



The Dignity Digest

Issue # 297

August 25, 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.

Reflection

Editor's note:
This quote originates from the groundbreaking, award-winning play [Storm Reading](#) (first produced in 1988), written by and starring disability culture pioneer **Neil Marcus**.

On Autonomy and Inherent Worth

"Disability is not a brave struggle or 'courage in the face of adversity.' Disability is an art. It's an ingenious way to live."

[Neil Marcus](#), Disability Rights Activist and Playwright

True advocacy begins when we stop viewing disability as a personal tragedy or a deficit to be fixed and recognize it as a natural, vital part of the human experience. The strength of our support systems is not measured by institutional walls or protective paternalism, but by how fiercely we defend self-determination, choice, and equal access. When we fight for supported decision-making, expand home and community-based services, and remove physical and societal barriers, we are not merely offering assistance—we are affirming civil rights and ensuring that every individual has the power to author their own life with autonomy and dignity.

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

Nursing Homes

- [Nursing home understaffing is a choice, not a shortage](#) (**KevinMD.com**, August 22, 2026)
- [Is the Risk-Based Survey an Illegal Free Pass for Nursing Homes?](#) (**Centers for Medicare Advocacy**, August 20, 2026)
- [Rethinking Nursing Home Closures: True Market Exits Versus Org Restructuring](#) (**Skilled Nursing News**, August 19, 2026)

Home and Community Based Services

- [Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services for Older Adults: A Primer](#) (**Justice in Aging**, August 20, 2026)

Housing

- [HUD Proposes to Eliminate Agency's Title VI Disparate Impact Regulations; 60-Day Public Comment Period Opens](#) (**National Low Income Housing Coalition**, August 10, 2026)

Aging Topics

	• <u>The 94-Year-Old Author Sharing Her Tips on the 'Final Fifth' of Life</u> (Wall Street Journal, December 31, 2025) Health Care Topics • <u>Most hospital CEO pay packages in Massachusetts rose in 2024, new records show</u> (*Boston Globe, August 17, 2026) • <u>Health Care Bills and Dually Eligible Individuals</u> (Justice in Aging, July 30, 2026) • <u>State Medical Billing Protections for Dually Eligible Individuals</u> (Justice in Aging, July 30, 2026) Caregiving • <u>A new cookbook shows that for Chinatown's aunties, self-care is collective</u> (WBUR, August 20, 2026) Medicare • <u>Churn among sickest Medicare Advantage patients undermining plans' investment in long-term care</u> (McKnights Long-Term Care News, August 24, 2026) Workforce • <u>Expand training programs for entry-level health care jobs</u> (*Boston Globe, August 13, 2026) • <u>Critical Shortages Ahead: Aligning the Nursing and Allied Health Education Pipeline with Growing Employer Demand</u> (Mass Inc Policy Center, July 22, 2026) State Policy • <u>Framingham health care leader joins MA Public Health Council</u> (MetroWest Daily News, August 13, 2026) • (*Boston Herald, August 3, 2026) <u>Healey announces first steps to lower health care costs, investment in primary care</u> Federal Policy • <u>How to fix U.S. healthcare? 'Radical action,' says John McDonough.</u> (The Harvard Gazette, August 18, 2026) • <u>Dingell, Kim Introduce Bill to Include Long-Term Care as Part of Medicare</u> (Office of Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, August 10, 2026) From Around the Country • <u>Putting patients over profits: A Call for Higher Standards in New Mexico's Senior Care</u> (Sante Fe Reporter, August 23, 2026) • <u>Judge orders trial for veterans home that allegedly ordered staff not to use masks during pandemic</u> (McKnights Long Term Care, August 23, 2026) • <u>Judge dismisses lawsuit seeking to dissolve Minnesota nursing home labor standards board</u> (KFGO, August 20, 2026)
Quotes	<i>When we describe chronic understaffing as though it were a natural disaster or an unavoidable consequence of modern health care, we</i>

unintentionally remove the people responsible for creating it.

Staffing shortages sound inevitable.

Management decisions do not.

Why do we accept chronic understaffing as an operational challenge instead of asking whether ownership and management have demonstrated that they are capable of safely operating the facility at all? That may sound like an uncomfortable question, and I really think it should be.

Until we begin asking who is making those decisions, and why they continue to make them despite the consequences, we will keep describing preventable tragedies as staffing problems.

I don't believe they are.

I believe they are accountability problems.

And accountability has always begun with asking the right question.

Ashley Duffy, Esq., [Nursing home understaffing is a choice, not a shortage](#) (KevinMD.com, August 22, 2026)

When skilled nursing care fails, it does so quietly, behind closed doors, away from public view, and at the immense cost of our state's most vulnerable seniors and disabled residents. . . Too often, this crisis is exacerbated by distant, private-equity-backed or corporate chains that view long-term care purely through the lens of profit margins. . .

[B]uilding a new [nursing care] facility is only the first step; the true measure of success will lie in how it operates on a daily basis. To break the pattern that has plagued [the operation of nursing homes] for decades, legislators and health organizations must commit to standard-setting priorities:

- *Fair Compensation: Paying living, competitive wages to recruit and retain compassionate, qualified healthcare professionals locally.*
- *Safe Staffing Levels: Ensuring staff-to-resident ratios prioritize safety, attentiveness, and meaningful interaction over cost-cutting.*
- *Reinvestment in Care: Directing operational resources back into patient programs, proper medical equipment, and staff training rather than administrative extraction.*
- *Community Accountability: Maintaining transparency with local families and state regulators to foster genuine trust.*

Sante Fe, New Mexico attorney Jennifer Foote, [Putting patients over profits: A Call for Higher Standards in New Mexico's Senior Care](#) (Sante Fe Reporter, August 23, 2026)

Significantly, the only mandatory survey task in RBS [Risk-Based Survey] is infection control.

