



The Dignity Digest

Issue # 269

February 3, 2026

The Dignity Digest contains 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.

Guide to news items in this week's *Dignity Digest*

Nursing Homes

- [Up next for nursing home surveys: more after-hours inspections, consistent team staffing](#) (**McKnights Long-Term Care News**, February 1, 2026)

Assisted Living

- [Did a Luxury Nursing Home Hold a 91-Year-Old Woman Captive?](#) (**New York Times (free access)**, January 28, 2026)

Veteran Topics

- [Audit Finds Violations of State Regulation, Gaps in Oversight and Emergency Preparedness at Veterans' Homes at Holyoke and Chelsea](#) (**Office of State Auditor Diana DiZoglio**, January 14, 2026)

Workforce

- [Governor Healey Demands Secretary Noem Extend Temporary Protected Status for Haitians](#) (**Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll**, January 30, 2026)

State Audits

- [Massachusetts Auditor details how SNAP, MassHealth schemes were carried out](#) (***Boston Herald**, January 31, 2026)
- [Auditor DiZoglio's Bureau of Special Investigations Identifies Nearly \\$12 Million in Public Benefit Fraud in FY25](#) (**Office of State Auditor Diana DiZoglio**, January 30, 2026)

From Around the Country

- [Out-of-State Donors Push Nursing Home Campaign Contributions to New Heights](#) (**Bacon's Rebellion**, February 1, 2026)


In Person Sessions

- [Legislative and budget briefing](#) (**Coalition for Homeless Individuals**, Tuesday, February 3, 10:30 a.m., State House, Room 222)

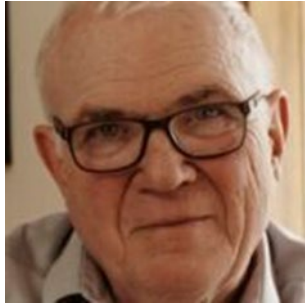
Webinars and Online Sessions

- **Quarterly Meeting (Marsters Advisory Group for Independent Living Centers and Aging Service Access Points**, Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 10:00 a.m.)
- **Quarterly Meeting (Marsters Advisory Group on Behavioral Health and Cultural Competency**, Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 11:00 a.m.)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaping Action: Findings on Use of Housing Choice Vouchers (Citizens' Housing & Planning Association's Housing Policy Action Center, Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 12:00 p.m.) • February Virtual Office Hours (VOH) (UMass Boston's Management of Aging Services Program, Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 7:00 p.m.) • Meeting (Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services, Friday, February 6, 2026, 1:00 p.m.)
<p>Quotes</p>	<p><i>The knock on the door is already happening. The only remaining question is whether we will answer it in time.</i></p> <p>Does Long-Term Care in America Need a Wellness Check?, (Published in My AGS Online (American Geriatric Society), February 1, 2026)</p> <p><i>The question isn't whether aging in place matters. It's whether our commitment to choice and dignity extends to all the ways people might age well, including together.</i></p> <p>The Missing Middle: Why Aging Policy Needs Congregate Living Models (Generations Now (American Society on Aging), January 27, 2026)</p> <p><i>It appears that, in this no-campaign-contribution-limits state [Virginia], paying politicians and lobbyists is much cheaper than paying nurses and physicians to care for nursing home residents.</i></p> <p>Out-of-State Donors Push Nursing Home Campaign Contributions to New Heights (Bacon's Rebellion, February 1, 2026)</p> <p><i>"For countless residents across the Commonwealth, these programs [SNAP and MassHealth] offer access to everyday items they need, including food and medical services. Through the work of our fraud examiners, we continue to help ensure they operate with transparency, accountability, and equity.</i></p> <p>State Auditor Diane DiZoglio, Auditor DiZoglio's Bureau of Special Investigations Identifies Nearly \$12 Million in Public Benefit Fraud in FY25 (Office of State Auditor Diana DiZoglio, January 30, 2026)</p>

