



# The Dignity Digest

Issue # 282

May 5, 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](mailto:info@DignityAllianceMA.org).

## Reflection

*"It is not enough for a great nation merely to have added new years to life—our objective must also be to add new life to those years. . . The heart of our program is to enable the older citizen to maintain his independence and dignity, and to remain in his own home and community as long as possible."*

President John F. Kennedy, *Special Message to the Congress on the Needs of the Nation's Senior Citizens*, February 21, 1963

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

### Nursing Homes

[\*Physical disorders, ADLs, cognition, and depression in nursing home residents: a parallel mediation analysis\*](#) (**Springer Nature Link**, May 2, 2026)

[\*Skilled Nursing Facility Network Capacity and Hospital Length of Stay\*](#) (**JAMA Open Network**, April 30, 2026)

### Home and Community Based Services

[\*New grim financial details of South Shore elder agency facing collapse\*](#) (**Patriot Ledger via AOL**, April 25, 2026)

### Housing

[\*Governor Healey Announces Winners of Massachusetts ADU Design Challenge\*](#) (**Office of the Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll**, May 1, 2026)

### Health Care Topics

[\*How Healthy Are Oats?\*](#) (**New York Times (free access)**, April 13, 2026)

### Aging Topics

[\*My Parents Are in Their Mid-80s. Why Won't They Plan for the End?\*](#) (**\*New York Times**, May 3, 2026)

**Office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell**

	<p><a href="#"><u>\$7.4 Billion Settlement With Purdue Pharma And Sackler Family Goes Into Effect</u></a> (Office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell, May 1, 2026)</p> <p><a href="#"><u>AG Campbell Secures \$5 Million Settlement with Adroit for Unfair and Deceptive Sales and Administration of Health Plans</u></a> (Office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell, April 29, 2026)</p> <p><a href="#"><u>AG's Office Secures Indictments Against Plymouth County Caregiver For Caretaker Neglect, Kidnapping, And Unemployment Fraud</u></a> (Office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell, April 28, 2026)</p> <p><b>From Around the Country</b></p> <p><a href="#"><u>How 'nursing homes without walls' are helping seniors remain in their homes</u></a> (Ottawa Citizen, May 3, 2026)</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Tackling the High Cost of Care</u></a> (AARP Washington, May 1, 2026)</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Governor DeWine, Ohio Department of Aging Announce Launch of Ohio Aging Compass</u></a> (Ohio Department of Aging, May 1, 2026)</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Michigan bill could raise nursing home residents' allowance</u></a> (Detroit Free Press, May 1, 2026)</p>
<p>Quotes</p>	<p><i>“Accessory dwelling units [ADU] can help families stay together, create more housing options and lower costs in communities across Massachusetts. We made ADUs legal by right across the state, and now we’re making it easier for homeowners to take the next step. These winning designs give people real, practical starting points they can use to create a home for a parent, a caregiver, a young adult starting out or a renter looking for a more affordable place to live.”</i></p> <p>Governor Maura Healey, <a href="#"><u>Governor Healey Announces Winners of Massachusetts ADU Design Challenge</u></a> (Office of the Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, May 1, 2026)</p> <p><i>“It really made us think that we were looking at this all wrong. (Their reasons for relocating to a nursing home) were never for anything medical. It was always sort of what we call the grey zone, often things we take for granted, but after a certain age they become vital to deciding whether you are going to stay at home or not.”</i></p> <p>Suzanne Dupuis-Blanchard, Director of the Centre for Aging Research at the University of Moncton, <a href="#"><u>How 'nursing homes without walls' are helping seniors remain in their homes</u></a> (Ottawa Citizen, May 3, 2026)</p>

*South Shore Elder Services "has suffered significant operating losses, has a net deficiency in net assets, and has stated that substantial doubt exists about its ability to continue as a going concern."*

*[New grim financial details of South Shore elder agency facing collapse](#)  
(Patriot Ledger via AOL, April 25, 2026)*

*"The Ohio Aging Compass is a major step forward in transparency and accessibility for older adults and their families. Ohioans told us they wanted a simpler, more streamlined way to navigate aging resources, and we listened. This new platform reflects our commitment to ensuring Ohio remains the best place to age in the nation."*

*Governor Mike DeWine, [Governor DeWine, Ohio Department of Aging Announce Launch of Ohio Aging Compass](#) (Ohio Department of Aging, May 1, 2026)*

*"Having a bill introduced to increase the PNA (personal needs allowance) would mean that the quality of life for nursing home residents across Michigan would improve. I would be able to purchase toothpaste for my sensitive teeth, bathing and skincare products for sensitive skin and a haircut on a more timely basis. It would also validate that our voices are being heard and that we are entitled to a sense of dignity."*

*Pattie Townsend, 66, vice president of the resident council at Medilodge of West Bloomfield, Michigan, [Michigan bill could raise nursing home residents' allowance](#) (Detroit Free Press, May 1, 2026)*

*Many nursing homes across the country aren't prepared for power outages, according to a federal audit, putting residents at risk. Meanwhile, roughly 73% of the nation's 15,000-plus nursing homes are running on inadequate or unreliable emergency power systems.*

## May Is Older Americans Month



President John F. Kennedy

President Kennedy was the first President to recognize and celebrate the value of older persons in American life.

### **Office of the President of the United States, John F. Kennedy**

#### *Proclamation 3527—Senior Citizens Month*

April 18, 1963

#### **A Proclamation**


*Whereas* there are now more than seventeen million persons aged sixty-five and over in our population, and this number is expected to increase to twenty-four million by 1980; and *Whereas* this large segment of our population represents a great national resource of skills, wisdom, and experience upon which much of our Nation's progress has been built and which continues to enrich our daily lives and to provide counsel and leadership; and

*Whereas* all persons reaching their later years should have opportunity to share fully in the benefits of our advances in economic wealth, science, technology, and culture; and *Whereas* all informational and educational means should be used to foster an environment in which our senior citizens can gain this opportunity and can lead useful and satisfying lives, consistent with their capacities; and *Whereas* the Federal Government should provide leadership, encouragement, and assistance to the States, communities, and voluntary organizations in utilizing the potentials of our elder citizens:

*Now, Therefore, I, John F. Kennedy, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the month of May 1963 as Senior Citizens Month; and I urge all persons and public and private organizations to cooperate in its observance by increasing community awareness of the problems faced by older men and women, strengthening services and opportunities to meet their special needs, giving recognition to their past and present contributions, and making this special month the beginning of continuing interest and activity on their behalf. I also invite the Governors of the States, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, and appropriate officials in other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to join in the observance of Senior Citizens Month.*

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States of America to be affixed.*

DONE at the City of Washington this 18th day of April in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and eighty-seventh.