Every other survey task is performed only if the issue is “triggered,” that is, if there is a pending intake about the issue or if the issue is identified either by the ombudsman or onsite (by resident concerns or surveyor observations). Issues not automatically reviewed in RBS include sufficient and competent nurse staffing, resident assessment, dining, environment, kitchen, resident council, medication administration, medication storage and labeling, personal funds, and SNF beneficiary notification review.

The minimal requirements for RBS surveys appear to violate mandatory requirements for surveys, as defined in the Nursing Home Reform Act.

[Is the Risk-Based Survey an Illegal Free Pass for Nursing Homes?](#) (Centers for Medicare Advocacy, August 20, 2026)

“Every bit of effort helps. The more people who come together, the more strength we have as a community. Unity is strength.”

Chinatown Community activist Lydia Lowe, [A new cookbook shows that for Chinatown's aunties, self-care is collective](#) (WBUR, August 20, 2026)

When asked about where they want to live as they age, almost all older adults say they want to live in their homes and get the services they need in the community as opposed to moving into a nursing facility. Unfortunately, the reality is that many older adults cannot make the choice to live at home because they do not have the necessary financial resources or access to paid support.

[Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services for Older Adults: A Primer](#) (Justice in Aging, August 20, 2026)

“The damage to U.S. health and medical care from the 40-year neoliberal era has left considerable harm for patients and consumers, for medical workers at all levels, and for public/population health,” McDonough said. “It will take radical action to reinvigorate the values and principles of our health system that have been lost and eroded. An essential way to do this is to understand how we got to this position in the first place.”

John McDonough, professor of the practice of public health at the [Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health](#), [How to fix U.S. healthcare? ‘Radical action,’ says John McDonough.](#) (The Harvard Gazette, August 18, 2026)

Compensation for the chief executives of major health care systems in Massachusetts rose to new heights in 2024, according to newly released records.

Many health care CEOs received big pay raises while their hospital systems grappled with rising

expenses after the pandemic, narrow operating margins, and statewide upheaval following the collapse of Steward Health Care.

[Most hospital CEO pay packages in Massachusetts rose in 2024, new records show](#) (*Boston Globe, August 17, 2026)

Massachusetts hospitals and nursing homes are facing shortages of a range of entry-level health care workers. This can affect quality of care and also these institutions' finances, if they have to hire temporary "traveling" labor.

[Expand training programs for entry-level health care jobs](#)
(*Boston Globe, August 13, 2026)

By acting now, Massachusetts has the opportunity to strengthen its healthcare workforce, improve access to high-quality care, expand economic opportunity for residents, and preserve the commonwealth's position as a global leader in healthcare. The cost of inaction is simply too great—for patients, providers, communities, and the long-term health of the state's economy.

[Critical Shortages Ahead: Aligning the Nursing and Allied Health Education Pipeline with Growing Employer Demand](#) (Mass Inc Policy Center, July 22, 2026)

"Whether it was his last few months living alone in his own place or now at a care facility, my top priority is making sure my dad can live with dignity and comfort. Like so many Americans though, too often that question becomes what care we can afford. Whether seniors are aging at home or elsewhere, this bill gives them and their families the options they deserve by making home care an affordable and accessible option everywhere. These moments of life are hard enough without having to worry about cost."

U.S. Senator Andy Kim (D-NJ), [Dingell, Kim Introduce Bill to Include Long-Term Care as Part of Medicare](#) (Office of Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, August 10, 2026)

HUD [the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development] [proposed](#) to eliminate the agency's longstanding disparate impact regulations that implement Title VI of the "Civil Rights Act of 1964."

Disparate impact is a long-utilized legal tool used to address discrimination that may not be immediately obvious due to facially neutral policies. The currently proposed changes represent the latest push to erase civil rights protections from HUD regulations.

[HUD Proposes to Eliminate Agency's Title VI Disparate Impact Regulations; 60-Day Public Comment Period Opens](#) (National Low Income Housing Coalition, August 10, 2026)

"We know that healthcare costs are burdening people, families, employers, budgets at the state, the local level, and I can't wait for Washington to fix it."

Governor Maura Healey, (***Boston Herald**, August 3, 2026)

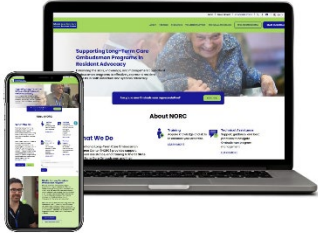
[Healey announces first steps to lower health care costs, investment in primary care](#)

[Author and humorist Judith] Viorst says she chose the term "making meaning" rather than "finding meaning" in talking about how to make the best of what's left. "I believe we're mainly on our own in our last phase of life and need to create our own personal reason for being."

Old age, she says, makes you [live more in the present](#) and savor the moment, whether you're enjoying a glass of chocolate milk, a grandchild's phone call or conversation with friends.

Her favorite proverb, which is included in the book, is this: "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now."

