



The Dignity Digest

Issue # 208

October 22, 2024

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 the article.**

DignityMA Zoom Sessions

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.

Spotlight

Consumer Voice's Statement Regarding Lawsuit Filed by Twenty States to Block Critical Staffing Protections for Nursing Home Residents

National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care

On October 9, 2024, twenty state attorneys general filed suit in federal court to block the implementation of the most significant increase in protections for nursing home residents in decades, the [minimum staffing rule](#). Finalized in May this year, the rule will require all nursing homes to meet minimum daily staffing requirements. The rule came out of the devastating impact COVID-19 had on nursing homes where over 200,000 residents and workers died from COVID-19, many living and working in understaffed homes. One [analysis](#) estimated that this new rule would save at least 13,000 lives annually.

It is irrefutable that nursing homes with higher levels of staff have better outcomes. Residents who live in poorly staffed homes experience higher levels of death, pressure ulcers, weight loss, falls, depression, and other harm. Importantly, the final rule was very modest; in fact, it was designed to bring up the poorest staffed homes in the country. Currently, residents who live in nursing homes that staff below the final staffing rule are at increased risk of harm and death. As a country, we cannot let that continue.

Since the rule was proposed, the nursing home industry has claimed that there is insufficient staff to meet heightened staffing requirements. They do not tell you that the nursing home industry has a job quality problem. On average, nursing homes experience [52% direct care staff turnover](#) each year. That's more than one out of every two workers. Turnover in health care is driven by poor wages and benefits, impossible workloads, lack of training, and few opportunities for career growth. The issue isn't a lack of people taking these much-needed jobs, but people aren't interested in them. Working conditions must be improved to retain staff and attract new people to the field. Without adequate staff, residents are not helped to the bathroom in a timely manner; they go without showers and are left to languish in bed for hours or even days on end.

	<p>To address industry concerns, the rule provides for extensive delays in implementation and for exemptions. It will be two years before homes will be required to meet this standard (three years in rural areas). Further, many nursing homes that cannot meet the staffing standard, even after making good-faith efforts to hire, will be eligible for an exemption from the rule.</p> <p>The nursing home industry receives over \$90 billion dollars a year to provide nursing home care. Yet, the quality of care they provide is too often substandard. Frequently, this fact is driven by corporate greed. Recently, members of Congress wrote to three of the largest nursing home chains in the country, noting that these companies, over four years, were paid \$650 million in dividends, buyback, and executive compensation. This corporate greed takes money away from wages and benefits, which drives up turnover. Importantly, it also allows the nursing home industry to claim that there are not enough workers.</p> <p>Unsurprisingly, there are extreme differences between the amount of staffing that for-profit nursing homes provide and that of non-profit nursing homes. On average, non-profit homes staff an hour more than for-profit nursing homes and perform better on <u>all measures</u> of quality. Why is it that thousands of non-profit homes currently staff at levels that far exceed the final staffing rule while for-profit homes do not?</p> <p>Shamefully, these attorneys general, many of them elected officials, who are charged with protecting citizens, have taken up the cause of large corporations that put profit over patient outcomes. Have no doubt, failing to implement this rule will cause incalculable harm to residents, including death. Instead of rolling back protections for nursing home residents, these attorneys general should be asking where our taxpayer dollars are going and standing with our most vulnerable citizens, working to protect them, and ensuring they receive the proper care in our nation's nursing homes.</p>
<p>Quotes</p>	<p><i>“Protecting older adults in assisted living facilities from financial, or other forms of abuse, is an important goal for Dignity Alliance. Attorney General Campbell deserves high praise for taking action to expand consumer protections to this vulnerable population. And since October is designated as “Residents’ Rights Month,” it’s a great time to launch the development of this vital effort.”</i></p> <p>Former Senator Richard Moore, Co-Founder of Dignity Alliance and Member of the Leadership Council of the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care, Attorney General’s Office Seeks Community Feedback To Inform Drafting Of Assisted Living Residences Regulations (Office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell)</p>

	<p><i>“The Attorney General’s concern for the residents of more than 250 Assisted Living Residences in Massachusetts echoes the concerns of many residents, their loved ones and their advocates. Their advocates in particular know the value and scope of the protections afforded by regulations issued pursuant to the Consumer Protection Act (chapter 93A), which give weight and specificity as to what would be an unfair act or practice. We applaud the Attorney General’s commitment to the growing numbers of consumers who will be protected by the regulations.”</i></p> <p>John Ford, Esq., Northeast Justice Center and Dignity Alliance, Attorney General’s Office Seeks Community Feedback To Inform Drafting Of Assisted Living Residences Regulations (Office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell)</p> <p><i>“I don’t know how many more years I have on this Earth but I’m going to spend it fighting for women.”</i></p> <p>Kathryn Engelhard, 69 year old Pennsylvania voter, Are women over 50 the critical voter group no one is talking about?, The 19th, October 17, 2024</p> <p><i>"For two weeks we've been unable to shower or wash hands. Maintaining hygiene with hand sanitizers is a constant must. Another example is having to pour a bucket of water into the tank of the toilet in order to flush. And keep in mind that our residents are old and not used to such physical activity."</i></p> <p>James Greene, an 84 year old resident of Brooks-Howell Home in Asheville, North Carolina, Some NC nursing homes still without water. 3 weeks after Hurricane Helene, MSN.com, October 21, 2024</p> <p><i>“[The residents] don’t want to eat, they don’t want to sleep, and mostly you see the sadness in their eyes.”</i></p> <p>Rosa Maldonado, a staff member at Abbott Terrace Medical Center in Waterbury, CT, Nursing home permanently closing. residents and workers fighting to keep jobs and homes, MSN.com, October 16, 2024</p>
<p>Dignity Study Sessions</p>	<p>REV UP MA 2024 Disability Voting Webinar Tuesday, October 22, 2024, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. This webinar will include information about preparing for the upcoming election, legal rights of Massachusetts voters, Accessible Electronic</p>