JOHN F. KENNEDY  
By the President:

DEAN RUSK  
*Secretary of State*



***Older Americans Month***  
**Administration on Community Living**

Every May, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) leads the nation’s observance of Older Americans Month, a time to recognize older Americans' contributions, highlight aging trends, and reaffirm our commitment to serving older adults.

The 2026 theme, Champion Your Health, focuses on prevention, wellness, and personal responsibility as cornerstones of healthy aging. It encourages taking an active role in managing your own health, advocating for yourself, accessing preventive care, and making informed decisions that support independence.

On this site, find materials to help you celebrate, including this year's logo and sample article. Use #OlderAmericansMonth on social media to share your plans and see what others are doing!

<https://acl.gov/oam/older-americans-month>

Commentary Offered by DignityMA Participants



***More geriatric care a must***  
Worcester Telegram  
May 3, 2026  
By Richard T. Moore

The Massachusetts Senate deserves strong praise for its proposal (S.3041) to provide full-tuition scholarships at UMass Chan Medical School for students who commit to practicing family medicine for at least five years in underserved communities. It is a thoughtful response to the commonwealth’s growing shortage of primary care physicians. As the House considers this proposal, it should strengthen it by making clear that eligibility includes training in geriatric medicine.

Massachusetts is aging rapidly. Adults over 85 are the fastest-growing segment of our population and are most likely to live

Richard T. Moore is Chair of the DignityMA Legislative Workgroup and a member of the Coordinating Committee. He is a former Massachusetts State Senator.

with multiple chronic illnesses, frailty, dementia and the risks of polypharmacy. Their care often depends on one physician coordinating treatment among specialists while helping families manage medications, long-term care and difficult decisions about independence and dignity. That requires specialized geriatric expertise.

Family medicine physicians are often the frontline providers for older adults, especially in community health centers and hospital systems serving low-income patients – the very settings this pilot program is designed to support. Without explicit inclusion of geriatric medicine, the bill risks overlooking one of the most urgent health care workforce shortages we face. This is not separate from primary care; it is central to it. Better geriatric care means fewer preventable hospitalizations, fewer medication errors and fewer premature nursing home placements.

The Senate has taken an important first step. The House should ensure that family medicine includes physicians pursuing geriatric expertise. In an aging commonwealth, caring well for older adults is not optional, it is a public necessity.

### **One Year Later: Is Massachusetts Truly Becoming Age-Friendly? - May 8, 2025-2026**

*A Vision Declared, but Not Yet Delivered*

By Richard T. Moore

April 30, 2026

On May 8, 2025, Maura Healey issued Executive Order 642, positioning Massachusetts as a national leader in building an “age-friendly” state government. The Order recognized a fundamental demographic reality: the population is aging rapidly, and public policy must evolve accordingly. It called for a whole-of-government approach—integrating aging into housing, transportation, health care, economic policy, and community life. It required each Executive Office to designate a Positive Aging Point Person, conduct internal policy reviews, identify best practices, and engage stakeholders. It also envisioned a Governor’s Advisory Group and alignment with the statewide ReiMAging Aging 2030 initiative. The vision was both timely and necessary. The question, one year later, is whether that vision has translated into meaningful change for older adults in Massachusetts.

Are Older Adults Better Off Today?

The most important measure of any policy initiative is whether it improves people’s lives. By that standard, there is no clear evidence that older adults in Massachusetts are better off today as a result of Executive Order 642. There are no publicly available metrics comparing conditions before and after the Order, no reporting on outcomes such as housing stability, access to home- and community-based services, caregiver support, or health equity, and no framework for measuring progress over time. While state agencies may now more frequently reference “age-friendly” principles in their planning language, these rhetorical shifts do not amount to demonstrable improvements in lived experience. As the available evidence indicates, implementation remains largely undocumented and impact largely unmeasured, leaving observers unable to draw a credible connection between the Order and real-world outcomes.

#### Policy Change: More Continuity Than Transformation

Executive Order 642 laid out a series of concrete steps intended to drive policy change, but those steps have not translated into visible reforms. The required agency policy scans—arguably the centerpiece of implementation—have not been made public, and there is no indication that their findings have led to specific changes in regulations, programs, or administrative practices. The designated Positive Aging Point Persons, intended to form a cross-agency network of accountability, have not been publicly identified, limiting both transparency and stakeholder access. The Governor’s Advisory Group, which was meant to institutionalize diverse input, has no visible membership, meeting record, or published recommendations. Without these elements, it is impossible to determine whether stakeholder perspectives have influenced decision-making in a structured way. Massachusetts continues to advance initiatives that benefit older adults, but these efforts appear to follow pre-existing policy trajectories rather than emerging from the Executive Order itself. In this sense, the Order has reinforced an existing direction without generating new, traceable policy change.

#### The Missing Element: Stakeholder Engagement

The Executive Order explicitly emphasized the importance of engaging stakeholders such as advocacy organizations, service providers, and older adults themselves. Yet one year later, there is no clear public evidence that such engagement has been systematically carried out under the framework of EO 642. There are no published consultation processes, no summaries of stakeholder input, and no documentation showing how that input has shaped policy decisions. This absence is more than procedural; it undermines the legitimacy of the initiative. An age-friendly state cannot be built without the voices of those it is meant to serve, and without visible engagement, there is no assurance that policies reflect real needs or lived experiences.

#### Budget Reality: No Traceable Impact

The Governor's Fiscal Year 2027 budget provides a critical test of whether EO 642 has influenced state priorities. If the Order were driving change, one would expect to see budgetary alignment—investments clearly tied to age-friendly goals, cross-agency coordination, and a framework for tracking spending on aging-related initiatives. Instead, there is no evidence of such alignment. While the budget continues to fund programs that support older adults, these investments predate the Executive Order and are not identified as part of an age-friendly strategy. There is no tagging of expenditures, no cross-cutting analysis, and no narrative connecting fiscal decisions to the Order's objectives. The absence of budgetary integration suggests that EO 642 has not penetrated the core machinery of government where priorities are most clearly expressed.

#### A Framework Without Accountability

At its core, Executive Order 642 suffers from a structural limitation: it relies on voluntary implementation without enforceable requirements, dedicated funding, or mandated public reporting. It establishes expectations but does not create mechanisms to ensure they are met. As a result, the key components of the Order—policy scans, stakeholder engagement, advisory structures, and cross-agency coordination—exist largely without public visibility or accountability. What has emerged instead is a shared vocabulary around aging and a conceptual framework for action.