	<p><i>In health care, Haitian TPS holders serve as nurses, home health aides, certified nursing assistants, technicians, and support staff in hospitals, community health centers, nursing homes and home-based care settings. Massachusetts and much of the nation are already facing workforce shortages in this sector, and if these workers suddenly lose their legal status and work authorization, the result will be more severe staffing shortages, increased health care costs, reduced access to care, and additional strain placed on an already stressed health care system.</i></p> <p><u>Governor Healey Demands Secretary Noem Extend Temporary Protected Status for Haitians</u> (Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, January 30, 2026)</p>
<p>Commentary Offered by DignityMA Participants</p>  <p>Richard T. Moore is Chair of the DignityMA Legislative Workgroup and a member of the Coordinating Committee. He is a former Massachusetts State Senator.</p>	<p><u>Does Long-Term Care in America Need a Wellness Check?</u> Published in My AGS Online (American Geriatric Society) February 1, 2026 By Richard T. Moore</p> <p>Summary: In this call to action, Dick Moore argues that the U.S. long-term care system is in a state of crisis that demands an immediate, candid "wellness check" to address its structural failures. He asserts that the system remains reactive rather than preventive, prioritizing institutional nursing home care over the home-based support that people actually prefer while relying on an overstretched and undervalued workforce. He calls upon clinical and advocacy leaders, such as the American Geriatrics Society and the National Consumer Voice, to reframe "quality" around human dignity, autonomy, and lived experience rather than mere regulatory compliance, warning that continuing to ignore these clear signals of distress is an abdication of responsibility toward older adults and people with disabilities. Full text available <u>here</u>.</p>
<p>Commentary Offered by</p>	<p><u>The Missing Middle: Why Aging Policy Needs Congregate Living Models</u> Generations Now (American Society on Aging) January 27, 2026</p>

DignityMA
Participants



James A. Lomastro, PhD, is a member of the Coordinating Committee for Dignity Alliance Massachusetts and a surveyor for CARF International. He writes frequently on issues concerning nursing homes, home- and community-based services, private equity, artificial and augmented intelligence, and caregiving. He had an extensive career in healthcare administration and academia.

By James Lomastro

Comprehensive aging policy should invest in diverse congregate living models and remove regulatory barriers that make homelike group settings difficult to establish.

"The Missing Middle: Why Aging Policy Needs Congregate Living Models" examines the housing gap facing older adults who have too much income for subsidized housing but too little for high-end assisted living. The article argues that aging policy must move beyond the binary choice of either "aging in place" or institutional care by incentivizing congregate living models, such as co-housing and shared homes. These communal options provide a scalable solution to the dual crises of affordability and social isolation, allowing seniors to pool resources and leverage peer support while maintaining their independence. To succeed, the author suggests that policymakers must reform zoning laws and financial regulations to better support these creative, community-based housing alternatives.

Recruitment

See: [Listings on MASterList.com's Job Board](#) for all current listings

In Person Sessions

1. [Coalition for Homeless Individuals](#)

Tuesday, February 3, 10:30 a.m.

State House, Room 222

[Legislative and budget briefing](#)

Agenda: the state of individual homelessness in Massachusetts, how it differs from family shelter, and how the need is shifting due to demand, demographics and federal funding changes. Speakers include Housing Committee Chair Rep. [Richard Haggerty](#), Rep. [John Moran](#), Clinical & Support Options Vice President of Housing & Homeless Services Jane Banks, and Somerville Homeless Coalition Executive Director Michael Libby.

Webinars and Online Sessions

2. **Marsters Advisory Group for Independent Living Centers and Aging Service Access Points**

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Quarterly Meeting

Agenda:

- Marsters Data Summary, Y2Q2;
- The State's Quarterly Metrics Report: July-September, 2025;
- ABI MFP Resource List; and
- CTLP Informed Choice Policy

For more information contact: Karen Detmers, kdetmers@cpr-ma.org

3. **Marsters Advisory Group on Behavioral Health and Cultural Competency**

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 11:00 a.m.

