



Disability Policy Consortium

Dignity Alliance
Focus Presentation

www.dpcma.org



Overview

- DPC is Massachusetts' leading disability rights advocacy organization.
- Guided by the credo "About Us, By Us," our mission is to ensure that the disability community plays a leading role in making decisions that affect our lives
- We accomplish this through:
 - Grassroots advocacy & policy development
 - Community-based, participatory action research (CBPAR)
 - Disability-led training and consulting services
 - Helping people with and without disabilities get the care they need from their health insurance plans
- Large majority of staff and board have disabilities
- Check out DPC's [2025 Impact Report](#)

Celebrating 30 Years



Founded in 1996



Advocacy

- Grassroots community organizing
- Legislative and state policy
- Building leadership among MA disability community
- Empowering people with disabilities and allies to advocate for disability rights
- Collaborating with partners and state officials
- DPC's full Legislative Access

Agenda: <https://www.dpcma.org/legislative-priorities>

Recent and Current Advocacy

- Passing estate recovery reform
- Changing state house rules to give enough advance notice of hearings to request ASL interpreters
- Preventing collapse of CCA, which serves 30,000 One Care members and 15,000 SCO members
- Wheelchair repair reform
- Health care anti-discrimination
- Improving access to affordable accessible housing
- Insurance coverage for hearing aids
- Developing new MA disability leaders via Paul Spooner Generational Leadership Summit

Research

- Community-based, participatory action research (CBPAR)
- Unique approach to studying disparities faced by disability community
- Lived experience (LE) experts – people with disabilities and experience with specific issue being studied conduct interviews and focus groups with participants
- Current research areas include
 - HCBS in Latino/Spanish-speaking communities in Springfield (AcademyHealth and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)
 - One Care Care Coordination (Community Living Policy Center (CLPC) at Brandeis University)
 - Progressive Employment (Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at UMass Boston)

Training and Consulting

- Trainings on disability history, disability competent care, disability inclusion, and community awareness
- Consulting and technical assistance on workplace inclusion, member experience evaluations, community engagement, and accessible practices
- Recent and current projects include:
 - Profiling PCAs and consumer-employers with BCBS Foundation
 - [ABLE Lab](#): Civic Engagement cohort with Boston Disabilities Commission
 - Full-day training on accessible abortion care
- Learn more here: <https://www.dpcma.org/disability-dei>

My Ombudsman

- MA's state Medicaid ombudsman program for all of MassHealth
 - Only one in the country run by a CBO
- Anyone on MassHealth (One Care, ACOs, fee-for-service, etc) can call My Ombudsman for help understanding their benefits, getting access to services, appealing a denial, etc
- Report trends to MassHealth
- Partner with other organizations for outreach to community
- Learn more and reach out here: <https://www.myombudsman.org>



My Ombudsman