These are important first steps, but they are not sufficient to produce systemic change.

#### The Larger Question: What Does It Mean to Be Age-Friendly?

The experience of the past year raises a deeper question: does declaring government “age-friendly” make it so? The evidence suggests that it does not. Becoming truly age-friendly requires more than intention; it requires measurable goals, transparent processes, and demonstrable outcomes. It requires embedding aging into decision-making in ways that can be seen, evaluated, and improved over time. Without these elements, the concept risks becoming aspirational language rather than operational reality.

#### Conclusion: Aspiration Without Proof

One year after its issuance, Executive Order 642 stands as a statement of aspiration rather than a record of accomplishment. It has articulated a compelling vision and elevated the importance of aging in public policy, but it has not yet demonstrated who is responsible for implementation, how decisions are being made, or what outcomes have improved. Most importantly, it has not produced the evidence needed to answer the central question it invites: are older adults in Massachusetts better off? At this stage, the honest answer is that we do not know—and that uncertainty reflects not a lack of effort, but a lack of transparency, measurement, and accountability. In public policy, intentions matter, but results matter more. Until those results are visible and verifiable, Massachusetts cannot yet claim to be truly age-friendly.

#### **GOP senator's remark that Americans need to do more work immediately backfires**

By Richard T. Moore

April 29, 2026

What might older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers say in response to this? "As we have demographic challenges, as we have lower birth rates, an aging workforce, less immigration, we're going to need people to do more work," Sen. Jon Husted said. So I asked Jim Lomastro's assistant how Dignity Alliance participants might respond. Here's what I learned:

Older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers might respond by saying that this framing treats people primarily as economic inputs rather than as human beings with dignity, rights, and limits.

They could say:

“People are not simply units of labor to be pushed harder because of demographic trends. Older adults have spent decades contributing through paid work, caregiving, volunteering, military service, and community leadership. Many are now managing health challenges, fixed incomes, and caregiving responsibilities of their own. Asking people to ‘do more work’ without addressing wages, caregiving supports, healthcare, housing, and age discrimination misses the real issue.”

Caregivers might add:

“Family caregivers are already doing more work—often unpaid, invisible, and exhausting work that saves the healthcare system billions. Instead of demanding more, policymakers should support caregivers with paid leave, respite care, better wages for direct care workers, and long-term services and supports.”

People with disabilities might respond:


“Many disabled people want to work and contribute, but face inaccessible workplaces, transportation barriers, discrimination, and threats to essential benefits. The problem is not unwillingness to work—it is systems that exclude people.”

Older advocates might also challenge the assumption behind Jon Husted’s remark by saying:

“Aging is not a problem to be solved by squeezing more productivity from people. Longevity should be seen as a social achievement, not an economic burden. Public policy should focus on building an age-just society where people can live with dignity at every stage of life.”

A stronger response might be:

“If America faces demographic change, the answer is not simply ‘work more.’ It is to redesign work, strengthen caregiving systems, support immigration, invest in accessibility, and value people beyond their labor market output.”

<p>Commentary Offered by DignityMA Participants</p>  <p>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.</p>	<p><b><u>Massachusetts promised community-based care for those with serious mental illness. Budget cuts could undermine that.</u></b>  <b>CommonWealth Beacon</b>  May 2, 2026  By James Lomastro</p> <p>Summary:  This article discusses the precarious future of the landmark 2024 legal settlement, <i>Marsters v. Healey</i>, in which Massachusetts committed to providing community-based residential and support services for individuals with serious mental illness (SMI) currently residing in nursing homes. The settlement was designed to end the unnecessary institutionalization of thousands of residents, ensuring they receive care in the least restrictive settings possible as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act. However, the author warn that looming state budget cuts and fiscal constraints threaten the implementation of these court-mandated reforms. Without adequate and sustained funding for housing, clinical supports, and workforce development, the state risks failing its legal obligations and leaving a vulnerable population trapped in institutional settings that are often ill-equipped to meet their specific mental health needs. The piece serves as a call to action for policymakers to prioritize the investments necessary to fulfill the promise of community integration and dignity for all residents.</p>
<p>Recruitment</p>	<p>See: <a href="#">Listings on MASterList.com’s Job Board</a> for all current listings</p>
<p>In Person and / or Online Events</p>	<p><b>Massachusetts Commission for the Blind</b>  <b><u>Statutory Advisory Board Meeting</u></b>  Tuesday, May 5, 2026, 12:00 p.m.  Agenda includes a report from Commissioner John Oliveira and program updates.  <a href="#">Agenda and Access</a></p> <p><b>Mass Aging Access</b>  <b><u>Older Adult Lobby Day</u></b>  Wednesday, May 6, 2026, 11:30 a.m.  Great Hall, State House, Boston  Mass Aging Access hosts its annual Older Adult Lobby Day, alongside AARP Massachusetts, Massachusetts Councils on Aging, Massachusetts Senior Action Council and the Older Adult Behavioral Health Network. The event will bring together older adults, caregivers and advocates pushing for funding for the Senior Nutrition Program, which supports 73,000 people. Attendees include Sen. Jehlen and</p>