	<p>Vote by Mail, and accessibility requirements of polling places across Massachusetts.</p> <p>Tentative Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction by Brianna Zimmerman, Voting Rights Advocate, Disability Law Center • Massachusetts Voters' Rights by Brianna Zimmerman • Accessible Electronic Vote by Mail in Massachusetts by Tatum Pritchard, Director of Litigation, Disability Law Center • Overview of Accessible Polling Places by Tom Murphy, Supervising Attorney, Disability Law Center • Tips for Advocating for Accessible Polling Places by Rick Glassman, Director of Advocacy, Disability Law Center • Questions & Answers <p>Space is limited and registration is required to participate. Reservations will be granted on a first-come, first-served.</p> <p>Register for Disability Voting Webinar</p> <p>Please submit accommodation requests to mail@dlc-ma.org.</p> <p>All about Adult Family Care</p> <p>Thursday, October 24, 2024, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George Fleischner, President / CEO, Nonotuck Resource Associates • Sindelle Robles, Vice President, Nonotuck Resource Associates <p>Adult family care is a program that provides in-home support for individuals who need assistance with daily living activities. It offers a home-like setting, often within a family's home, rather than a traditional institutional setting like a nursing home.</p> <p>Key features of adult family care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home-like environment: Individuals live with a caregiver in a family setting, providing a more personalized and comfortable experience. • Personalized care: Caregivers tailor their support to meet the specific needs of each individual, ensuring they receive the appropriate level of assistance. • Community-based: Adult family care allows individuals to remain in their communities, maintaining connections with friends and family. • Financial support: In many cases, programs provide financial assistance to caregivers to help offset the costs of providing care. <p>Individuals who may benefit from adult family care include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults with disabilities • Seniors who require assistance with daily living activities • Individuals who are recovering from illness or injury
<p>Events</p>	<p>Permanent Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities</p> <p><i>Annual National Disability Employment Awareness Month Celebration</i></p> <p>Wednesday, October 23, 2024</p> <p>Hall of Flags, State House</p> <p>Schedule of Events</p> <p>11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.</p> <p>"Accessible Democracy: Every Vote Counts"</p> <p>12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Main Celebratory Event</p>

	<p>2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. "Inclusion in Action: Bridging Gaps in Disability Employment" This event will bring together a diverse group of participants, including people with disabilities, policymakers, employers, human services providers, and other key stakeholders. This year, the Commission is thrilled to broaden its focus to include both employment and the important issue of voting rights for people with disabilities. In addition to the main event, the Commission will host two significant sessions: a voting rights panel titled, "Accessible Democracy: Every Vote Counts," and a fireside chat titled, "Inclusion in Action: Bridging Gaps in Disability Employment." The voting rights panel will explore the challenges and solutions related to ensuring accessible and equitable voting for people with disabilities. The fireside chat will feature hiring managers and employees with disabilities discussing their experiences, best practices, and strategies for fostering inclusive workplaces. By convening these important discussions, the Commission aims to promote greater awareness and drive actionable change in both employment and voting accessibility for the disability community. The event will also be broadcast live via Zoom. (Zoom link for the event)</p>
<p>Opportunity for Public Comment</p>	<p>Office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell <u>Attorney General's Office Seeks Community Feedback To Inform Drafting Of Assisted Living Residences Regulations</u> To submit comments: <u>https://massgov.formstack.com/forms/community_feedback_on_a_go_assisted_living_residences</u> The Massachusetts Attorney General's Office (AGO) is seeking public feedback to inform drafting consumer protection regulations for assisted living residences in Massachusetts. Members of the public can provide comments to the AGO through an online form, available here. Through regulation, the AGO seeks to protect residents of assisted living residences from unfair and deceptive acts and practices, including misrepresentation of available services, improper fees, and unlawful evictions. The aging population served by these facilities would benefit greatly from stronger consumer protections in all of these areas, and owners and operators will benefit from greater specificity regarding their legal obligations. At this time, Massachusetts does not have consumer protection regulations specific to assisted living residences. "We know the best way to serve our constituents is by listening to them," said Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell. "Every resident of an assisted living facility has the right to live in a safe and habitable environment, free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Our older adults deserve to age safely with dignity and respect, which is why creating consumer protection regulations for assisted living facilities is so important and responsive to their advocacy." Assisted living residences are designed for older adults who can live independently in a home-like environment, but may need help with daily activities like housekeeping, bathing, or medication assistance. According to the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, more than 17,000 people currently live in these residences in Massachusetts and have various options available to them. It is critical that consumers know what to expect when choosing an assisted living residence as their home. Chapter 93A, the consumer protection statute, authorizes the Attorney General to promulgate regulations to protect consumers. These</p>

regulations can require that facilities make certain disclosures about their contractual terms, and they also can declare certain acts and practices to be unlawful.

Those who wish to provide feedback on the creation of regulations can do so through an online form, which can be found [here](#).

The AGO will use this feedback to inform draft regulations and will then proceed to promulgate regulations, a process which will include the publication of proposed regulations, a public hearing, and opportunities for the public to comment on the proposed regulations.

