies on Aging in Pennsylvania and Indiana testified.</p> <p>14. Office of U.S. Senator Bob Casey May 23, 2024 <u><i>Pennsylvanians testified at hearing about the importance of programs like Meals on Wheels, senior community centers, and home- and community-based services, which are funded by the Older Americans Act</i></u> At the hearing, which comes as the Senate prepares to reauthorize the OAA, Chairman Casey laid out his top priorities for reauthorization, which include supporting states in long-term planning for senior services, substantially increasing funding for long-term care ombudsmen, who ensure the safety of nursing home residents, and increasing investments in nutrition programs.</p>
<p>Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Legislative Endorsements</p>	<p>Information about the legislative bills which have been endorsed by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, including the text of the bills, can be viewed at: <u>https://tinyurl.com/DignityLegislativeEndorsements</u> Questions or comments can be directed to Legislative Work Group Chair Richard (Dick) Moore at <u>rmoore8473@charter.net</u>.</p>
<p>Websites</p>	<p>The Betsy Lehman Center <u>https://betsylehmancenterma.gov</u> The Betsy Lehman Center fosters a statewide program of research, data analysis, and programming that engages and supports health care agencies, providers, and consumers working together to improve patient safety in care settings across the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Abundant Housing Massachusetts <u>https://www.abundanthousingma.org/</u> The Vision We want to create, sustain, and enhance...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abundant housing for all • A housing market that lets people move when they want, where they want, not when they have to • Communities with racially and economically diverse residents • Development patterns that facilitate low/no-carbon lifestyles • Education on effective organizing tools to address our history of racial segregation <p>Residents' Rights Month <u>https://theconsumervoice.org/events/2024-residents-rights-month</u> October is Residents' Rights Month, an annual event designated by Consumer Voice to honor residents living in all long-term care facilities and those receiving care in their home or community. It is an opportunity to focus on and celebrate the dignity and rights of every individual receiving long-term services and supports. Residents have the right to self-determination and to use their voice to make their own choices. This year's Residents' Rights Month theme, The Power of My Voice, emphasizes self-empowerment and recognizes the power of residents being vocal about their interests, personal growth, and right to live full, enriching lives.</p> <p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents' Rights - <u>English</u>; <u>Braille</u>; <u>Other Languages</u>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocating for Rights and Better Care in Nursing Homes • My Personal Directions for Quality Living - Blank Form; Sample • Put a STOP to Poor Care • Advocacy Suggestions for Nursing Home Residents and Their Families • Communication Tips • How to Solve Problems in a Nursing Home • Taking Care of You: Tips for Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities • Basics of Individualized Quality Care • Culture Change in Nursing Homes 		
Blogs			
Podcasts	The Consumer Voice maintains an extensive library of podcasts covering an array of long-term care topics. Consumer Voice Podcast Library		
Previously recommended websites	The comprehensive list of recommended websites has migrated to the Dignity Alliance MA website: https://dignityalliancema.org/resources/ . Only new recommendations will be listed in <i>The Dignity Digest</i> .		
Previously posted funding opportunities	For open funding opportunities previously posted in <i>The Tuesday Digest</i> please see https://dignityalliancema.org/funding-opportunities/ .		
Websites of Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Members	See: https://dignityalliancema.org/about/organizations/		
Contact information for reporting complaints and concerns	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Nursing home</td> <td> Department of Public Health 1. Print and complete the Consumer/Resident/Patient Complaint Form 2. Fax completed form to (617) 753-8165 Or Mail to 67 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA 01752 Ombudsman Program </td> </tr> </table>	Nursing home	Department of Public Health 1. Print and complete the Consumer/Resident/Patient Complaint Form 2. Fax completed form to (617) 753-8165 Or Mail to 67 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA 01752 Ombudsman Program
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Nursing Home Closures (pending)	Massachusetts Department of Public Health <i>Benjamin Healthcare Center, Roxbury</i> Closure date: July 1, 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice of Intent to Close (PDF) (DOCX) • Draft of Closure and Relocation Plan (PDF) (DOCX) <i>Bridgewater Nursing & Rehab, Bridgewater</i> Closure date: May 24, 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice of Intent to Close (PDF) (DOCX) • Draft of Closure and Relocation Plan (PDF) (DOCX) For more information about each individual facility, please use the Massachusetts Nursing Home Survey Performance Tool and the CMS Nursing Home Compare website .		
Nursing Home Closures	Massachusetts Department of Public Health <i>Savoy Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, New Bedford</i> Closure date: April 3, 2024 <i>New England Sinai Hospital Transitional Care Unit</i> Closure date: April 2, 2024 <i>South Dennis Health Care, Dennis</i> Closure date: January 30, 2024 <i>Arnold House Nursing Home, Stoneham</i> Closure date: September 22, 2023 <i>Willimansett East, Chicopee</i>		