	<p>Rep. Stanley, who are the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Aging and Independence, and Mass Aging Access Executive Director Betsey Crimmins.</p> <p><a href="https://agingaccess.org/older-adult-lobby-day-may6/">https://agingaccess.org/older-adult-lobby-day-may6/</a></p> <p>Health Policy Commission's Behavioral Health Workforce Center Special Event: <i>Behavioral Health Care Under Pressure in Massachusetts: Policy Solutions for a Sustainable Workforce</i></p> <p>Thursday, May 7, 2026, 9:00 a.m., Suffolk University Law School, 120 Tremont St., Boston</p> <p>The event features a research presentation and panel discussion. Speakers include Undersecretary for Health and Human Services Amy Rosenthal, Rep. Domb, HPC Board Vice Chair Martin Cohen and HPC Executive Director David Seltz.</p> <p><a href="#">More Info and Livestream</a></p>
<p><b>Webinars and Online Sessions</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><i>Supporting Family Caregivers: New Data, New Resources</i></p> <p>Wednesday, May 6, 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Join the <a href="#">U-M Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation's National Poll on Healthy Aging</a> and the <a href="#">Michigan Health Endowment Fund</a> for a webinar exploring the experiences, needs, and challenges of caregivers. Hear from U-M experts about <a href="#">recent poll findings</a> from caregivers in the U.S. and Michigan, including insights on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The health and financial impacts of caregiving</li> <li>• Caregivers' awareness and use of available support resources</li> <li>• Beliefs about the government's role in paying for caregiving</li> </ul> <p>Presenters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jeff Kullgren, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., Director, U-M National Poll on Healthy Aging</li> <li>• Florence Johnson, Ph.D., R.N., M.S.N., M.H.A., Assistant Professor, U-M School of Nursing</li> <li>• Sarah Patterson, Ph.D., M.A., Research Assistant Professor, U-M Institute for Social Research</li> <li>• Stephanie Carpenter, M.S.W., Director of Planning &amp; Advocacy, AgeWays Nonprofit Senior Services</li> <li>• Jenn Dubey, Operations Manager, Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan</li> <li>• Kari Sederburg, Vice President, Programs, Michigan Health Endowment Fund</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Register</a></p> </li> <li> <p><i>A Conversation with the Founders of Management of Aging Services (MAS)</i></p> <p><b>UMass Boston Gerontology</b></p> <p>Wednesday, May 6, 2026, 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>A Conversations on Aging with Ellen Birchander and Lillian Glickman, cofounders of the Management of Aging Services (MAS) program at UMass Boston, about leadership, legacy, and the future of the aging services field. Join via zoom link: <a href="https://umassboston.zoom.us/j/96818511612">https://umassboston.zoom.us/j/96818511612</a></p> </li> <li> <p><i>9th annual Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day Symposium</i></p> <p><b>The National Council on Aging</b></p> </li> </ol>

Thursday, May 7, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

The National Council on Aging is proud to host the 9th annual Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day Symposium. This event is co-sponsored with the U.S. Administration for Community Living, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Registration is free and includes a full day of sessions on how to best meet the mental health needs of older adults. In partnership with Rush University's E4 Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Disparities in Aging, we anticipate offering free continuing education (CEs) for several professions.

Please visit the Continuing Education page for more information.

Join at 10:00 am ET for the welcome and keynote speaker, Kevin Briggs.

[Register](#)

4. ***Tracking Nursing Home Dollars: Oversight and Insights***

**The Long Term Care Community Coalition**

Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 1:00 p.m.

In this webinar, Ernest Tosh will provide an overview of nursing home finances and profitability, offering insights into how financial practices influence operations, staffing, and resident care. Drawing on his extensive experience analyzing the long-term care sector, he will discuss key trends, challenges, and areas of concern related to financial transparency and accountability. Join us to gain a clearer understanding of how financial dynamics shape nursing home performance and what they mean for residents, families, advocates, and policymakers.

[Register for LTCCC's May 12 Webinar](#)

5. ***Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Basics***

**Justice in Aging**

Wednesday, May 20, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a vital benefit for extremely low-income older adults or people with disabilities who cannot work enough to meet their basic needs. The eligibility requirements and rules governing the program are complicated and confusing. Becoming familiar with the rules will help advocates ensure eligible clients can get benefits and keep them. This webinar will explain the benefits SSI provides, how SSI differs from other Social Security benefits, the eligibility requirements for the program, and strategies to prevent individuals from having their benefits incorrectly reduced or terminated.

This webinar will be most useful to aging, disability, and legal aid providers and advocates who work with individuals who might be eligible for SSI.

After viewing this training, attendees will be able to:

- Recognize and explain the difference between SSI and Social Security benefits
- Identify individuals likely to qualify for SSI
- Assess potential obstacles to SSI eligibility

[Register Now](#)

6. ***Person-Centered Mobility for the 21st Century: Leverage technology to improve health, wellness, and engagement.***

	<p><b>AgingIN</b>  Wednesday, May 20, 2026, 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Immobility is one of the most persistent challenges in senior living, affecting resident health, independence, and engagement while placing significant physical and time demands on caregivers.</p> <p>Today’s innovative mobility solutions offer far greater potential to transform daily care by supporting safer movement, promoting resident wellness, and creating opportunities for greater engagement and quality of life.</p> <p>Join Guldmann North America and Brightview Senior Living to discover practical strategies and technology-driven approaches that empower residents, support caregivers, and elevate the standard of care in senior living.</p> <p><b>Learning Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and evaluate modern mobility technologies that enhance resident health, safety, and engagement</li> <li>• Apply evidence-based strategies for implementing person-centered mobility solutions</li> <li>• Analyze the impact of mobility technology on workforce efficiency and Time to Care</li> </ul> <p>Speaker:  Patti Mechan, PT, DPT, MPH, CSPHP  Clinical Director, Guldmann North America  Patti Mechan is a physical therapist with extensive experience across healthcare settings. She holds a Master of Public Health and earned her Doctorate from the University of New England.</p>
<p>Previously posted webinars and online sessions</p>	<p>Previously posted webinars and online sessions can be viewed at:  <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/">https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/</a></p>
<p>Nursing Homes</p>	<p><b>7. Springer Nature Link</b>  May 2, 2026  <i>Physical disorders, ADLs, cognition, and depression in nursing home residents: a parallel mediation analysis</i>  By Jinxin He, Yufeng Guo, Jiaqi Wang, Qi Wang, Gang Bai, Rong Fan, Yingying Geng, Yue Zhang, Zhengran Liu, Yueyang Hu &amp; Siyu Li</p> <p><b>Objective</b>  This study aimed to explore the relationships between physical disorders (visual impairment, hearing impairment, and chewing impairment) and depression among older adults in nursing homes in one city of China, and to examine the parallel mediating roles of activities of daily living (ADLs) and cognition.</p> <p><b>Conclusions</b>  Our findings indicated that hearing and visual impairments were associated with an increased risk of depression, with these effects operating both indirectly through ADLs and cognition. These findings</p>

highlight the necessity of comprehensive geriatric care approaches that integrating sensory rehabilitation with interventions with ADLs and cognitive support.

#### 8. Skilled Nursing News

May 1, 2026

[OIG Report: 73% of Nursing Homes Face Emergency Power Failures, Many Lack Backup Systems](#)

By Amy Stulick

[A recent report](#) from the Office of Inspector General (OIG) reveals that approximately 73% of U.S. nursing homes—nearly 11,000 facilities—have significant deficiencies in their emergency power systems, potentially endangering residents during outages. The audit identified widespread issues including poorly maintained generators, insufficient power capacity to support essential medical equipment and fire safety systems, and the continued use of aging infrastructure, with some equipment being over 40 years old. These systemic vulnerabilities are attributed to limited financial resources, management instability, and high staff turnover, which together compromise the reliability of life-sustaining services during extreme weather events. Consequently, the OIG has recommended that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) strengthen oversight and enforcement of maintenance standards to ensure that facilities can maintain autonomy and safety for their residents during grid failures.