	<u>The 94-Year-Old Author Sharing Her Tips on the 'Final Fifth' of Life</u> (Wall Street Journal, December 31, 2025) <i>Many individuals enrolled in both Medicaid and Medicare (“dually eligible individuals”) are eligible for assistance with Medicare out-of-pockets costs. Thus, any health care bills they receive should raise a red flag that they are being improperly billed or have lost their financial assistance.</i> <u>Health Care Bills and Dually Eligible Individuals</u> (Justice in Aging, July 30, 2026)
Election 2026 	Office of the Secretary of State <u>Early Voting Dates and Locations</u> You can vote early at any early voting location in your community, by mail, or at your polling place on Election Day. If you have any questions, contact the Elections Division at 1-800-462-VOTE (8683) for more information. Please visit <u>www.WhereDoIVoteMA.com</u> to find your polling place. Early Voting Dates and Locations To find your Early Voting location and times visit: <u>https://www.sec.state.ma.us/earlyvotingweb/EarlyVotingSearch.aspx</u>
Life Well Lived  Jason Rosenberg 1945-2026 May he rest in peace.	Jason Rosenberg <u>Jason Rosenberg, longtime advocate for Newton's disabled, dies at 81</u> Wickedlocal.com By Ruth Thompson August 24, 2026 Attorney Jason Rosenberg was a pioneering advocate for disability rights and long-term chair of the Newton Commission on Disability (COD) for over three decades. An accomplished land use and disability law attorney with Rosenberg, Freedman & Lee, he played a foundational role in shaping Newton’s physical and civic landscape by championing the removal of architectural barriers, expanding accessible municipal infrastructure—including curb ramps, automatic doors, and pedestrian signals—and directing millions in Community Development Block Grants toward accessibility initiatives. Through his decades of dedicated civic leadership and legal advocacy, Jason established enduring accessibility standards across the City of Newton, fostering greater equity, full

	integration, and independent community living for residents with disabilities.
Spotlight	PBS <u><i>Aging in America: Survive or Thrive</i></u> Now Streaming <i>Aging in America: Survive or Thrive</i>, narrated by Martin Sheen, is a one-hour documentary that celebrates the promise of increased longevity while addressing crucial and unprecedented public policy challenges. Using Dr. Robert Butler's Pulitzer Prize winning book, <i>Why Survive?</i> as a guide, the film explores critical topics such as ageism, healthcare, economic insecurity, and Alzheimer's disease.
Spotlight 	The National Long-Term Care Ombudsman Resource Center (NORC) <u>www.ltombudsman.org</u> The National Long-Term Care Ombudsman Resource Center (NORC) published a <u>new website</u> which now offers a modern design, improved navigation, and easier access to the information and resources that support the work of Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs across the country. Whether you're an Ombudsman representative looking for resources or a resident, family member, advocate, or provider looking to educate yourself about the Ombudsman program, you'll find a more user-friendly experience designed to help you quickly locate the information you need. Some of the features of the new website include: 1. An updated design that works well on desktops, tablets, and mobile devices. 2. Accessibility features including customizable text size, saturation, and contrast. 3. An enhanced search tool that organizes resources by topic, allowing you to find materials by entering a keyword or selecting a topic from the dropdown menu. 4. Improved navigation to help visitors find information more quickly. 5. Streamlined content and easy access to resources, training materials, publications, and program management information. <u>Main Webpages</u> Click on the links below to view the main webpages for Ombudsman program representatives. <u>Homepage</u>

	Features a resource search of materials, information about the Ombudsman program and how to volunteer; key resources; news; and resource center updates. <u>Training</u> This page centralizes all NORC training resources, making it the go-to hub for building consistent, effective Ombudsman practice. This page includes links to initial certification training materials, NORS training materials, the On-Demand Training Center, and continuing education such as upcoming calls and webinars. <u>Resources</u> The Resources page is the central location for NORC produced resources on key issues affecting long-term care residents. This page offers Ombudsman programs the tools and guidance they need to advocate for residents' rights and quality of care. The page is broken down into topics such as abuse, neglect, and exploitation; transfer and discharge; and family and resident councils. Sub-pages within this section include the Ombudsman Program Examples page, Program Management page, and the Laws & Regulations page. <u>Volunteer Support</u> This page (including the Become a Volunteer and Volunteer Management pages) show how vital volunteers are to the Ombudsman program, how people can join, and how programs can manage and support volunteers effectively. <u>Technical Assistance</u> Technical Assistance is also referred to as "TA" and is practical support for Ombudsman programs. This page provides guidance, tools, and best practices that help Ombudsman programs improve documentation, case handling, communication, outreach, advocacy, and overall program operations. Watch the recording and view the PowerPoint.
Public Hearing	Department of Public Health <i>Transfer of Ownership: Royal Nursing Homes</i> When: Aug 27, 2026 06:00 PM Eastern Time Topic: Royal Transfer of Ownership Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android: https://zoom.us/j/99216755328 Phone one-tap: +19294362866,,99216755328# US (New York)