	<p>Closure date: June 6, 2023 <i>Willimansett West</i>, Chicopee Closure date: June 6, 2023 <i>Chapin Center</i> Springfield Closure date: June 6, 2023 <i>Governors Center</i>, Westfield Closure date: June 6, 2023 <i>Stonehedge Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center</i>, West Roxbury Closure February 10, 2022 <i>Heathwood Healthcare</i>, Newton Closure date: January 5, 2022 <i>Mt. Ida Rest Home</i>, Newton Closure date: December 31, 2021 <i>Wingate at Chestnut Hill</i>, Newton, MA Closure date: October 1, 2021 <i>Halcyon House</i>, Methuen Closure date: July 16, 2021 <i>Agawam HealthCare</i>, Agawam Closure date: July 27, 2021 <i>Wareham HealthCare</i>, Wareham Closure date: July 28, 2021 <i>Town & Country Health Care Center</i>, Lowell Closure date: July 31, 2021</p>
<p>Nursing homes with admission freezes</p>	<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>
<p>Massachusetts Department of Public Health Determination of Need Projects</p>	<p>Massachusetts Department of Public Health <i>Determination of Need Projects: Long Term Care 2023</i> <u><i>Navigator Homes of Martha's Vineyard, Inc. – Long Term Care Substantial Capital Expenditure</i></u> <u><i>Royal Wayland Nursing Home, LLC – Conservation Long Term Care Project</i></u> 2022 <u><i>Ascentria Care Alliance – Laurel Ridge</i></u> <u><i>Ascentria Care Alliance – Lutheran Housing</i></u> <u><i>Ascentria Care Alliance – Quaboag</i></u> <u><i>Berkshire Healthcare Systems, Inc. – Windsor Long Term Care Conservation</i></u> <u><i>Fairlawn Rehabilitation Hospital-Hospital/Clinic Substantial Capital Expenditure</i></u> <u><i>Long Term Centers of Lexington – Pine Knoll – Long Term Care Conservation</i></u> <u><i>Long Term Centers of Wrentham – Serenity Hill – Long Term Care Conservation</i></u> <u><i>Next Step Healthcare LLC-Conservation Long Term Care Project</i></u> <u><i>Royal Falmouth – Conservation Long Term Care</i></u> <u><i>Royal Norwell – Long Term Care Conservation</i></u> <u><i>Wellman Healthcare Group, Inc</i></u></p>

	<p>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</p> <p>2020 Advocate Healthcare of East Boston, LLC. Belmont Manor Nursing Home, Inc.</p>
<p>List of Special Focus Facilities</p>	<p>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services <i>List of Special Focus Facilities and Candidates</i> https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram Updated March 29, 2023 CMS has published a new list of <u>Special Focus Facilities</u> (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.</p> <p>What can advocates do with this information?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Massachusetts facilities listed (updated March 29, 2023) Newly added to the listing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somerset Ridge Center, Somerset https://somersetridgerehab.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>

Massachusetts facilities which have graduated from the program

- 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>

Massachusetts facilities that are candidates for listing (months on list)