#### 9. JAMA Open Network

April 30, 2026

[Skilled Nursing Facility Network Capacity and Hospital Length of Stay](#)

By Rachel A. Prusynski, DPT, PhD; Zhiyu Yan, MS; Kori S. Zachrison, MD, MSc; et al

Key Points

**Question** Is skilled nursing facility (SNF) capacity within hospital-SNF markets associated with hospital length of stay?

**Findings** This cross-sectional study of 3.34 million Medicare fee-for-service hospitalizations in 2018 and 2019 identified 421 hospital-SNF markets using community detection. Within markets, lower nurse staffing levels were associated with longer hospital stays, particularly among beneficiaries dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid.

**Meaning** These findings suggest that network-defined hospital-SNF markets provide a reproducible framework for measuring post-acute care capacity and may inform strategies to address hospital discharge delays.

Abstract

**Importance** Delays in hospital discharge to skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) are widely viewed by hospital administrators and policymakers as a significant contributor to hospital crowding and adverse patient outcomes. However, the extent to which regional SNF capacity is associated with hospital length of stay (LOS) is not well understood.

**Conclusions and Relevance** Hospital-SNF markets defined by the strength of patient-sharing relationships provide a reproducible framework for examining post-acute care capacity across payer populations. Within

	<p>these markets, for the Medicare fee-for-service population, higher nurse staffing levels were associated with shorter hospital LOS. Strategies to reduce discharge delays and hospital crowding may require closer alignment between hospitals and highly connected SNFs to maintain adequate post-acute care capacity.</p>
<p>Home and Community Based Services</p>	<p><b>10. Patriot Ledger via AOL</b>  April 25, 2026  <a href="#">New grim financial details of South Shore elder agency facing collapse</a>  By Sue Schieble  <a href="#">South Shore Elder Services</a> (SSES), a Braintree-based nonprofit that has served 11 South Shore communities for nearly five decades, is facing a severe financial crisis that has cast "substantial doubt" on its ability to continue operations. Following consecutive years of multi-million dollar losses and a 2025 audit revealing liabilities exceeding assets by \$1.3 million, the state Office of Aging and Independence has announced it will terminate the agency's primary home care contracts at the end of June. This loss of funding will result in the layoff of over 50 employees—roughly a third of the workforce—and has prompted urgent negotiations for SSES to potentially become a subsidiary of the larger <a href="#">Old Colony Elder Services</a> in Brockton. While state officials and SSES leadership are working to transition care plans to minimize service gaps, local Council on Aging directors and advocates express deep concern over the potential disruption to vital programs like Meals on Wheels and home health aide services that thousands of local seniors rely on for their independence.</p>
<p>Housing</p>	<p><b>11. Office of the Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll</b>  May 1, 2026  <a href="#">Governor Healey Announces Winners of Massachusetts ADU Design Challenge</a>  <i>Winning designs will make it easier and more affordable for others to build Accessory Dwelling Units across Massachusetts</i>  Governor Maura Healey recently announced the <a href="#">winners of the Massachusetts ADU Design Challenge</a>, a state-led initiative aimed at streamlining the creation of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) to address the housing shortage. The competition awarded <a href="#">eight top designs</a> from over 100 submissions, showcasing creative solutions for compact, sustainable, and accessible living spaces that will now be made available to the public in a free design repository. By providing these ready-to-use blueprints, the administration seeks to lower the costs and technical barriers for homeowners looking to build "granny flats" or in-law apartments on their properties. This program builds upon the <a href="#">Affordable Homes Act</a>'s statewide legalization of ADUs, forming a key part of the Healey-Driscoll administration's broader strategy to expand housing options and improve affordability across the Commonwealth. The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) also launched a Massachusetts ADU Resource Center at <a href="#">MyMassADU.org</a>.</p>
<p>Health Care Topics</p>	<p><b>12. New York Times (free access)</b>  April 13, 2026</p>

	<p><a href="#"><u>How Healthy Are Oats?</u></a>  By Simar Bajaj  <i>One nutritional superstar really sets them apart.</i>  This article highlights the nutritional powerhouse that is the oat grain, focusing on its high content of beta-glucan—a soluble fiber that effectively lowers "bad" LDL cholesterol and supports heart health. It explains how oats provide sustained energy and promote satiety, making them an excellent choice for weight management and stabilizing blood sugar levels. To help readers incorporate more oats into their diets, the article offers diverse recipe ideas ranging from classic overnight oats and fiber-rich baked oatmeal to savory variations featuring ingredients like sautéed greens, eggs, and avocado. By choosing minimally processed varieties such as steel-cut oats or whole oat groats, consumers can maximize these health benefits while enjoying a versatile and affordable dietary staple.</p>
<p><b>Aging Topics</b></p>	<p><b>13. *New York Times</b>  May 3, 2026  <a href="#"><u>My Parents Are in Their Mid-80s. Why Won't They Plan for the End?</u></a>  By Jessica Nutik Zitter  In this insightful essay, a palliative care physician highlights the dangerous gap between the desire to "age in place" and the physical realities of growing old, using her own parents' resistance to illustrate the difficulty of advanced care planning. She argues that the U.S. healthcare system systematically fails the elderly by prioritizing expensive medical interventions over the essential, time-consuming conversations required to prepare for late-life transitions. By pointing out that Medicare pays significantly more for surgeries than for end-of-life counseling, the author advocates for a shift in policy—including better physician reimbursement, improved medical training in emotional intelligence, and funding for simple home modifications like grab bars. Ultimately, she contends that facing mortality through proactive planning is the only way to safeguard autonomy and prevent a sudden medical crisis from resulting in an unwanted life in a nursing home.</p>
<p><b>Office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell</b></p>	<p><b>14. Office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell</b>  May 1, 2026  <a href="#"><u>\$7.4 Billion Settlement With Purdue Pharma And Sackler Family Goes Into Effect</u></a>  <i>Massachusetts to Receive Up To \$105 Million From Settlement</i>  Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell has announced that a \$7.4 billion settlement with Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family is now legally effective, following years of litigation regarding their role in the opioid crisis. As part of this agreement, Massachusetts is slated to receive up to \$105 million to fund statewide prevention, harm reduction, and recovery initiatives. The settlement permanently bans the Sackler family from the U.S. opioid market and requires the public release of over 30 million internal documents related to their business practices. Furthermore, Purdue's manufacturing operations will transition to a new</p>