This project is being handled by Director Mary Freeley and Deputy Director Valerie Frias of the AGO's [Elder Justice Unit](#). AG Campbell created the Unit in August 2023 to protect and promote the safety and well-being of elders through enforcement actions, legislative advocacy, and community engagement and education.

Statements of Support:

Acting Secretary Robin Lipson, Executive Office of Elder

Affairs: "We thank Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell and her team for their dedication to protecting residents in assisted living. The demographics of these residents continues to evolve – they are now older, with more complex needs, and it is essential that we ensure these individuals are informed and protected as they navigate their living options. Elder Affairs looks forward to working with the Attorney General's Office as the team explores ways to address assisted living residence consumer issues."

Former Senator Richard Moore, Co-Founder of Dignity Alliance and Member of the Leadership Council of the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care:

"Protecting older adults in assisted living facilities from financial, or other forms of abuse, is an important goal for Dignity Alliance. Attorney General Campbell deserves high praise for taking action to expand consumer protections to this vulnerable population. And since October is designated as "Residents' Rights Month," it's a great time to launch the development of this vital effort."

John Ford, Northeast Justice Center and Dignity Alliance: "The Attorney General's concern for the residents of more than 250 Assisted Living Residences in Massachusetts echoes the concerns of many residents, their loved ones and their advocates. Their advocates in particular know the value and scope of the protections afforded by regulations issued pursuant to the Consumer Protection Act (chapter 93A), which give weight and specificity as to what would be an unfair act or practice. We applaud the Attorney General's commitment to the growing numbers of consumers who will be protected by the regulations."

Kathleen Lynch Moncata and Liane Zeitz, Mass. Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys: "Massachusetts has a long history of pioneering consumer protections for vulnerable populations such as nursing home residents and tenants and we welcome comparable protections for consumers of assisted living residences (ALRs). ALR residents currently have little legal recourse when they do not receive the quality of care they've contracted for or when their rights are violated. We support Attorney General Campbell's efforts to provide increased protections for this vulnerable population."

	<p>To submit comments: https://massgov.formstack.com/forms/community_feedback_on_a_go_assisted_living_residences</p> <p>Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Disaster Recovery Framework Public Comment Period Comments due Wednesday, October 23, 2024</p> <p>The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is requesting public comments on its National Disaster Recovery Framework, which explains the federal government’s roles and responsibilities for organizing and deploying disaster recovery assistance. It also enhances effective collaboration among federal agencies; state, local, and territorial governments; and tribal nations, while informing nongovernmental partners.</p> <p>Individuals wishing to comment on the document should download the comment matrix, complete it, and return it through the blue "Submit Comments" button on the comment period webpage. This will open an email to fema-recovery-icd-pdb@fema.dhs.gov; attach the matrix and use "NDRF V3 Public Comment Feedback" as the subject line. Comments submitted outside of the matrix and after the deadline will not be considered.</p> <p>Executive Office of Veterans Services Friday, October 25, 2024, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Remote public hearing on proposed regulations on psychiatric care.</p> <p>The regulations build upon the HERO Act, which calls for EOVS to reimburse mental health treatment. More Info and Access</p>																																							
<p>DignityMA Asks the Candidates</p>	<p>To inform older adults, persons with disabilities, family members, and caregivers about legislative candidates’ positions on issues of interest, Dignity Alliance Massachusetts (DignityMA) has prepared The Dignity Dozen, twelve questions regarding key issues and proposals. Questionnaires have been distributed to all candidates who have competitive general election contests. Questionnaires will be distributed to candidates with opposition later in September. Candidate responses will be posted on the DignityMA website. <i>Election Day is Tuesday, November 5th.</i></p> <p>Responses received (click on the name to view responses):</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>Candidate</th> <th>District</th> <th>Website</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Damian Anketell</td> <td>Sen: 2nd Essex</td> <td>Anketell website</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Michelle Badger</td> <td>Rep: 1st Plymouth</td> <td>Badger website</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sharon Cintolo</td> <td>Rep: 2nd Norfolk</td> <td>Cintolo Website</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Susanne H. Conley</td> <td>Rep: 2nd Barnstable</td> <td>www.CapeCodConley.com</td> </tr> <tr> <td>George Ferdinand</td> <td>Rep: 19th Middlesex</td> <td>Ferdinand Facebook</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Christopher Flanagan</td> <td>Rep: 1st Barnstable</td> <td>Flanagan Website</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carmine Gentile</td> <td>Rep: 13th Middlesex</td> <td>Gentile Website</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Patricia Haddad</td> <td>Rep: 5th Bristol</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Patricia Jehlen</td> <td>Sen: 2nd Middlesex</td> <td>Jehlen Website</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eric Meschino</td> <td>Rep: 12th Plymouth</td> <td>Meschino Website</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Steven J. Ouellette</td> <td>Rep: 8th Bristol</td> <td>Ouellette Facebook</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jerry Parisella</td> <td>Rep: 6th Essex</td> <td>Parisella Facebook</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Candidate	District	Website	Damian Anketell	Sen: 2 nd Essex	Anketell website	Michelle Badger	Rep: 1st Plymouth	Badger website	Sharon Cintolo	Rep: 2nd Norfolk	Cintolo Website	Susanne H. Conley	Rep: 2 nd Barnstable	www.CapeCodConley.com	George Ferdinand	Rep: 19 th Middlesex	Ferdinand Facebook	Christopher Flanagan	Rep: 1 st Barnstable	Flanagan Website	Carmine Gentile	Rep: 13 th Middlesex	Gentile Website	Patricia Haddad	Rep: 5 th Bristol		Patricia Jehlen	Sen: 2 nd Middlesex	Jehlen Website	Eric Meschino	Rep: 12 th Plymouth	Meschino Website	Steven J. Ouellette	Rep: 8 th Bristol	Ouellette Facebook	Jerry Parisella	Rep: 6 th Essex	Parisella Facebook
Candidate	District	Website																																						
Damian Anketell	Sen: 2 nd Essex	Anketell website																																						
Michelle Badger	Rep: 1st Plymouth	Badger website																																						
Sharon Cintolo	Rep: 2nd Norfolk	Cintolo Website																																						
Susanne H. Conley	Rep: 2 nd Barnstable	www.CapeCodConley.com																																						
George Ferdinand	Rep: 19 th Middlesex	Ferdinand Facebook																																						
Christopher Flanagan	Rep: 1 st Barnstable	Flanagan Website																																						
Carmine Gentile	Rep: 13 th Middlesex	Gentile Website																																						
Patricia Haddad	Rep: 5 th Bristol																																							
Patricia Jehlen	Sen: 2 nd Middlesex	Jehlen Website																																						
Eric Meschino	Rep: 12 th Plymouth	Meschino Website																																						
Steven J. Ouellette	Rep: 8 th Bristol	Ouellette Facebook																																						
Jerry Parisella	Rep: 6 th Essex	Parisella Facebook																																						
<p>Guide to news items in this week’s Dignity Digest</p>	<p>Long-Term Care Public Policy Nursing Homes</p>																																							