	Join via audio: +1 929 436 2866 US (New York) Webinar ID: 992 1675 5328 International numbers available: https://zoom.us/j/99216755328 Nursing homes involved with the proposed transfer of ownership: Royal Cape Cod Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Buzzards Bay; Royal Meadow View Center, North Reading; Royal Braintree Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Braintree; Royal Norwell Skilled Nursing Center, Norwell; Royal Westborough Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Westborough; Royal of Cotuit Skilled Nursing Center, Mashpee; Royal Falmouth Nursing Center, Falmouth; Royal Wood Mill Center, Lawrence; Royal Health Care Center, Lowell; Royal Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Falmouth.
Consumer Voice Annual Conference 	Learn, Connect & Collaborate Consumer Voice Annual Conference <u>Dignity Served Daily – Bringing Resident Voices to the Table</u> September 28 – October 1, 2026 Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch St. Louis, Missouri Connect with advocates from across the country to learn, network, and exchange ideas on long-term care issues, including current trends, best practices, and advocacy opportunities. Join us in 2026 in St. Louis, Missouri! Sessions: • Holding Skilled Nursing Facilities Accountable for Facility Assessment Nursing Staffing Plans • The OIG’s Found an Alarming Number of Nursing Facilities Diagnose Residents with Schizophrenia to Mask Their Misuse of Antipsychotic Medications • Locked In and Left Out: Moving On From Illegal and Outdated Locked Door Dementia Care • Assisted Living: Medicaid HCBS Advocacy in 2026 and Beyond • At Risk in a Changing Medicaid World: HR 1 Impact on Nursing Home Residents • From Lived Experience to Lasting Change: Strengthening Resident Council Voice Through Partnerships • Opening Doors: The Advocate’s Role in Helping Residents Return to the Community • Strengthening LTSS Through Connected Communities: Engaging Residents, Families, and Advocates • Stolen Support: Uncovering Human Trafficking of At-Risk Adults • More than a Meeting: Unlocking the Power of Care Conferences • I’m at the Head of My Table • Advocating for the Voiceless: Beyond the Verbalized Complaint

	• From Investigation to Legislation: How a State Ombudsman Council Built an Advocacy Infrastructure and What Every State Can Take Home • From Heart to Page: Crafting Stories That Move People • Younger Residents, Different Wants and Needs: Advocacy Strategies for Supporting People Under 65 in Long-Term Care • The Work Between Us: Strategies for Building Sustainable Elder Justice Collaborations • Nobody Spoke Up – Staff Fear of Retaliation in America’s Nursing Homes • How LTCO Can Empower Residents to Speak Up and Self-Advocate • Ethical Dilemmas and Decision-Making in Long-Term Care Thursday Intensives In-person attendees have the option to attend intensives, Thursday, September 26th from 9:00am-12:00pm. These 3-hour intensives, available for an extra charge, dive deeper into some of the most crucial long-term care issues, presented by experts in the field. The sessions will allow in-person participants to fully engage in skill building, group discussions, and practical exercises. Two topics are available: Follow the Money: Getting to Accountability and Identifying Fraud Presented by Victoria Schall, Laraclay Parker, Lesley Clement, and Sam Brooks Advocating for Residents with Mental Health & Behavioral Health Needs Presented by Dr. Susan Wehry For registration and other information, see: https://theconsumervoice.org/2026-conference/
Recruitment	See: Listings on MASsterList.com’s Job Board for all current listings
In Person and / or Online Events	1. <u>National Disability Employment Awareness Month Celebration</u> Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities Wednesday, October 7, 2026 State House, Boston Schedule of events: • 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Great Hall of Flags <i>National Disability Employment Awareness Month Celebration</i> • 2:00 to 3:30 p.m., Room 428 <i>Panel Discussion: Artificial Intelligence, Disability, and the Future of Work</i> ASL and CART interpreters have been requested. <u>October 7 Registration link here</u>

Webinars and Online Sessions	2. <u>MassHealth Implementation of Federal Policy Changes for Stakeholders & Partners</u> Massachusetts Association for Mental Health Tuesday, August 25, 2026. 12:00 p.m. Thursday, September 10, 2026, 2:00 p.m. A federal law passed by Congress and signed by President Trump is bringing new rules and requirements to MassHealth. Changes to eligibility for certain immigrants will start in October, and other requirements, like work and education requirements and more frequent renewals, begin January 1st. Learn about which MassHealth members will be impacted, our timeline for notifying affected members, and MassHealth's statewide strategy to support members and partners through these new processes. We will be hosting two webinars with the same content for MassHealth stakeholders and partners. Webinar #1: MassHealth Implementation of Federal Policy Changes for Stakeholders & Partners, Tuesday, 8/25 at 12pm Webinar #2: MassHealth Implementation of Federal Policy Changes for Stakeholders & Partners, Thursday, 9/10 at 2pm <u>MassHealth Stakeholders Registration</u>
Previously posted webinars and online sessions	Previously posted webinars and online sessions can be viewed at: <u>https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/</u>
Nursing Homes	3. KevinMD.com August 22, 2026 <u>Nursing home understaffing is a choice, not a shortage</u> By Ashley Duffy, Esq. In an essay for KevinMD.com, attorney Ashley Duffy argues that chronic understaffing in America's nursing homes is not an unavoidable natural disaster or a mere labor shortage, but rather a deliberate business choice driven by corporate management and budgetary priorities. Drawing on her legal experience representing families affected by nursing home neglect, Duffy explains that staffing deficiencies routinely cited in tragic incidents—such as unresponded call lights, untreated bedsores, and preventable falls—stem from calculated executive decisions made in distant corporate boardrooms to leave positions vacant and cut labor costs. She asserts that policymakers, advocates, and families must stop accepting "staffing shortages" as a passive excuse and instead hold corporate owners strictly accountable for prioritizing profit over the safety and dignity of vulnerable residents. 4. Centers for Medicare Advocacy August 20, 2026 <u>Is the Risk-Based Survey an Illegal Free Pass for Nursing Homes?</u> The Center for Medicare Advocacy critiques the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) implementation of a "risk-based survey" (RBS) approach for nursing homes, arguing that it undermines critical oversight and effectively gives certain facilities an unlawful pass from full accountability. Under the policy, approximately 12% of facilities deemed "higher-performing" undergo narrower, modified standard surveys rather