	<p><i>Quarterly Meeting</i> Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marsters Data Summary, Y2Q2; • The State’s Quarterly Metrics Report: July-September, 2025; • ABI MFP Resource List; and • CTLP Informed Choice Policy <p>For more information contact: Karen Detmers, kdetmers@cpr-ma.org</p> <p>4. Citizens’ Housing & Planning Association’s Housing Policy Action Center Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 12:00 p.m. Shaping Action: Findings on Use of Housing Choice Vouchers The group plans to present new research findings on patterns of voucher use across the state as well as program insights and implications for lawmakers, advocates and service providers. CHAPA’s Housing Policy Action Center will also have a live Q&A. CHAPA Zoom registration</p> <p>5. UMass Boston’s Management of Aging Services Program Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 7:00 p.m. February Virtual Office Hours (VOH) This is an open session held every month, open to students, faculty, alumni of the UMass Gerontology programs, and their partners, colleagues, and friends working in, or interested in, aging services, research, and practice. VOH for February will include an important and timely discussion focused on caregiving. Topics will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The evolving role of family and informal caregivers • Navigating aging services, long-term services, and supports • Systemic gaps in caregiver support and emerging opportunities • How policy, organizations, and professionals can better support caregivers <p>Log in here: https://umassboston.zoom.us/j/96818511612</p> <p>6. Governor’s Advisory Council on Veterans Services Friday, February 6, 2026, 1:00 p.m. Meeting VSAccess</p>
<p>Previously posted webinars and online sessions</p>	<p>Previously posted webinars and online sessions can be viewed at: https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/</p>
<p>Nursing Homes</p>	<p>7. McKnights Long-Term Care News February 1, 2026 Up next for nursing home surveys: more after-hours inspections, consistent team staffing By Kimberly Marselas CMS is intensifying its oversight of nursing homes by increasing the frequency of after-hours and weekend inspections to ensure that quality of care remains consistent when regular administrative staff are not</p>

	<p>present. These updated survey protocols also emphasize "consistent assignment," a practice where the same staff members are regularly assigned to the same residents to foster stronger relationships and better clinical outcomes. By expanding the timing of these reviews and focusing on staffing continuity, federal regulators aim to address long-standing concerns regarding care fluctuations and ensure that facilities maintain high standards 24/7. This shift reflects a broader effort to modernize enforcement and hold providers more accountable for the quality of life and safety of their residents at all times.</p>
<p>Assisted Living</p>	<p>8. New York Times (free access) January 28, 2026 <u>Did a Luxury Nursing Home Hold a 91-Year-Old Woman Captive?</u> By Christopher Maag <i>Her memory was failing, and the \$28,000-a-month assisted living facility wouldn't let her leave. Was it protecting her from an untrustworthy guardian?</i></p> <p>The New York Times article describes a dramatic standoff involving Diana Multare, an 84-year-old resident of a Manhattan assisted living residence, who refused to be transferred to another facility. The core of the story highlights several critical issues in the long-term care sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Conflict: The assisted living residence sought to discharge Ms. Multare, citing her complex medical needs and behavioral challenges. Ms. Multare and her advocates argued that the transfer was a "patient dumping" tactic used to remove high-needs residents who are less profitable or more difficult to manage. • The Standoff: For several days, Ms. Multare barricaded herself in her room, supported by activists and family members, drawing significant media attention to the lack of resident protections. • Legal and Regulatory Gaps: The piece examines the difficulty residents face when challenging discharges. Even when state regulators find a discharge improper, nursing homes often refuse to readmit the resident, leaving them in "hospital limbo." • Wider Implications: The article frames this case as a symbol of the "dignity vs. profit" struggle within the sector, noting that as private equity and corporate ownership increase, residents with high-care needs or those who are vocal about their rights are increasingly vulnerable to forced displacement. <p>The situation eventually ended with a temporary court intervention, but it remains a prominent example of the ongoing debate over resident autonomy and the enforcement of discharge regulations.</p>
<p>Veteran Topics</p>	<p>9. Office of State Auditor Diana DiZoglio January 14, 2026 <u>Audit Finds Violations of State Regulation, Gaps in Oversight and Emergency Preparedness at Veterans' Homes at Holyoke and Chelsea</u> <i>Holyoke Veterans' Home Withholds Documentation from State Auditor's Office, Raising Concerns Around Transparency and Accountability</i></p> <p>A recent audit by State Auditor Diana DiZoglio's office uncovered significant regulatory violations and oversight gaps at the Veterans'</p>