	<p>‘Discovered authority’ for nursing home staffing rule can’t stand: latest AHCA legal challenge (McKnights Long-Term Care News, October 21, 2024)</p> <p>Behavioral Health</p> <p>Medicaid</p> <p>Health Care</p> <p>Helene and CVS Land Double Whammy for 25,000 Patients Who Survive on IV Nutrition (KFF Health News, October 18, 2024)</p> <p>Disability Topics</p> <p>ACL Announces Supplemental Funding That Connects Its Programs Through the Bridging Aging and Disability Networks Grant (Administration on Community Living, October 21, 2024)</p> <p>Election 2024</p> <p>Are women over 50 the critical voter group no one is talking about? (The 19th, October 17, 2024)</p> <p>From around the Country</p> <p>Some NC nursing homes still without water, 3 weeks after Hurricane Helene (MSN.com, October 21, 2024)</p> <p>Nursing home permanently closing, residents and workers fighting to keep jobs and homes (MSN.com, October 16, 2024)</p> <p>Public Sessions</p> <p>Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Friday, November 1, 2024, 10:00 a.m., Standard Payments to Nursing Facilities, Public Hearing</p>
<p>Accessibility and Voter Rights</p> <p>Sign Up to receive emails. Stay educated on your rights, and on the Issues, Candidates and Ballot Questions in Massachusetts!</p>	<p>Rev Up Massachusetts</p> <p><i>REV UP – Register! Educate! Vote! Use your Power!</i></p> <p>https://revupma.org/wp/</p> <p>Learn more about the issues, and how you can help advance the disability agenda at our 2024 Disability Voting Rights Week post.</p> <p>2024 Election Calendar</p> <p>Visit the Secretary of State’s Upcoming Elections page.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 5 – Election Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ October 19 – First day of in-person early voting for state election ○ October 26 – Last day to register to vote for state election ○ October 29 5:00 p.m. – Deadline to apply for mail-in ballot for state election ○ November 1 – last day of in-person early voting for state election
<p>Webinars and Online Sessions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Boston Mayor’s Commission for Persons with Disabilities Wednesday, October 23, 2024, 5:30 p.m. Webinar about finding accessible and affordable housing Finding housing can be incredibly difficult. This webinar will include information on accessible housing — what features are included in "accessible" or "ADA" housing units including mobility or sensory units. It will also include information about how to search for accessible and affordable housing and how housing "lotteries" work. Register for the event 2. Autism Commission Thursday, October 24, 2024, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Quarterly meeting More Info 3. SClboston

	<p>Saturday, November 16, 2024, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. <u>SCIBoston's Saturday Education Series Adaptive Sports, Fitness, and Recreation Programs</u> Join us to learn about adaptive sports, fitness, and recreation opportunities in the Greater Boston Area. You will hear from representatives from Spaulding Adaptive Sports, The Kelly Brush Foundation, Waypoint Adventures, and Oak Square YMCA. Find out what is available and how you can get involved! Q & A to follow. Join Zoom Meeting: <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83675304419?pwd=dy9QZFdrWjZVdHlKcllydzltU3pRUT09</u> Meeting ID: 836 7530 4419 Passcode: 730377 Dial In: 929-205-6099</p>
<p>Previously posted webinars and online sessions</p>	<p>Previously posted webinars and online sessions can be viewed at: <u>https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/</u></p>
<p>Nursing Homes</p>	<p>4. McKnights Long-Term Care News October 21, 2024 <u>'Discovered authority' for nursing home staffing rule can't stand: latest AHCA legal challenge</u> By Kimberly Marselas The American Health Care Association, LeadingAge, and other plaintiffs are challenging a national nursing home staffing rule in federal court. They argue that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) does not have the authority to impose overall hourly nurse requirements or increase existing registered nurse coverage. The plaintiffs say that CMS has failed to show that Congress granted the agency the authority to enact these sweeping new mandates. They argue that general rulemaking provisions do not allow agencies to "promote their own policy du jour over the policy choices that Congress enacted into federal law." The plaintiffs are asking the court to rule that the 24/7 RN requirement and all three hourly requirements in the nursing home staffing rule exceed CMS' statutory authority and issue an order vacating those requirements. They argue that Congress has "explicitly and repeatedly" addressed staffing levels for nursing homes using a consistent approach. The state of Texas has also filed a lawsuit challenging the final rule under the Administrative Procedures Act, arguing it is arbitrary and capricious. The court has agreed to consolidate the cases. The plaintiffs argue that the nursing home mandate will create "artificial demand" and make compliance "practically impossible in many parts of the country." They also argue that the mandate will have a disproportionate impact on smaller, rural facilities. The plaintiffs point to a recent ruling from the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals that found the so-called major questions doctrine applies when an agency "claims the power to resolve a matter of great political significance." They argue that this doctrine applies to the case because nationwide nursing-home-staffing requirements have been a hotly debated political issue for more than half a century. The plaintiffs also argue that the major questions doctrine is "independently trigger[ed] when 'an agency seeks to ... require billions of dollars in</p>