	<p>entity, Kinoa Pharma, which will be overseen by an independent board and prohibited from marketing opioids.</p> <p><b>15. Office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell</b>  April 29, 2026  <a href="#"><u>AG Campbell Secures \$5 Million Settlement with Adroit for Unfair and Deceptive Sales and Administration of Health Plans</u></a>  <i>Settlement Includes Significant Restitution to Consumers; Adroit Permanently Barred from Selling Health Plans in Massachusetts</i>  Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell has reached a \$5 million settlement with the Texas-based Adroit Health Group to resolve allegations of deceptive and unfair business practices in the sale of health-related products. The company was accused of misleading Massachusetts consumers by marketing supplemental and non-insurance programs as comprehensive health coverage, failing to provide refunds, and charging unauthorized fees. As part of the agreement, Adroit is permanently barred from selling or administering health plans in the state, and a significant portion of the settlement funds will be dedicated to restitution for affected residents. This enforcement action aims to hold the company accountable for exploiting consumers' needs for affordable coverage and ensures that impacted individuals will be contacted by the Attorney General's Office regarding potential refunds.</p> <p><b>16. Office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell</b>  April 28, 2026  <a href="#"><u>AG's Office Secures Indictments Against Plymouth County Caregiver For Caretaker Neglect, Kidnapping, And Unemployment Fraud</u></a>  The Massachusetts Attorney General's Office has indicted Jennifer Small of Plymouth on charges of caretaker neglect, kidnapping, and unemployment fraud stemming from the alleged severe mistreatment of an elderly, intellectually disabled man under her care. Following the man's death in February 2024, an investigation revealed that he had been kept in a room filled with waste and filth that was locked from the outside, preventing his escape. In addition to the allegations of physical neglect and confinement, Small is accused of fraudulently collecting \$38,000 in unemployment benefits while she was purportedly working as the victim's full-time caregiver. This case, referred to the AGO by local authorities, underscores a tragic failure of oversight and a significant violation of the rights of a vulnerable resident.</p>
<p>From Around the Country</p>	<p><b>17. Ottawa Citizen</b>  May 3, 2026  <a href="#"><u>How 'nursing homes without walls' are helping seniors remain in their homes</u></a>  By Elizabeth Payne  The "Nursing Home Without Walls" (NHWW) program, pioneered by researcher Suzanne Dupuis-Blanchard and recently expanding into Ottawa through a pilot at Perley Health, transforms traditional long-term care facilities into service hubs that support older adults in remaining in their own homes. By leveraging the existing infrastructure and clinical</p>

expertise of nursing homes, the initiative provides essential community-based supports such as health system navigation, medical transportation, social programming to combat isolation, and access to specialized facility resources like assisted baths. This person-centered model aims to bridge the gap in the current care continuum, delaying or preventing the need for institutionalization while offering a cost-effective strategy to alleviate the strain on provincial healthcare budgets. Following a successful implementation in New Brunswick that has grown to include 36 facilities, the program is now serving as a blueprint for national expansion intended to strengthen the capacity of communities to support independent living for their aging populations.

**18. AARP Washington**

May 1, 2026

[\*Tackling the High Cost of Care\*](#)

By Julie Rasicot

The Washington Cares Fund, the nation's first public long-term care insurance program, is scheduled to begin paying out benefits on July 1, 2026, with applications opening in May of that year. Funded by a 0.58 percent payroll tax that began in 2023, the program offers a lifetime benefit of up to \$36,500—adjusted for inflation—to eligible workers who have contributed to the fund. This benefit is designed to be flexible, covering costs for in-home care providers, family caregivers, professional facilities, transportation, and home accessibility modifications. While critics suggest the payout is modest relative to the high costs of nursing home care, proponents view the fund as an essential bridge that helps individuals maintain autonomy and manage medical crises without immediately exhausting personal savings or qualifying for Medicaid.

**19. Ohio Department of Aging**

May 1, 2026

[\*Governor DeWine, Ohio Department of Aging Announce Launch of Ohio Aging Compass\*](#)

Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio Department of Aging have launched the "Ohio Aging Compass," an interactive data dashboard designed to provide a comprehensive, transparent overview of the state's older population and the services they require. This tool aggregates data on demographics, health, economic security, and social factors, allowing users to analyze trends at both the state and county levels. By aligning with Ohio's Strategic Action Plan on Aging, the platform is intended to help policymakers, community organizations, and the public make informed, data-driven decisions to support the well-being of seniors. The dashboard represents a significant step in using technology to identify service gaps and enhance the quality of life for aging residents across the state.

**20. Detroit Free Press**

May 1, 2026

[\*Michigan bill could raise nursing home residents' allowance\*](#)

By Kristi Tanner

	<p>A new bill introduced in the Michigan Legislature, House Bill 5835, proposes a significant increase to the monthly personal needs allowance for Medicaid-funded nursing home residents, aiming to raise the stipend from the current \$60 to \$200. Sponsored by State Representative Karl Bohnak and other lawmakers, the legislation is designed to provide seniors with greater financial autonomy to cover personal expenses not included in their care, such as clothing, toiletries, and haircuts. Proponents argue that the current allowance has failed to keep pace with inflation, leaving residents with very little discretionary income and undermining their quality of life and dignity. By more than tripling this monthly amount, the bill seeks to ensure that thousands of vulnerable residents can better manage the rising costs of basic personal necessities while residing in long-term care facilities.</p>
<p>A Raise for Mom: Campaign to Increase the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)</p>	<p><b><i>The Campaign to Increase the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)</i></b></p> <p>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 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: <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/take-action/#/25">https://dignityalliancema.org/take-action/#/25</a>. 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 <a href="https://tinyurl.com/ForgetMeNotPNA">https://tinyurl.com/ForgetMeNotPNA</a> or you can email your story to Dignity Alliance MA (<a href="mailto:info@DignityAllianceMA.org">info@DignityAllianceMA.org</a>), 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><a href="#"><u><i>A Perfect Turmoil: Walter E. Fernald and the Struggle to Care for America's Disabled</i></u></a>  By Alex Green  <a href="#"><u>Buy the book here</u></a></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><a href="#"><u><i>American Eldercide: How It Happened, How to Prevent It</i></u></a>  By <a href="#"><u>Margaret Morganroth Gullette</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Buy the book here.</u></a></p> <p><b>Margaret Morganroth Gullette</b> 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:  <a href="https://www.centerforpublicrep.org/court_case/marsters-et-al-v-healey-et-al/">https://www.centerforpublicrep.org/court_case/marsters-et-al-v-healey-et-al/</a>  <a href="https://marsters.centerforpublicrep.org/">https://marsters.centerforpublicrep.org/</a></p> <p>Marsters data for the calendar year 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 499 people who have returned and are active in the community</li> <li>• Efforts to validate status of 63 others who are in the community</li> <li>• Target for 2025 and 2026 is 600 transitions</li> <li>• 1,369 currently enrolled</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Support Dignity Alliance Massachusetts</b></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Please Donate!</u></a></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><b>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, <a href="http://www.DignityAllianceMA.org"><u>www.DignityAllianceMA.org</u></a>, which has thousands of visits each month.</b></p>