	than comprehensive, on-site recertification inspections across all federal standards. Advocacy groups contend that reducing the scope of standard surveys violates statutory mandates requiring thorough oversight, warning that relying on administrative data and quality metrics fails to catch severe issues like abuse, neglect, inappropriate medication, and understaffing that can only be uncovered through complete, unannounced inspections and resident interviews. Links for the CMS survey protocols • Standard survey, Long Term Care Survey Process (LTCSP) Procedure Guide (Jun. 23, 2026) • RBS survey – to get to RBS survey protocol: ○ Go to Nursing Homes webpage ○ Under Downloads, open “Survey Resources – Updated 08.13.2026 (ZIP)” ○ Click on “Survey Resources” ○ Click on “Risk-Based Survey” ○ Click on “RBS Procedure Guide.pdf” for the survey 5. Skilled Nursing News August 19, 2026 Rethinking Nursing Home Closures: True Market Exits Versus Org Restructuring By Amy Stulick An article in Skilled Nursing News reports on a <i>JAMA Health Forum</i> study analyzing 40 years of nursing home data (1985–2025), revealing that ownership changes have become a critical mechanism preventing outright facility shutdowns, with organizational restructuring often masking or preventing true market exits. While nearly half of nursing homes during this period followed a straightforward entry-to-permanent-exit path, roughly one-fifth stayed open exclusively by transferring ownership, an increasingly dominant trend where weaker or distressed facilities are acquired rather than shuttered. The findings suggest that facilities failing to secure a change in ownership are significantly more vulnerable to complete closure, challenging standard assumptions about industry shrinkage and demonstrating how ongoing consolidation reshapes the skilled nursing landscape.
Home and Community Based Services	6. Justice in Aging August 20, 2026 Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services for Older Adults: A Primer By Natalie Kean and Gelila Selassie A new Justice in Aging primer, Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services, provides an overview of Medicaid HCBS and how states are doing in terms of serving older adults with disabilities in the community. It also discusses gaps and inequities in the HCBS system. The primer includes sections on: • Medicaid’s coverage long-term care and the institutional bias • How HCBS eligibility is determined • State waivers and other types of HCBS programs • How HCBS access varies across states • The impact of H.R.1 on HCBS in the states

	Get the primer.
Housing	7. National Low Income Housing Coalition August 10, 2026 HUD Proposes to Eliminate Agency's Title VI Disparate Impact Regulations; 60-Day Public Comment Period Opens By Renee Williams, NLIHC Senior Advisor for Public Policy The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) reports that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has issued a Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to eliminate its longstanding disparate impact regulations implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color, and national origin by recipients of federal financial assistance. Published on August 10, 2026, the proposed rule opens a 60-day public comment period running through October 9, 2026, and follows earlier regulatory efforts to dismantle disparate impact protections under the Fair Housing Act. Civil rights and housing advocates strongly oppose the rollback, warning that eliminating disparate impact liability under Title VI removes a crucial legal safeguard against facially neutral policies that result in discriminatory and exclusionary housing practices. Review HUD's Title VI proposal here.
Caregiving	8. WBUR August 20, 2026 A new cookbook shows that for Chinatown's aunties, self-care is collective By Amanda Beland A new cookbook and community art project reported by WBUR highlights how female elders—affectionately known as "aunties"—in Boston's Chinatown practice self-care through collective organizing and mutual support. Against the backdrop of Chinatown's long history of grassroots activism resisting displacement, gentrification, and systemic inequality, the project frames traditional culinary knowledge and shared meals as vital acts of community care and resilience. By centering the stories, recipes, and sustained advocacy of these neighborhood matriarchs, the piece illustrates how food and cultural preservation serve as essential tools for sustaining long-term social justice work and intergenerational solidarity.
Workforce	9. *Boston Globe August 13, 2026 Expand training programs for entry-level health care jobs By The Editorial Board An op-ed in <i>The Boston Globe</i> argues that Massachusetts must significantly expand and invest in training pipelines for entry-level healthcare workers to resolve persistent staffing shortages across hospitals, long-term care facilities, and community health centers. While healthcare providers face severe workforce deficits in critical roles like medical assistants, certified nursing assistants, and allied health aides, local community colleges and vocational programs are constrained by limited faculty, clinical placement slots, and funding, forcing them to turn away qualified applicants. To bridge this gap and create accessible