	<p>spending by private persons or entities,' as the Final Rule unquestionably does." They argue that CMS therefore must identify clear congressional authorization for its onerous new mandates, which CMS comes nowhere close to doing.</p> <p>HHS and CMS have until Nov. 15 to file a cross-motion for summary judgment. Both sides can reply to each other's motions, with the final response due by mid-January and a ruling possible any time after that.</p>
<p>Health Care</p>	<p>5. KFF Health News October 18, 2024 <u>Helene and CVS Land Double Whammy for 25,000 Patients Who Survive on IV Nutrition</u> By Arthur Allen</p> <p>The severe intestinal problems of Lisa Trumble, a patient at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, require IV nutrition. On October 8, 2024, CVS announced that her home nutrition would be discontinued, forcing her to stay in the hospital. This was due to a hurricane that wrecked a factory in North Carolina, disrupting the production of IV fluids. Trumble is one of 25,000 U.S. patients who depend on parenteral nutrition (PN) for survival. The hurricane led to a shortage of IV fluids, and CVS's Coram division announced its exit from the PN and IV antibiotics business. This caused rationing of supplies and made it difficult for other infusion pharmacies to take on new patients.</p> <p>Many patients were unable to be discharged from hospitals due to the lack of infusion companies. The FDA allowed emergency imports of IV fluids and production by U.S. compounding pharmacies, but it is unclear how long it will take to replenish supplies.</p> <p>Patients who rely on PN have various conditions that prevent them from digesting food. They require specialized infusion medicine, which has become increasingly challenging for companies. CVS recently announced layoffs and a possible restructuring.</p> <p>While CVS is working to resolve the situation, finding new suppliers for IV materials is difficult for patients. Coram's departure has exacerbated the crisis, and many patients are struggling to find alternative supplies.</p> <p>The hurricane also impacted other medical supplies, such as saline solution and sterile water. The federal government helped truck supplies to safe locations, but production was still disrupted.</p> <p>The FDA has allowed Baxter to import emergency supplies from other countries, and the military is flying in supplies from overseas. Premier has also asked the FDA to put additional PN ingredients on its shortage list. Patients who rely on PN face significant risks if they cannot get their supplies. They may experience dizziness, nausea, seizures, or coma. The situation is critical, and more efforts are needed to address the shortage of IV fluids and ensure patients receive the necessary care.</p>
<p>Disability Topics</p>	<p>6. Administration on Community Living October 21, 2024 <u>ACL Announces Supplemental Funding That Connects Its Programs Through the Bridging Aging and Disability Networks Grant</u></p> <p>ACL's Administration on Aging collaborated with its Administration on Disabilities to provide a \$202,000 funding supplement from the Older Americans Act to the <u>Bridging Aging and Disability Networks grant</u>. This grant has been awarded to the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, which is partnering with the Institute on Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois-Chicago; the</p>

	<p>Lurie Institute for Disability Policy at Brandeis University; The Arc; and USAging, the national association representing and supporting the network of area agencies on aging (AAAs) and Title VI Native American aging programs.</p> <p>The goal of the grant is to strengthen collaboration between aging and disability networks to better support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their family caregivers in planning for the future. The supplemental funding will be used to provide additional support to enhance the work of the 17 teams focused on building capacity across and within their states' aging and disability networks.</p>
<p>Election 2024</p>	<p>7. The 19th October 17, 2024 <u>Are women over 50 the critical voter group no one is talking about?</u> By Amanda Becker Women over 50 are high-propensity voters — <u>voter turnout rates increase with age</u> and women vote at higher rates than men. So, in the final weeks ahead of an election, while campaigns focus on turning out other demographic groups <u>at risk of staying home</u>, like <u>Gen Z voters or Black men</u>, for women over 50, it's still about persuasion. And they have expressed openness to it: AARP polling shows that this year, women over 50 have moved more than any other group of voters, including younger women and men in the same age bracket. And they moved in Harris' favor. .</p> <p>Women over 50 are "very uncertain about their long-term economic future," the polling showed. While 57 percent have enough savings to cover a \$500 emergency expense, only 38 percent could cover three months of expenses if they lost their income. Sixty-two percent of women over 50 said they do not feel the economy is "working well for them personally." Women over 50 are more likely than men to feel that they are less financially secure than they expected at this stage in life. More than six in 10 women said that they are "much less secure" or "somewhat less secure" than what they anticipated compared to 53 percent of men. Latinas were the least likely to say they were "about where expected" to be financially compared to White or Black women. Women's economic concerns were driven in part by the reality that 44 percent of those surveyed did not have a retirement savings account or a pension.</p>
<p>From around the Country</p>	<p>8. MSN.com October 21, 2024 <u>Some NC nursing homes still without water, 3 weeks after Hurricane Helene</u> More than three weeks ago, <u>Hurricane Helene</u> knocked out the power and running water at James Greene's nursing home in Asheville, North Carolina. Today, Greene, 84, and his fellow residents at Brooks-Howell Home still do not have regular access to safe, running water for their daily activities. "For two weeks we've been unable to shower or wash hands," Greene wrote in a letter to family and friends, which was shared with ABC News. "Maintaining hygiene with hand sanitizers is a constant must." "Another example is having to pour a bucket of water into the tank of the toilet in order to flush. And keep in mind that our residents are old and not used to such physical activity," wrote Greene.</p> <p>9. MSN.com October 16, 2024 <u>Nursing home permanently closing, residents and workers fighting to keep jobs and homes</u></p>