	<p><b>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.</b></p> <p><a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/donate/">https://dignityalliancema.org/donate/</a></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: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/DignityLegislativeEndorsements">https://tinyurl.com/DignityLegislativeEndorsements</a></p> <p>Questions or comments can be directed to Legislative Work Group Chair Richard (Dick) Moore at <a href="mailto:dickmoore1943@gmail.com">dickmoore1943@gmail.com</a>.</p>		
Websites	<p><b>Massachusetts ADU Resource Center</b>  <a href="http://MyMassADU.org">MyMassADU.org</a>  <a href="https://goclean.masscec.com/adu/">https://goclean.masscec.com/adu/</a></p> <p>The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) also launched a Massachusetts ADU Resource Center at <a href="http://MyMassADU.org">MyMassADU.org</a>. Homeowners that are interested in building an ADU on their property can enter their address at the ADU Resource Center’s website to see what an ADU would look like on their lot, learn more about financing options, and access resources as they navigate the pre-development process.</p>		
Blogs			
Podcasts			
YouTube Channels			
Previously recommended websites	<p>The comprehensive list of recommended websites has migrated to the Dignity Alliance MA website: <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/resources/">https://dignityalliancema.org/resources/</a>. 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 <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/funding-opportunities/">https://dignityalliancema.org/funding-opportunities/</a>.</p>		
Websites of Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Members	<p>See: <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/about/organizations/">https://dignityalliancema.org/about/organizations/</a></p>		
Contact information for reporting complaints and concerns	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Nursing home</b></td> <td> <p><a href="#">Department of Public Health</a></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Print and complete the <a href="#">Consumer/Resident/Patient Complaint Form</a></li> <li>2. Fax completed form to (617) 753-8165</li> </ol> <p>Or</p> <p>Mail to 67 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA 01752</p> <p><a href="#">Ombudsman Program</a></p> </td> </tr> </table>	<b>Nursing home</b>	<p><a href="#">Department of Public Health</a></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Print and complete the <a href="#">Consumer/Resident/Patient Complaint Form</a></li> <li>2. Fax completed form to (617) 753-8165</li> </ol> <p>Or</p> <p>Mail to 67 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA 01752</p> <p><a href="#">Ombudsman Program</a></p>
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MassHealth Eligibility Information	<p><a href="#">MassHealth / Massachusetts Medicaid Income &amp; Asset Limits for Nursing Homes &amp; Long-Term Care</a></p> <p><b>Table of Contents</b> (Last updated: December 16, 2024)</p> <p><a href="#">Massachusetts Medicaid Long-Term Care Definition</a></p>		

	<p><a href="#">Income &amp; Asset Limits for Eligibility</a>  <a href="#">Income Definition &amp; Exceptions</a>  <a href="#">Asset Definition &amp; Exceptions</a>  <a href="#">Home Exemption Rules</a>  <a href="#">Medical / Functional Need Requirements</a>  <a href="#">Qualifying When Over the Limits</a>  <a href="#">Specific Massachusetts Medicaid Programs</a>  <a href="#">How to Apply for Massachusetts Medicaid</a></p>
Money Follows the Person	<p><b>MassHealth</b>  <a href="#">Money Follows the Person</a></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Statistics as of March 31, 2025:</b>  344 people transitioned out of nursing facilities in 2024  49 transitions in January and February 2025  910 currently in transition planning</p> <p><a href="#">Open PDF file, 1.34 MB, MFP Demonstration Brochure</a>  <a href="#">MFP Demonstration Brochure - Accessible Version</a>  <a href="#">MFP Demonstration Fact Sheet</a>  <a href="#">MFP Demonstration Fact Sheet - Accessible Version</a></p>
Nursing Home Closures	<p>List of Nursing Home Closures in Massachusetts Since July 2021:  <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/2025/04/07/nursing-home-closures-since-july-2021/">https://dignityalliancema.org/2025/04/07/nursing-home-closures-since-july-2021/</a></p>
Determination of Need Projects	<p>List of Determination of Need Applications regarding nursing homes since 2020:  <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/2025/04/07/list-of-determination-of-need-applications/">https://dignityalliancema.org/2025/04/07/list-of-determination-of-need-applications/</a></p> <p>Recent approval:  <a href="#">Town of Nantucket – Long Term Care Substantial Capital Expenditure</a>  Approved May 5, 2025</p>
List of Special Focus Facilities	<p><b>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services</b>  <i>List of Special Focus Facilities and Candidates</i>  <a href="https://www.cms.gov/files/document/sff-posting-candidate-list-march-2025.pdf">https://www.cms.gov/files/document/sff-posting-candidate-list-march-2025.pdf</a>  <b>Updated March 26, 2025</b></p> <p>CMS has published a new list of <a href="#">Special Focus Facilities</a> (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.</p> <p>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>
Nursing Home Inspect	<p><b>ProPublica</b>  <b><i>Nursing Home Inspect</i></b></p> <p><b>Data updated October 15, 2025</b></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 (July 1, 2022 through September 30, 2025).</p>