	<p>Homes in Holyoke and Chelsea, particularly regarding emergency preparedness and resident care standards between 2020 and 2023. The findings reveal that Holyoke failed to perform consistent nursing "intentional rounding," lacked an electronic health record system, and improperly withheld documentation related to the 2020 COVID-19 outbreak, prompting the Auditor to pursue legal action for transparency. Similarly, the Chelsea facility was found to have fallen short of meeting veterans' clinical care needs, failed to maintain updated resident assessments, and neglected mandatory emergency drill requirements. Consequently, the Auditor is calling for immediate administrative reforms, including the modernization of medical records and stricter adherence to safety protocols, to prevent future tragedies and ensure Massachusetts veterans receive high-quality care.</p>
<p>Workforce</p>	<p>10. Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll January 30, 2026 <u>Governor Healey Demands Secretary Noem Extend Temporary Protected Status for Haitians</u> Governor Maura Healey has <u>formally requested</u> that U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian nationals, emphasizing the severe economic and humanitarian consequences of allowing the designation to expire. In a letter to the Department of Homeland Security, Governor Healey highlighted that Massachusetts is home to over 45,000 Haitian TPS holders who serve as an essential pillar of the state's workforce, particularly within the healthcare, transportation, and hospitality sectors. She warned that the loss of work authorization for these individuals would exacerbate existing labor shortages, strain the long-term care system, and disrupt the lives of thousands of families who have been integrated into their communities for over a decade. Additionally, the Governor noted that the volatile security situation and humanitarian crisis in Haiti continue to make a safe return impossible, reinforcing the urgent need for continued federal protection.</p>
<p>State Audits</p>	<p>11. *Boston Herald January 31, 2026 <u>Massachusetts Auditor details how SNAP, MassHealth schemes were carried out</u> By Tim Dunn Massachusetts State Auditor Diana DiZoglio's Bureau of Special Investigations (BSI) recently identified nearly \$12 million in fraudulent public assistance benefits for the 2025 fiscal year, highlighting significant vulnerabilities in the state's social safety net. According to the report, the Fraud Investigations Unit uncovered over \$4.1 million in fraud within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and more than \$1.3 million within MassHealth, involving schemes such as undisclosed income and the misappropriation of benefits. Auditor DiZoglio emphasized that these investigations are critical for maintaining the transparency and integrity of public programs, ensuring that taxpayer-funded resources remain available for the residents who truly qualify for and rely on them for essential food and medical care. The findings have prompted renewed calls for administrative accountability</p>

	<p>and more rigorous oversight to prevent the exploitation of these vital services.</p> <p>12. Office of State Auditor Diana DiZoglio January 30, 2026 <u><i>Auditor DiZoglio's Bureau of Special Investigations Identifies Nearly \$12 Million in Public Benefit Fraud in FY25</i></u> Massachusetts State Auditor Diana DiZoglio's Bureau of Special Investigations (BSI) identified nearly \$12 million in fraudulent public assistance benefits during the 2025 fiscal year, according to its latest annual report. The investigations unit completed 4,179 cases, uncovering significant fraud within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which accounted for over \$4.1 million, and MassHealth, which saw more than \$1.3 million in identified fraud. In addition to identifying these discrepancies, the bureau secured nearly \$800,000 through civil recoveries and contributed to several high-profile legal actions across the Commonwealth. Auditor DiZoglio highlighted that these oversight efforts are essential for maintaining the integrity of the social safety net, ensuring that taxpayer-funded resources remain available for the residents who truly qualify for and depend on them.</p>
<p>From Around the Country</p>	<p>13. Bacon's Rebellion February 1, 2026 <u><i>Out-of-State Donors Push Nursing Home Campaign Contributions to New Heights</i></u> By James C. Sherlock The article "Out-of-State Donors Push Nursing Home Campaign Contributions to New Heights" reports on the surge of political spending by "Organizing for Virginia Seniors," a group funded by nursing home chains based in New York and New Jersey. This organization has become one of the top political donors in Virginia, contributing hundreds of thousands of dollars to key General Assembly members, Governor Spanberger's inaugural committee, and Attorney General Jones, with a notable preference for Democratic candidates. The author links these contributions to broader lobbying efforts by the nursing home industry, specifically noting the influence of the New Jersey-based Eastern Healthcare Group. Ultimately, the piece criticizes the industry's strategy, arguing that these out-of-state "nursing home barons" are prioritizing the purchase of political influence over investing in the front-line nurses and physicians necessary to provide quality care for their residents.</p>
<p><i>A Raise for Mom: Campaign to Increase the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)</i></p>	<p><i>The Campaign to Increase the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)</i> For nearly 20 years, the Personal Needs Allowance for Nursing Home and Rest Home residents has been stuck at \$72.80 per month. If inflation had been factored since the amount was last set, the allowance should now be about \$113.42. Costs for everything have increased over the last two decades, but the PNA has remained unchanged. That means that folks residing in nursing homes and rest homes have been paying ever higher prices for their personal needs – items not covered within the care, room, and board required to be provided by nursing and rest homes. These residents are obligated to pay almost all their monthly Social Security and other income for their basic care leaving the PNA to cover all other life's necessities. Amplifying this situation, Massachusetts has the highest cost</p>