- 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

	<p>Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225757 https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram</p>																								
Nursing Home Inspect	<p>ProPublica Nursing Home Inspect Data updated November 2022 This app uses data from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Fines are listed for the past three years if a home has made partial or full payment (fines under appeal are not included). Information on deficiencies comes from a home's last three inspection cycles, or roughly three years in total. The number of COVID-19 cases is since May 8, 2020, when homes were required to begin reporting this information to the federal government (some homes may have included data on earlier cases). Massachusetts listing: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/state/MA Deficiencies By Severity in Massachusetts (What do the severity ratings mean?)</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th># reported</th> <th>Deficiency Tag</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <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> </tbody> </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></p>																								

	<p>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>		
Long-Term Care Facilities Specific COVID-19 Data	<p>Massachusetts Department of Public Health <i>Long-Term Care Facilities Specific COVID-19 Data</i> <i>Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) reports related to long-term care facilities in Massachusetts.</i></p> <p>Table of Contents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Daily Dashboard • COVID-19 Weekly Public Health Report • Additional COVID-19 Data • CMS COVID-19 Nursing Home Data 		
DignityMA Call Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MA Senate released a report in response to COVID-19. Download the DignityMA Response to Reimagining the Future of MA. • Advocate for state bills that advance the Dignity Alliance Massachusetts' Mission and Goals – State Legislative Endorsements. • Support relevant bills in Washington – Federal Legislative Endorsements. • Join our Work Groups. • Learn to use and leverage social media at our workshops: Engaging Everyone: Creating Accessible, Powerful Social Media Content 		
Access to Dignity Alliance social media	<p>Email: info@DignityAllianceMA.org Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/DignityAllianceMA/ Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/dignityalliance/ LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/dignity-alliance-massachusetts Twitter: https://twitter.com/dignity_ma?s=21 Website: www.DignityAllianceMA.org</p>		
<p>Participation opportunities with Dignity Alliance Massachusetts</p> <p>Most workgroups meet bi-weekly via Zoom.</p> <p>Interest Groups meet periodically (monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly).</p>	Workgroup	Workgroup lead	Email
	General Membership	Bill Henning Paul Lanzikos	bhenning@bostoncil.org paul.lanzikos@gmail.com
	Assisted Living	John Ford	jford@njc-ma.org
	Behavioral Health	Frank Baskin	baskinfrank19@gmail.com
	Communications	Lachlan Forrow	lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu
	Facilities (Nursing homes and rest homes)	Arlene Germain	agermain@manhr.org
	Home and Community Based Services	Meg Coffin	mcoffin@centerlw.org
	Legislative	Richard Moore	rmoore8743@charter.net
	Legal Issues	Jeni Kaplan	jkaplan@cpr-ma.org
	Interest Group	Group lead	Email
	Housing	Bill Henning	bhenning@bostoncil.org
	Veteran Services	James Lomastro	jimlomastro@comcast.net
	Transportation	Frank Baskin Chris Hoeh	baskinfrank19@gmail.com cdhoeh@gmail.com

Please contact group lead for more information.	Covid / Long Covid	James Lomastro	jimlomastro@comcast.net
	Incarcerated Persons	TBD	info@DignityAllianceMA.org
<i>The Dignity Digest</i>	For a free weekly subscription to <i>The Dignity Digest</i> : https://dignityalliancema.org/contact/sign-up-for-emails/ Editor: Paul Lanzikos Primary contributor: Sandy Novack MailChimp Specialist: Sue Rorke		
Note of thanks	Thanks to the contributors to this issue of <i>The Dignity Digest</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wynn Gerhard • Jerry Halberstadt • Dick Moore 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><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.</i></p> <p><i>Our guiding principle is the assurance of dignity for those receiving the services as well as for those providing them.</i></p> <p><i>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 The Tuesday Digest and The Dignity Digest are available at:</i> https://dignityalliancema.org/dignity-digest/</p> <p><i>For more information about Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, please visit www.DignityAllianceMA.org.</i></p>			