	economic mobility pathways, the piece calls for state policymakers, educational institutions, and healthcare employers to partner on scaling up subsidized training programs, expanding clinical preceptor capacity, and developing paid apprenticeship models. 10. Mass Inc Policy Center July 22, 2026 Critical Shortages Ahead: Aligning the Nursing and Allied Health Education Pipeline with Growing Employer Demand By MassINC, Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association, Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges and Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation Employer demand far exceeds the supply of workers in six key nursing and allied health fields. Education programs recognize this intense shortage, and the vast majority want to grow to help address it. However, a variety of barriers severely constrain their ability to add capacity. This has substantial and unsustainable consequences for the state's leading industry, as well as for individual economic opportunity, upward mobility, and health and well-being.
Aging Topics	11. Wall Street Journal December 31, 2025 The 94-Year-Old Author Sharing Her Tips on the 'Final Fifth' of Life By Clare Ansberry <i>Judith Viorst looks at ways older adults make meaning in their life and what younger people can learn from them</i> In an article for <i>The Wall Street Journal</i>, reporter Clare Ansberry profiles 94-year-old author and humorist Judith Viorst—widely known for children's classics like <i>Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day</i> and her landmark book <i>Necessary Losses</i>—as she shares wisdom on navigating the "final fifth" of life (ages 80 to 100), the central theme of her book <i>Making the Best of What's Left</i>. Reflecting on her own experiences and observations of later life, Viorst offers practical, witty, and candid lessons on finding purpose, joy, and emotional resilience even as physical abilities decline and losses accumulate. Her core insights emphasize the importance of shedding vanity, accepting necessary support ("asking for help is a good way not to fall down"), and navigating the delicate, natural tension between adult children's desire to ensure safety and an elder's fierce drive to maintain independence and autonomy.
Health Care Topics	12. *Boston Globe August 17, 2026 Most hospital CEO pay packages in Massachusetts rose in 2024, new records show By Jonathan Saltzman and Marin Wolf An analysis by <i>The Boston Globe</i> reveals that compensation for chief executives at major Massachusetts nonprofit hospital systems rose significantly again, reigniting intense debate over executive pay in the healthcare sector. Drawing from newly released IRS tax filings, the report shows that multi-million-dollar pay packages—led by leaders such as Mass General Brigham CEO Dr. Anne Klibanski—continued an upward trend despite broader financial strain across health systems,

	escalating consumer care costs, and contentious labor negotiations with frontline staff and nursing unions. While hospital boards defend the high salaries and performance bonuses as essential to attracting and retaining top leadership in an increasingly competitive national market, critics and labor advocates argue that these outsized executive payouts conflict with the social mission of tax-exempt institutions and deepen economic disparities within healthcare. 13. Justice in Aging July 30, 2026 <i>Health Care Bills and Dually Eligible Individuals</i> By Rachel Gershon and Samantha Morales An issue brief from Justice in Aging highlights that health care bills received by individuals enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid ("dually eligible individuals") are a critical red flag for illegal improper billing or a lapse in financial assistance. Under federal law and program rules—particularly for those enrolled in full Medicaid, the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) program, Fully Integrated Dual Eligible SNPs (FIDE SNPs), or the Part D Low-Income Subsidy (LIS/Extra Help)—providers are prohibited from billing enrollees for Medicare Part A and B cost-sharing, deductibles, or copayments. The brief outlines the legal safeguards shielding dual eligibles, details the financial assistance programs available to cover services and prescription drugs, and provides an advocacy roadmap—such as escalating disputes from billing offices to Medicare Advantage plans, 1-800-MEDICARE, and state Senior Medicare Patrol programs—to enforce billing protections, halt collection actions, and secure refunds. 14. Justice in Aging July 30, 2026 <i>State Medical Billing Protections for Dually Eligible Individuals</i> By Rachel Gershon and Samantha Morales This 50-state survey resource from Justice in Aging compiles state-level legal protections that shield individuals enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid from improper medical billing. While federal law prohibits providers from balance billing dually eligible individuals—particularly those enrolled in full Medicaid and the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) program—for Medicare cost-sharing, state statutes, administrative codes, and managed care regulations provide complementary, enforceable safeguards. Organized by jurisdiction and healthcare setting (such as hospital, home health, hospice, and outpatient care), the compendium details specific state provisions requiring participating providers to accept Medicaid payments as payment in full, prohibiting debt collection and credit reporting against eligible enrollees, and establishing clear statutory penalties and refund requirements for improper billing practices.
Medicare	15. McKnights Long-Term Care News August 24, 2026 <i>Churn among sickest Medicare Advantage patients undermining plans' investment in long-term care</i> By Kimberly Marselas and Foster Stubbs

	A report from McKnight's Long-Term Care News examines how high rates of disenrollment and churn among the sickest and highest-need Medicare Advantage (MA) beneficiaries are undermining continuity of care and distorting the broader healthcare payment landscape. Drawing on recent research tracking beneficiary movement after receiving complex or chronic diagnoses, the piece highlights that patients frequently abandon or are pushed out of private MA plans in favor of traditional fee-for-service Medicare due to narrow provider networks, aggressive prior authorization hurdles, and coverage denials for post-acute and skilled nursing care. Long-term care leaders and health policy experts warn that this systematic offloading of high-cost patients shifts immense financial burdens directly onto taxpayers and the traditional Medicare trust fund while depriving frail elders of seamless care management when they need it most.
State Policy	16. MetroWest Daily News August 13, 2026 Framingham health care leader joins MA Public Health Council By Dave DeMille Kahoney Anderson, the Executive Director and Chief Compliance Officer of St. Patrick's Manor in Framingham, has been appointed by the Governor to serve on the Massachusetts Public Health Council. Filling the designated seat for a health services provider with expertise in long-term care management, Anderson brings extensive operational and regulatory experience to the 15-member body, which oversees public health policy, facility regulations, and Determination of Need approvals across the Commonwealth. A licensed nursing home administrator and trained social worker with prior leadership within the Carmelite System, Anderson also serves as Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Nursing Home Administrators, positioning her to provide frontline perspective on nursing home modernization, workforce stabilization, and elder care standards. 17. *Boston Herald August 3, 2026 Healey announces first steps to lower health care costs, investment in primary care By Grace Zokovitch Governor Maura Healey announced a major push to lower healthcare expenses and expand preventive care across the Commonwealth by signing Executive Order No. 657, which directs MassHealth to boost its primary care spending from roughly 8.4% to 12% of total medical expenditures by December 2028. Unveiled alongside an initial 12-point policy framework from the state's Health Care Affordability Work Group, the administration's initiative targets systemic cost drivers by curbing double-digit premium increases, capping out-of-network charges, mitigating low-value care, leveraging state purchasing power to lower prescription drug prices, and establishing guardrails around artificial intelligence in healthcare. The executive action aligns with broader legislative efforts currently being negotiated on Beacon Hill to require insurers and healthcare providers to gradually dedicate up to 15% of total healthcare spending toward primary care, aiming to alleviate