	<p>of living of any state in the continental United States – meaning these vulnerable residents can afford less each and every year.</p> <p>Three similar bills have been filed in the Massachusetts Legislature this year and are awaiting a public hearing with the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, chaired by Senator Cindy Friedman and Representative John Lawn. The bills to raise the PNA are Senate Bill 887 by Senator Joan Lovely and others; Senate Bill 482 by Senators Patricia Jehlen and Mark Montigny and others; and House Bill 1411 by Representative Thomas Stanley and others. As of the middle of May, twenty-nine legislators (11 senators, 16 representatives) have already co-sponsored one or more of these bills. DignityMA, AARP Massachusetts, and LeadingAge Massachusetts are among the statewide organizations that have indicated support of the PNA legislation. There’s still time for other legislators to become co-sponsors. Please contact your state senator and representative using this link: https://dignityalliancema.org/take-action/#/25. It literally takes less than a minute to deliver the message.</p> <p>If you are a nursing or rest home resident, family member, or caregiver and have a story about the inadequacy of the current PNA, your story can help put an important human face on why this raise is so necessary. Please submit your story via https://tinyurl.com/ForgetMeNotPNA or you can email your story to Dignity Alliance MA (info@DignityAllianceMA.org), noting at least your first name and town where you live so that we can include your story in the testimony submitted to the Legislature.</p> <p><i>*We selected the Forget-me-not as our symbol to encourage legislators to remember older adults in nursing and rest homes who have gone so long without a raise in the PNA.</i></p>
<p>Books by DignityMA Participants</p>	<p><u><i>A Perfect Turmoil: Walter E. Fernald and the Struggle to Care for America’s Disabled</i></u> By Alex Green <u>Buy the book here</u></p> <p>Alex Green teaches political communications at Harvard Kennedy School and is a visiting fellow at the Harvard Law School Project on Disability and a visiting scholar at Brandeis University Lurie Institute for Disability Policy. He is the author of legislation to create a first-of-its-kind, disability-led human rights commission to investigate the history of state institutions for disabled people in Massachusetts.</p> <p><u><i>American Eldercide: How It Happened, How to Prevent It</i></u> By <u>Margaret Morganroth Gullette</u> <u>Buy the book here.</u></p> <p>Margaret Morganroth Gullette is a cultural critic and anti-ageism pioneer whose prize-winning work is foundational in critical age studies. She is the author of several books, including <i>Agewise</i>, <i>Aged by Culture</i>, and <i>Ending Ageism, or How Not to Shoot Old People</i>. Her writing has appeared in publications such as the <i>New York Times</i>, <i>Washington Post</i>, <i>Guardian</i>, <i>Atlantic</i>, <i>Nation</i>, and the <i>Boston Globe</i>. She is a resident scholar at the Women’s Studies Research Center, Brandeis, and lives in Newton, Massachusetts.</p>
<p>Bringing People Home: The Marsters Settlement</p>	<p>Webpages: https://www.centerforpublicrep.org/court_case/marsters-et-al-v-healey-et-al/ https://marsters.centerforpublicrep.org/</p> <p>Marsters data for the calendar year 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 499 people who have returned and are active in the community • Efforts to validate status of 63 others who are in the community • Target for 2025 and 2026 is 600 transitions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,369 currently enrolled • 100 AHVP vouchers issued for transitions: 71 used, 10 in process. The Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP) is a state-funded rental assistance program in Massachusetts specifically designed for non-elderly (under age 60) people with disabilities who have low incomes.
Support Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Please Donate!	<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. The 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>
Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Legislative Endorsements	<p>Information about the legislative bills which have been endorsed by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, including the text of the bills, can be viewed at: https://tinyurl.com/DignityLegislativeEndorsements</p> <p>Questions or comments can be directed to Legislative Work Group Chair Richard (Dick) Moore at dickmoore1943@gmail.com.</p>
Websites	
Blogs	
Podcasts	
YouTube Channels	
Previously recommended websites	<p>The comprehensive list of recommended websites has migrated to the Dignity Alliance MA website: https://dignityalliancema.org/resources/. Only new recommendations will be listed in <i>The Dignity Digest</i>.</p>
Previously posted funding opportunities	<p>For open funding opportunities previously posted in <i>The Tuesday Digest</i> please see https://dignityalliancema.org/funding-opportunities/.</p>
Websites of Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Members	<p>See: https://dignityalliancema.org/about/organizations/</p>