	<p>By Hector Molina and Zoe Strothers It's a race against time to keep a nursing home in Waterbury from permanently closing. Residents and workers of the Abbott Terrace Medical Center are fighting to keep their jobs and homes. Ann Galloway's brother is one of the 180 residents who call Abbott Terrace home. "I'm there every Sunday visiting my brother," Galloway said. But with his nursing home's imminent closure, Ann's brother is being relocated to a different facility in Torrington. . . The nursing home lost federal funding last month due to failure to meet health and safety requirements and won't be able to stay open.</p>
Public Sessions	<p>10. Executive Office of Health and Human Services Friday, November 1, 2024, 10:00 a.m., Standard Payments to Nursing Facilities, Public Hearing</p>
<p>Support Dignity Alliance Massachusetts</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 <i>The Dignity Digest</i> and posted on the website.</p> <p>https://dignityalliancema.org/donate/</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration!</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 Questions or comments can be directed to Legislative Work Group Chair Richard (Dick) Moore at moore8473@charter.net.</p>
Websites	
Blogs	
Podcasts	
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	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
Money Follows the Person	MassHealth Money Follows the Person The Money Follows the Person (MFP) Demonstration helps older adults and people with disabilities move from nursing facilities, chronic disease or rehabilitation hospitals, or other qualified facilities back to the community. Statistics as of September 27, 2024: 710 people enrolled, most in nursing facilities 173 people transitioned out of nursing facilities 10 people through the cycle since 2023, off the program, living independently in the community. 38 people approved for AHVP (Alternative Housing Voucher Program) nursing home vouchers, 14 currently in use Open PDF file, 1.34 MB, MFP Demonstration Brochure MFP Demonstration Brochure - Accessible Version MFP Demonstration Fact Sheet MFP Demonstration Fact Sheet - Accessible Version	
Determination of Need (Pending proposals)	Massachusetts Department of Public Health Lasell Village, Inc. – Conservation Long Term Care Project Lasell House is a thirty-eight (38) bed Medicare certified skilled nursing facility, located in Newton. This project is a phased renovation of the third floor Skilled Nursing Facility Lasell House. The facility has twenty-five (25) total bedrooms accommodating up to thirty-eight (38) residents. At present, all twenty-five (25) bedrooms have a toilet and sink with only one of the twenty-five (25) bedrooms having its own shower (the Special Care Isolation Bedroom). The other patients are currently transported to the Tub/Shower Room resulting in patients having to wait to receive a shower when the room is not occupied. Upon completion of the phased renovation, the facility will provide skilled nursing care in seventeen (17) Private Bedrooms and three (3) Semi-Private Bedrooms. The Semi-Private Bedrooms will be able to accommodate two residents or allow for a couple to remain together as they age through the Continuum of Care. The twenty (20) total bedrooms accommodate twenty-three (23) licensed beds with each bedroom having a full bathroom including toilet, sink, and shower. A select number of rooms will also be outfitted with additional structural blocking within the ceilings to accommodate Hoyer lifts in the future if they are needed. The tub room will be relocated to the lower level within the same building and located directly off the elevator. Service spaces will include a nursing station and two charting stations, a rehabilitation gym, dining space with nourishment kitchen, clean linen, clean utility room, medication room, oxygen storage, general storage, and public	

	<p>bathrooms. A new Linen Chute will be integrated into the building from the third floor emptying into a new Soiled Linen Room located in the lower level. The chute will alleviate the need for soiled linen closets to be located on the unit and will assist with infection prevention.</p> <p>The feel of the existing facility is reminiscent of a hospital setting as was typical of most skilled nursing facilities when Lasell House was constructed. One of the goals of this renovation, and one that is tied to Lasell’s overall desire to improve the culture is to create a more homelike and welcoming feel within the facility. To achieve this goal, the new design does not include a central nurse’s station and instead locates nurses and charting stations directly off the corridors so that they are easily accessible and able to monitor patients without being in the main circulation space. While finished materials still need to be durable and meet the fire rated standards for a skilled nursing facility, the design team will choose warm and inviting materials that would feel more like a home setting. Patient bedrooms will have new beds, bedside cabinets, bureaus, chairs, and window treatments as part of the renovation. Common areas will have new furniture, tables, and other accessories.</p> <p>Regarding building systems, the existing main mechanical, electrical, and plumbing infrastructure will remain, and the new design will connect to these existing systems. Improvements for patient comfort will be made by providing each bedroom with its own thermostat to independently control heating and cooling as currently two bedrooms share a single thermostat control.</p> <p>Additionally, the existing windows on the third floor will be replaced with new high-performing energy efficient windows. The roof on the building will be replaced as it is past its useful life.</p> <p>The Maximum Capital Expenditure (MCE) for the project is \$6,703,239.35.</p> <p>Application Documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application (PDF) (DOCX) • Capital Costs (XLSX) • Affiliated Parties (PDF) (DOCX) • Change in Service (PDF) (DOCX) • CPA Report (PDF) (DOCX) • Attachments (PDF) (DOCX)
<p>Nursing Home Closures (pending)</p>	<p>Massachusetts Department of Public Health <i>Highview of Northampton</i> <i>Closure date: February 6, 2025</i> <i>Public hearing date: Pending</i> Notice of Intent to Close (PDF) (DOCX) Massachusetts Nursing Home Survey Performance Tool and the CMS Nursing Home Compare website.</p>
<p>Nursing Home Closures</p>	<p>Massachusetts Department of Public Health <i>Marion Manor, South Boston</i> <i>Closure date: September 11, 2024</i> <i>Bridgewater Nursing & Rehab, Bridgewater</i> <i>Closure date: May 24, 2024</i> <i>Savoy Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, New Bedford</i> <i>Closure date: April 3, 2024</i> <i>New England Sinai Hospital Transitional Care Unit</i> <i>Closure date: April 2, 2024</i> <i>South Dennis Health Care, Dennis</i> <i>Closure date: January 30, 2024</i></p>