	physician shortages and reduce costly emergency and inpatient hospitalizations.
Federal Policy	18. The Harvard Gazette August 18, 2026 How to fix U.S. healthcare? 'Radical action,' says John McDonough. By Alvin Powell In an interview with the <i>Harvard Gazette</i> discussing his book <i>America's Wrong Turn: US Health Care in the Neoliberal Era</i>, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health professor John McDonough argues that the soaring costs and systemic flaws of U.S. healthcare stem from the free-market, deregulatory political shifts that began around 1980. McDonough explains that over four decades of neoliberal policy fostered widespread corporate consolidation, aggressive private equity buyouts, and high administrative fragmentation, which drove medical prices up rather than delivering the promised market efficiencies and improved patient outcomes. To repair the system and shift the priority back to patient care, equity, and affordability, McDonough asserts that the country must take "radical action," including enforcing stricter antitrust regulations to dismantle healthcare monopolies and enacting stronger oversight on prescription drug pricing. 19. Office of Congresswoman Debbie Dingell August 10, 2026 Dingell, Kim Introduce Bill to Include Long-Term Care as Part of Medicare U.S. Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI) and U.S. Senator Andy Kim introduced bicameral legislation known as the Medicare At Home Act to establish long-term care services as a covered benefit under Medicare Part B. Designed to address the critical gaps where traditional Medicare excludes routine in-home support, the bill aims to eliminate the financial burden that forces families to drain their life savings or impoverish themselves to qualify for Medicaid just to receive basic daily assistance. Backed by key advocacy and labor organizations such as SEIU, Caring Across Generations, Justice in Aging, and LeadingAge, the legislation provides older adults and individuals with disabilities the option to receive comprehensive personal care and support while remaining safely in their homes and communities.
From Around the Country	20. Santa Fe Reporter August 23, 2026 Putting patients over profits: A Call for Higher Standards in New Mexico's Senior Care By Jennifer Foote In an op-ed published by the <i>Santa Fe Reporter</i>, attorney Jennifer Foote argues that New Mexico's severe shortage of quality skilled nursing care is driven by systemic neglect and out-of-state corporate and private equity ownership models that extract public Medicare and Medicaid dollars for profit rather than reinvesting in safe operations. Pointing to the chronic low wages, understaffing, and turnover that lead to dangerous caregiver burnout and resident harm, Foote highlights the opportunity presented by Anchorum Health Foundation's initiative to build a new skilled nursing facility in Santa Fe. She urges regional

	healthcare leaders and policymakers to seize this moment to establish a higher benchmark for long-term care by prioritizing fair caregiver compensation, safe staffing ratios, transparent community accountability, and operational reinvestment directly into patient well-being over corporate profit margins. 21. McKnights Long Term Care August 23, 2026 <u>Judge orders trial for veterans home that allegedly ordered staff not to use masks during pandemic</u> By Kimberly Marselas A judge has ordered a trial in a high-profile legal battle involving New Jersey state-run veterans homes—specifically the Menlo Park and Paramus facilities—where healthcare workers and families allege that management improperly prohibited staff from wearing personal face masks during the early weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic. The lawsuit centers on allegations that administrators threatened workers with disciplinary action for "mask insubordination" out of concern that personal protective equipment would frighten residents or deplete supplies, a directive critics and federal investigators argue severely compromised safety and contributed to devastating outbreaks. With the court denying the state's efforts to dismiss the case, the upcoming trial will examine whether officials' early pandemic directives and handling of safety protocols constitute actionable negligence and a failure of institutional accountability. 22. KFGO August 20, 2026 <u>Judge dismisses lawsuit seeking to dissolve Minnesota nursing home labor standards board</u> By Austin Erickson A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit filed by nursing home industry groups—LeadingAge Minnesota and Care Providers of Minnesota—that sought to dismantle the state's Nursing Home Workforce Standards Board. The industry associations argued the board, created by the Minnesota Legislature in 2023, was unconstitutional and violated federal antitrust and labor laws, but U.S. District Judge Nancy Brasel granted the Walz administration's motion to dismiss. The ruling marks a major victory for labor advocates and nursing home workers, clearing the way for board-mandated minimum wage increases (starting at \$19 to \$27 per hour depending on job role) to take effect in September, alongside previously approved rules requiring time-and-a-half pay on 11 holidays.
A Raise for Mom: Campaign to Increase the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)	<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 of living of any state in the continental United States – meaning these vulnerable residents can afford less each and every year. 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. 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. <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>
Books by DignityMA Participants	<u>A Perfect Turmoil: Walter E. Fernald and the Struggle to Care for America's Disabled</u> By Alex Green <u>Buy the book here</u> 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. <u>American Eldercide: How It Happened, How to Prevent It</u> By Margaret Morganroth Gullette <u>Buy the book here.</u> 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.
Bringing People Home: The Marsters Settlement	Webpages: https://www.centerforpublicrep.org/court_case/marsters-et-al-v-healey-et-al/ https://marsters.centerforpublicrep.org/ Marsters data for the calendar year 2025: • 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 • 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!	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. 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. 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. https://dignityalliancema.org/donate/ Thank you for your consideration!
Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Legislative Endorsements	Information about the legislative bills which have been endorsed by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, including the text of the bills, can be viewed at: https://tinyurl.com/DignityLegislativeEndorsements Questions or comments can be directed to Legislative Work Group Chair Richard (Dick) Moore at dickmoore1943@gmail.com.
Websites	The National Long-Term Care Ombudsman Resource Center (NORC) www.ltcombudsman.org The Long-Term Care Ombudsman program (Ombudsman program /LTCOP) advocates for individuals living in nursing homes, residential care communities (e.g. board and care homes, assisted living facilities), and other similar adult care facilities. Under the Older Americans Act (OAA), every state is required to have an Ombudsman program that addresses complaints and advocates for improvements in the long-term care system.