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
MassHealth Eligibility Information	MassHealth / Massachusetts Medicaid Income & Asset Limits for Nursing Homes & Long-Term Care Table of Contents (Last updated: December 16, 2024) Massachusetts Medicaid Long-Term Care Definition Income & Asset Limits for Eligibility Income Definition & Exceptions Asset Definition & Exceptions Home Exemption Rules Medical / Functional Need Requirements Qualifying When Over the Limits Specific Massachusetts Medicaid Programs How to Apply for Massachusetts Medicaid	
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 March 31, 2025: 344 people transitioned out of nursing facilities in 2024 49 transitions in January and February 2025 910 currently in transition planning Open PDF file, 1.34 MB, MFP Demonstration Brochure MFP Demonstration Brochure - Accessible Version MFP Demonstration Fact Sheet MFP Demonstration Fact Sheet - Accessible Version	
Nursing Home Closures	List of Nursing Home Closures in Massachusetts Since July 2021: https://dignityalliancema.org/2025/04/07/nursing-home-closures-since-july-2021/	
Determination of Need Projects	List of Determination of Need Applications regarding nursing homes since 2020: https://dignityalliancema.org/2025/04/07/list-of-determination-of-need-applications/ Recent approval: Town of Nantucket – Long Term Care Substantial Capital Expenditure Approved May 5, 2025	
List of Special Focus Facilities	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services <i>List of Special Focus Facilities and Candidates</i> https://www.cms.gov/files/document/sff-posting-candidate-list-march-2025.pdf Updated March 26, 2025 CMS has published a new list of Special Focus Facilities (SFF). SFFs are nursing homes with serious quality issues based on a calculation of deficiencies cited during inspections and the scope and severity level of those citations. CMS publicly discloses the names of the facilities chosen to participate in this program and candidate nursing homes. To be considered for the SFF program, a facility must have a history (at least 3 years) of serious quality issues. These nursing facilities generally have more deficiencies than the average facility, and more serious problems such as harm or injury to residents. Special Focus Facilities have more frequent surveys and are subject to progressive enforcement until it either graduates from the program or is terminated from Medicare and/or Medicaid.	