	<p><i>Arnold House Nursing Home</i>, Stoneham Closure date: September 22, 2023</p> <p><i>Willimansett East</i>, Chicopee Closure date: June 6, 2023</p> <p><i>Willimansett West</i>, Chicopee Closure date: June 6, 2023</p> <p>Chapin Center Springfield Closure date: June 6, 2023</p> <p><i>Governors Center</i>, Westfield Closure date: June 6, 2023</p> <p><i>Emerson Rehabilitation and Transitional Care Unit</i> Closure date: May 17, 2023</p> <p><i>Stonehedge Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center</i>, West Roxbury Closure date: February 10, 2022</p> <p><i>Heathwood Healthcare</i>, Newton Closure date: January 5, 2022</p> <p><i>Mt. Ida Rest Home</i>, Newton Closure date: December 31, 2021</p> <p><i>Wingate at Chestnut Hill</i>, Newton, MA Closure date: October 1, 2021</p> <p><i>Halcyon House</i>, Methuen Closure date: July 16, 2021</p> <p><i>Agawam HealthCare</i>, Agawam Closure date: July 27, 2021</p> <p><i>Wareham HealthCare</i>, Wareham Closure date: July 28, 2021</p> <p><i>Town & Country Health Care Center</i>, Lowell Closure date: July 31, 2021</p>
Nursing homes with admission freezes	<p>Massachusetts Department of Public Health <u>Highview of Northampton</u></p>
Massachusetts Department of Public Health Determination of Need Projects	<p>Massachusetts Department of Public Health <i>Determination of Need Projects: Long Term Care 2023</i> <u>Navigator Homes of Martha's Vineyard, Inc. – Long Term Care Substantial Capital Expenditure</u> <u>Royal Wayland Nursing Home, LLC – Conservation Long Term Care Project</u> 2022 <u>Ascentria Care Alliance – Laurel Ridge</u> <u>Ascentria Care Alliance – Lutheran Housing</u> <u>Ascentria Care Alliance – Quaboag</u> <u>Berkshire Healthcare Systems, Inc. – Windsor Long Term Care Conservation</u> <u>Fairlawn Rehabilitation Hospital-Hospital/Clinic Substantial Capital Expenditure</u> <u>Long Term Centers of Lexington – Pine Knoll – Long Term Care Conservation</u> <u>Long Term Centers of Wrentham – Serenity Hill – Long Term Care Conservation</u> <u>Next Step Healthcare LLC-Conservation Long Term Care Project</u></p>

	<p><u>Royal Falmouth – Conservation Long Term Care</u> <u>Royal Norwell – Long Term Care Conservation</u> <u>Wellman Healthcare Group, Inc</u> 2020 <u>Advocate Healthcare, LLC Amendment</u> <u>Campion Health & Wellness, Inc. – LTC - Substantial Change in Service</u> <u>Heywood Healthcare, Inc. – Hospital/Clinic Substantial Capital Expenditure</u> <u>Notre Dame Health Care Center, Inc. – LTC Conservation</u> 2020 <u>Advocate Healthcare of East Boston, LLC.</u> <u>Belmont Manor Nursing Home, Inc.</u></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 April 24, 2024 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. 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) Newly added to the listing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somerset Ridge Center, Somerset https://somersetridge rehab.com/ Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225747 • South Dennis Healthcare https://www.nextstephpc.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)