Blogs			
Podcasts			
YouTube Channels			
Previously recommended websites	The comprehensive list of recommended websites has migrated to the Dignity Alliance MA website: https://dignityalliancema.org/resources/ . Only new recommendations will be listed in <i>The Dignity Digest</i> .		
Previously posted funding opportunities	For open funding opportunities previously posted in <i>The Tuesday Digest</i> please see https://dignityalliancema.org/funding-opportunities/ .		
Websites of Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Members	See: https://dignityalliancema.org/about/organizations/		
Contact information for reporting complaints and concerns	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Nursing home</td><td> Department of Public Health 1. Print and complete the Consumer/Resident/Patient Complaint Form 2. Fax completed form to (617) 753-8165 Or Mail to 67 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA 01752 Ombudsman Program </td></tr> </table>	Nursing home	Department of Public Health 1. Print and complete the Consumer/Resident/Patient Complaint Form 2. Fax completed form to (617) 753-8165 Or Mail to 67 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA 01752 Ombudsman Program
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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.																																																
Nursing Home Inspect	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?) <table><tr><th>Deficiency Tag</th><th># Deficiencies</th><th>in # Reports</th><th>MA facilities cited</th></tr><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></table> Updated October 15, 2025	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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Nursing Home Compare	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																																																
Data on Ownership of Nursing Homes	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.		
DignityMA Call Action	• Advocate for state bills that advance the Dignity Alliance Massachusetts' Mission and Goals – State Legislative Endorsements. • Support relevant bills in Washington – Federal Legislative Endorsements. • Join our Work Groups. • Learn to use and leverage social media at our workshops: Engaging Everyone: Creating Accessible, Powerful Social Media Content		
Access to Dignity Alliance social media	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		
Participation opportunities with Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Most workgroups meet bi-weekly via Zoom. Interest Groups meet periodically (monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly). Please contact group leaders for more information.	Workgroup	Workgroup lead	Email
	General Membership	Bill Henning Paul Lanzikos	bhenning@bostoncil.org paul.lanzikos@gmail.com
	Assisted Living	John Ford	jford@njc-ma.org
	Behavioral Health	Frank Baskin	baskinfrank19@gmail.com
	Communications	Lachlan Forrow	lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu
	Facilities (Nursing homes and rest homes)	Jim Lomastro	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
	Housing	Bill Henning	bhenning@bostoncil.org
	Veteran Services	James Lomastro	jimlomastro@comcast.net
	Transportation	Frank Baskin Chris Hoeh	baskinfrank19@gmail.com cdhoeh@gmail.com
	Covid / Long Covid	James Lomastro	jimlomastro@comcast.net
	Incarcerated Persons	TBD	info@DignityAllianceMA.org
<i>Bringing People Home: Implementing the Marsters class action settlement</i>	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/		
<i>REV UP Massachusetts</i>	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 .		
<i>The Dignity Digest</i>	For a free weekly subscription to <i>The Dignity Digest</i> : https://dignityalliancema.org/contact/sign-up-for-emails/ Editor: Paul Lanzikos Primary contributor: Sandy Novack MailChimp Specialist: Sue Rorke		

Note of thanks	Thanks to the contributors to this issue of <i>The Dignity Digest</i>: • Wynn Gerhard • Dick Moore Special thanks to the MetroWest Center for Independent Living for assistance with the website and MailChimp versions of <i>The Dignity Digest</i>. <i>If you have submissions for inclusion in <u>The Dignity Digest</u> or have questions or comments, please submit them to Digest@DignityAllianceMA.org.</i>
<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> <i>Previous issues of The Tuesday Digest and The Dignity Digest are available at: https://dignityalliancema.org/dignity-digest/</i> <i>For more information about Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, please visit www.DignityAllianceMA.org.</i>	