	<p>Massachusetts listing:  <a href="https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/state/MA">https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/state/MA</a>  <b>Deficiencies By Severity in Massachusetts</b>  <a href="#">(What do the severity ratings mean?)</a></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><a href="#">Tag B</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>C</td> <td>77</td> <td>63</td> <td><a href="#">Tag C</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>D</td> <td>5,993</td> <td>1,193</td> <td><a href="#">Tag D</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>1,872</td> <td>630</td> <td><a href="#">Tag E</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>F</td> <td>446</td> <td>226</td> <td><a href="#">Tag F</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>G</td> <td>420</td> <td>278</td> <td><a href="#">Tag G</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>H</td> <td>54</td> <td>30</td> <td><a href="#">Tag H</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>I</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td><a href="#">Tag I</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>J</td> <td>64</td> <td>31</td> <td><a href="#">Tag J</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>K</td> <td>30</td> <td>9</td> <td><a href="#">Tag K</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>L</td> <td>7</td> <td>2</td> <td><a href="#">Tag L</a></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Updated October 15, 2025</b></p>	Deficiency Tag	# Deficiencies	in # Reports	MA facilities cited	B	257	187	<a href="#">Tag B</a>	C	77	63	<a href="#">Tag C</a>	D	5,993	1,193	<a href="#">Tag D</a>	E	1,872	630	<a href="#">Tag E</a>	F	446	226	<a href="#">Tag F</a>	G	420	278	<a href="#">Tag G</a>	H	54	30	<a href="#">Tag H</a>	I	2	1	<a href="#">Tag I</a>	J	64	31	<a href="#">Tag J</a>	K	30	9	<a href="#">Tag K</a>	L	7	2	<a href="#">Tag L</a>
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Nursing Home Compare	<p><b>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)</b>  <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.  <a href="https://tinyurl.com/NursingHomeCompareWebsite">https://tinyurl.com/NursingHomeCompareWebsite</a></p>																																																
Data on Ownership of Nursing Homes	<p><b>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services</b>  <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 <a href="https://data.cms.gov">data.cms.gov</a> and updated monthly.</p>																																																
DignityMA Call Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Advocate</b> for state bills that advance the Dignity Alliance Massachusetts' Mission and Goals – <a href="#">State Legislative Endorsements</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Support</b> relevant bills in Washington – <a href="#">Federal Legislative Endorsements</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Join</b> our <a href="#">Work Groups</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Learn</b> to use and leverage social media at our workshops: <a href="#">Engaging Everyone: Creating Accessible, Powerful Social Media Content</a></li> </ul>																																																
Access to Dignity Alliance social media	<p>Email: <a href="mailto:info@DignityAllianceMA.org">info@DignityAllianceMA.org</a>  Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/DignityAllianceMA/">https://www.facebook.com/DignityAllianceMA/</a>  Instagram: <a href="https://www.instagram.com/dignityalliance/">https://www.instagram.com/dignityalliance/</a>  LinkedIn: <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/dignity-alliance-massachusetts">https://www.linkedin.com/company/dignity-alliance-massachusetts</a>  Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/dignity_ma?s=21">https://twitter.com/dignity_ma?s=21</a>  Website: <a href="http://www.DignityAllianceMA.org">www.DignityAllianceMA.org</a></p>																																																
Participation opportunities with Dignity Alliance Massachusetts	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Workgroup</th> <th>Workgroup lead</th> <th>Email</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>General Membership</td> <td>Bill Henning Paul Lanzikos</td> <td><a href="mailto:bhenning@bostoncil.org">bhenning@bostoncil.org</a> <a href="mailto:paul.lanzikos@gmail.com">paul.lanzikos@gmail.com</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assisted Living</td> <td>John Ford</td> <td><a href="mailto:jford@njc-ma.org">jford@njc-ma.org</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Behavioral Health</td> <td>Frank Baskin</td> <td><a href="mailto:baskinfrank19@gmail.com">baskinfrank19@gmail.com</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Communications</td> <td>Lachlan Farrow</td> <td><a href="mailto:lfarrow@bidmc.harvard.edu">lfarrow@bidmc.harvard.edu</a></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Workgroup	Workgroup lead	Email	General Membership	Bill Henning Paul Lanzikos	<a href="mailto:bhenning@bostoncil.org">bhenning@bostoncil.org</a> <a href="mailto:paul.lanzikos@gmail.com">paul.lanzikos@gmail.com</a>	Assisted Living	John Ford	<a href="mailto:jford@njc-ma.org">jford@njc-ma.org</a>	Behavioral Health	Frank Baskin	<a href="mailto:baskinfrank19@gmail.com">baskinfrank19@gmail.com</a>	Communications	Lachlan Farrow	<a href="mailto:lfarrow@bidmc.harvard.edu">lfarrow@bidmc.harvard.edu</a>																																	
	Workgroup	Workgroup lead	Email																																														
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	Assisted Living	John Ford	<a href="mailto:jford@njc-ma.org">jford@njc-ma.org</a>																																														
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Communications	Lachlan Farrow	<a href="mailto:lfarrow@bidmc.harvard.edu">lfarrow@bidmc.harvard.edu</a>																																															

<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>	Facilities (Nursing homes and rest homes)	Jim Lomastro	<a href="mailto:jimlomastro@comcast.net">jimlomastro@comcast.net</a>
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	Covid / Long Covid	James Lomastro	<a href="mailto:jimlomastro@comcast.net">jimlomastro@comcast.net</a>
	Incarcerated Persons	TBD	<a href="mailto:info@DignityAllianceMA.org">info@DignityAllianceMA.org</a>
<i>Bringing People Home: Implementing the Marsters class action settlement</i>	<p>Website: <a href="https://marsters.centerforpublicrep.org/">https://marsters.centerforpublicrep.org/</a>  Center for Public Representation  5 Ferry Street, #314, Easthampton, MA 01027  413-586-6024, Press 2  <a href="mailto:bringingpeoplehome@cpr-ma.org">bringingpeoplehome@cpr-ma.org</a>  Newsletter registration: <a href="https://marsters.centerforpublicrep.org/7b3c2-contact/">https://marsters.centerforpublicrep.org/7b3c2-contact/</a></p>		
<i>REV UP Massachusetts</i>	<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: <a href="https://revupma.org/wp/">https://revupma.org/wp/</a>  To join REV UP Massachusetts – go to the <a href="#">SIGN UP page</a>.</p>		
<i>The Dignity Digest</i>	<p>For a free weekly subscription to <i>The Dignity Digest</i>:  <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/contact/sign-up-for-emails/">https://dignityalliancema.org/contact/sign-up-for-emails/</a>  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"> <li>• Wynn Gerhard</li> <li>• Jim Lomastro</li> <li>• Dick Moore</li> </ul> <p>Special thanks to the MetroWest Center for Independent Living for assistance with the website and MailChimp versions of <i>The Dignity Digest</i>.  If you have submissions for inclusion in <i>The Dignity Digest</i> or have questions or comments, please submit them to <a href="mailto:Digest@DignityAllianceMA.org">Digest@DignityAllianceMA.org</a>.</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. Previous issues of The Tuesday Digest and The Dignity Digest are available at: <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/dignity-digest/">https://dignityalliancema.org/dignity-digest/</a> For more information about Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, please visit <a href="http://www.DignityAllianceMA.org">www.DignityAllianceMA.org</a>.</i></p>			