- AdviniaCare Newburyport (3)
<https://www.adviniacare.com/adviniacare-country-center/>
Nursing home inspect information:
<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225332>
- Charwell House Health and Rehabilitation, Norwood (27)
<https://tinyurl.com/Charwell>
Nursing home inspect information:
<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225208>
- Fall River Healthcare (9)
<https://www.nextstephc.com/fallriver>
Nursing home inspect information:
<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225723/>
- Glen Ridge Nursing Care Center, Medford (13)
<https://www.genesishcc.com/glenridge>
Nursing home inspect information:
<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225523>
- Mill Town Health and Rehabilitation, Amesbury (26)
No website
Nursing home inspect information:
<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225318>
- Parkway Health and Rehabilitation Center, West Roxbury (7)
<https://www.bearmountainhc.com/locations/parkway-health-rehabilitation-center/>
Nursing home inspect information:
<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225497>
- Pioneer Valley Health & Rehabilitation Center, South Hadley (24)
<https://pioneervalleyhealth.com/>
Nursing home inspect information:
<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225757>
- Plymouth Harborside Healthcare (4)
<https://www.nextstephc.com/plymouth>
Nursing home inspect information:
<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225284/>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plymouth Rehabilitation and Health Care Center (22) https://plymouthrehab.com/ Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225207 • Royal Norwell Nursing & Rehabilitation Center (4) https://norwell.royalhealthgroup.com/ Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225482/ <p>Massachusetts Facilities that have graduated from the program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marlborough Hills Rehabilitation & Health Care Center, Marlborough https://marlboroughhillsrehab.com/ Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225063/ • Oxford Rehabilitation & Health Care Center, Haverhill https://theoxfordrehabhealth.com/ Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225218/ <p>No longer operating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Dennis Healthcare, South Dennis https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram 																																																
<p><i>Nursing Home Inspect</i></p>	<p>ProPublica <i>Nursing Home Inspect</i> Data updated April 24, 2024</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</p> <p>Deficiencies By Severity in Massachusetts (What do the severity ratings mean?)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Deficiency Tag</th> <th># Deficiencies</th> <th># Facilities</th> <th>MA facilities cited</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>284</td> <td>198</td> <td>Tag B</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C</td> <td>108</td> <td>85</td> <td>Tag C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D</td> <td>7,496</td> <td>1,469</td> <td>Tag D</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>1,965</td> <td>788</td> <td>Tag E</td> </tr> <tr> <td>F</td> <td>656</td> <td>317</td> <td>Tag F</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G</td> <td>568</td> <td>384</td> <td>Tag G</td> </tr> <tr> <td>H</td> <td>44</td> <td>33</td> <td>Tag H</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>Tag I</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J</td> <td>57</td> <td>27</td> <td>Tag J</td> </tr> <tr> <td>K</td> <td>8</td> <td>5</td> <td>Tag K</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> <td>Tag L</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Updated April 24, 2024</p>	Deficiency Tag	# Deficiencies	# Facilities	MA facilities cited	B	284	198	Tag B	C	108	85	Tag C	D	7,496	1,469	Tag D	E	1,965	788	Tag E	F	656	317	Tag F	G	568	384	Tag G	H	44	33	Tag H	I	3	2	Tag I	J	57	27	Tag J	K	8	5	Tag K	L	5	2	Tag L
Deficiency Tag	# Deficiencies	# Facilities	MA facilities cited																																														
B	284	198	Tag B																																														
C	108	85	Tag C																																														
D	7,496	1,469	Tag D																																														
E	1,965	788	Tag E																																														
F	656	317	Tag F																																														
G	568	384	Tag G																																														
H	44	33	Tag H																																														
I	3	2	Tag I																																														
J	57	27	Tag J																																														
K	8	5	Tag K																																														
L	5	2	Tag L																																														
<p><i>Nursing Home Compare</i></p>	<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</p>																																																

	<p>better understanding of certain staffing information and concerns at facilities.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>																		
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>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="479 1478 790 1514">Workgroup</th> <th data-bbox="790 1478 1029 1514">Workgroup lead</th> <th data-bbox="1029 1478 1524 1514">Email</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="479 1514 790 1587">General Membership</td> <td data-bbox="790 1514 1029 1587">Bill Henning Paul Lanzikos</td> <td data-bbox="1029 1514 1524 1587">bhenning@bostoncil.org paul.lanzikos@gmail.com</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="479 1587 790 1623">Assisted Living</td> <td data-bbox="790 1587 1029 1623">John Ford</td> <td data-bbox="1029 1587 1524 1623">jford@njc-ma.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="479 1623 790 1659">Behavioral Health</td> <td data-bbox="790 1623 1029 1659">Frank Baskin</td> <td data-bbox="1029 1623 1524 1659">baskinfrank19@gmail.com</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="479 1659 790 1694">Communications</td> <td data-bbox="790 1659 1029 1694">Lachlan Forrow</td> <td data-bbox="1029 1659 1524 1694">lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="479 1694 790 1795">Facilities (Nursing homes and rest homes)</td> <td data-bbox="790 1694 1029 1795">Jim Lomastro Arlene Germain</td> <td data-bbox="1029 1694 1524 1795">jimlomastro@comcast.net agermain@manhr.org</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	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)	Jim Lomastro Arlene Germain	jimlomastro@comcast.net agermain@manhr.org
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)	Jim Lomastro Arlene Germain	jimlomastro@comcast.net agermain@manhr.org																	

Interest Groups meet periodically (monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly). Please contact group lead for more information.	Home and Community Based Services	Meg Coffin	mcoffin@centerlw.org
	Legislative	Richard Moore	rmoore8743@charter.net
	Legal Issues	Stephen Schwartz	sschwartz@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
	Covid / Long Covid	James Lomastro	jimlomastro@comcast.net
	Incarcerated Persons	TBD	info@DignityAllianceMA.org
Bringing People Home: Implementing the Marsters class action settlement	Website: https://marsters.centerforpublicrep.org/ Center for Public Representation 5 Ferry Street, #314, Easthampton, MA 01027 413-586-6024, Press 2 bringingpeoplehome@cpr-ma.org Newsletter registration: https://marsters.centerforpublicrep.org/7b3c2-contact/		
REV UP Massachusetts	REV UP Massachusetts advocates for the fair and civic inclusion of people with disabilities in every political, social, and economic front. REV Up aims to increase the number of people with disabilities who vote. Website: https://revupma.org/wp/ To join REV UP Massachusetts – go to the SIGN UP page .		
The Dignity Digest	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"> • 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 The Dignity Digest 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: https://dignityalliancema.org/dignity-digest/</i></p> <p><i>For more information about Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, please visit www.DignityAllianceMA.org.</i></p>			