<p><i>Nursing Home Inspect</i></p>	<p>ProPublica <i>Nursing Home Inspect</i> Data updated October 15, 2025 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 (July 1, 2022 through September 30, 2025). Massachusetts listing: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/state/MA 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>in # Reports</th> <th>MA facilities cited</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>257</td> <td>187</td> <td>Tag B</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C</td> <td>77</td> <td>63</td> <td>Tag C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D</td> <td>5,993</td> <td>1,193</td> <td>Tag D</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>1,872</td> <td>630</td> <td>Tag E</td> </tr> <tr> <td>F</td> <td>446</td> <td>226</td> <td>Tag F</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G</td> <td>420</td> <td>278</td> <td>Tag G</td> </tr> <tr> <td>H</td> <td>54</td> <td>30</td> <td>Tag H</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>Tag I</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J</td> <td>64</td> <td>31</td> <td>Tag J</td> </tr> <tr> <td>K</td> <td>30</td> <td>9</td> <td>Tag K</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L</td> <td>7</td> <td>2</td> <td>Tag L</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Updated October 15, 2025</p>	Deficiency Tag	# Deficiencies	in # Reports	MA facilities cited	B	257	187	Tag B	C	77	63	Tag C	D	5,993	1,193	Tag D	E	1,872	630	Tag E	F	446	226	Tag F	G	420	278	Tag G	H	54	30	Tag H	I	2	1	Tag I	J	64	31	Tag J	K	30	9	Tag K	L	7	2	Tag L
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<p>Nursing Home Compare</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 better understanding of certain staffing information and concerns at facilities. https://tinyurl.com/NursingHomeCompareWebsite</p>																																																
<p>Data on Ownership of Nursing Homes</p>	<p>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services <i>Data on Ownership of Nursing Homes</i> CMS has released data giving state licensing officials, state and federal law enforcement, researchers, and the public an enhanced ability to identify common owners of nursing homes across nursing home locations. This information can be linked to other data sources to identify the performance of facilities under common ownership, such as owners affiliated with multiple nursing homes with a record of poor performance. The data is available on nursing home ownership will be posted to data.cms.gov and updated monthly.</p>																																																
<p>DignityMA Call Action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for state bills that advance the Dignity Alliance Massachusetts' Mission and Goals – State Legislative Endorsements. • Support relevant bills in Washington – Federal Legislative Endorsements. • Join our Work Groups. • Learn to use and leverage social media at our workshops: Engaging Everyone: Creating Accessible, Powerful Social Media Content 																																																
<p>Access to Dignity Alliance social media</p>	<p>Email: info@DignityAllianceMA.org Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/DignityAllianceMA/ Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/dignityalliance/ LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/dignity-alliance-massachusetts Twitter: https://twitter.com/dignity_ma?s=21 Website: www.DignityAllianceMA.org</p>																																																
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Workgroup</td> <td>Workgroup lead</td> <td>Email</td> </tr> </table>	Workgroup	Workgroup lead	Email																																													
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<p>Participation opportunities with Dignity Alliance Massachusetts</p> <p>Most workgroups meet bi-weekly via Zoom.</p> <p>Interest Groups meet periodically (monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly).</p> <p>Please contact group leaders for more information.</p>	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	jimlomastro@comcast.net
	Home and Community Based Services	Meg Coffin	mcoffin@centerlw.org
	Legislative	Richard Moore	Dickmoore1943@gmail.com
	Legal Issues	Stephen Schwartz	sschwartz@cpr-ma.org
	Interest Group	Group lead	Email
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	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	<p>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/</p>		
REV UP Massachusetts	<p>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.</p>		
The Dignity Digest	<p>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</p>		
Note of thanks	<p>Thanks to the contributors to this issue of <i>The Dignity Digest</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wynn Gerhardt • Bill Henning • Dick Moore <p>Special thanks to the MetroWest Center for Independent Living for assistance with the website and MailChimp versions of <i>The Dignity Digest</i>. <i>If you have submissions for inclusion in <u>The Dignity Digest</u> or have questions or comments, please submit them to Digest@DignityAllianceMA.org.</i></p>		
<p><i>Dignity Alliance Massachusetts is a broad-based coalition of organizations and individuals pursuing fundamental changes in the provision of long-term services, support, and care for older adults and persons with disabilities. Our guiding principle is the assurance of dignity for those receiving the services as well as for those providing them. The information presented in "The Dignity Digest" is obtained from publicly available sources and does not necessarily represent positions held by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts.</i></p>			

Previous issues of *The Tuesday Digest* and *The Dignity Digest* are available at: <https://dignityalliancema.org/dignity-digest/>
For more information about Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, please visit www.DignityAllianceMA.org.