The Dignity Digest

Issue # 299 September 8, 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	**Honoring the Hands and Hearts of Care:** **A Salute to Frontline Workers** When we speak about transforming the long-term care and disability services landscape, our discussions often focus on policy reform, statutory standards, regulatory oversight, and funding streams. While these structural elements are essential, the daily reality of dignity, comfort, and safety is shaped by the individuals on the front lines. Every single day, across nursing facilities, assisted living residences, group homes, and community settings, the quality of life experienced by older adults and persons with disabilities rests in the hands of dedicated frontline staff. This week, we pause to express our profound gratitude and respect for these vital workers: • **Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) Personal Care Assistants (PCAs) and Other Direct Support Staff:** They are the backbone of hands-on personal care. CNAs and PCAs provide intimate, physically demanding support—assisting with bathing, dressing, eating, and mobility—while offering warm companionship and a watchful eye for any subtle shift in health or well-being. • **Dietary and Food Service Workers:** Nutrition is fundamental to health, but meals are also a central source of daily joy, dignity, and personal autonomy. Dietary staff prepare meals tailored to complex dietary needs, honor cultural preferences, and ensure dining remains an experience of comfort and community. • **Housekeeping Staff:** A clean, safe, and organized room is not just about infection control and hygiene; it is about human dignity. Housekeepers create living spaces that feel welcoming, dignified, and truly like home, often forming meaningful bonds with residents during their daily visits. • **Maintenance and Environmental Services Personnel:** From ensuring heating and air conditioning function smoothly to keeping assistive equipment, lighting, and living environments safe and accessible, maintenance teams work diligently behind the scenes to maintain the physical integrity of every home and facility.

	True recognition requires more than words of appreciation. Meaningful dignity for residents and participants is inseparable from dignity for the direct care and support workforce. Saluting frontline staff means actively advocating for: • **Fair, living wages** and comprehensive benefits that reflect the immense value and difficulty of their labor. • **Safe working conditions**, reasonable staffing ratios, and manageable workloads that prevent injury, burnout, and turnover. • **Clear career pathways**, accessible continuing education, and respect as indispensable members of the care team. To every nursing assistant, direct support professional, cook, dietary aide, housekeeper, and maintenance technician: thank you. Your skill, patience, and compassion uphold human dignity each and every day. We see you, we value you, and we remain dedicated to fighting for the support and respect you deserve.
Guide to news items in this week's *Dignity Digest*	Nursing Homes • *CMS Could Improve Oversight of States' Use of Contract Surveyors for Nursing Home Surveys* **(Office of the Inspector General – Department of Health and Human Services,** September 4, 2026) • *Homes, Not Nursing Homes* **(Wilson Quarterly,** Summer 1997) Home and Community Based Services • *Getting Benefits of Retirement Home Care, at Your Own Home* **(New York Times,** September 6, 2026) Behavioral Health • *New SAMHSA Requirements Threaten Opioid Use Disorder Treatment And Overdose Prevention* **(Health Affairs,** September 1, 2026) Aging Topics • *The Most Important Longevity Term You've Probably Never Heard Of* **(New York Times,** August 27, 2026) Disability Topics • *Summer Camp Teaches Kids With Autism How to Set Sail* **(Sunday Today,** September 6, 2026) • *How Mike Schultz's Prosthetics Are Powering Paralympians* **(Time,** September 2, 2026) Health Care Topics • *Salum Mshamu Showed How Smarter Home Design Can Prevent Deadly Diseases* **(Time,** September 2, 2026) Medicare • *They Sold the House to Pay for the Nursing Home. The Capital Gain Doubled Her Medicare Premium Two Years After the Funeral* **(247wallst.com,** September 5, 2026)

	• *As Special Needs Plans Surge, CMS Weighs Consolidating Plan Types Against Specialized Care in Nursing Homes* **(Skilled Nursing News,** September 4, 2026) Workforce • *'He was a lifeline' - Families at a loss after Haitian caregivers let go in US* **(BBC,** September 5, 2026) • *Pennsylvania launches new initiative to protect home care workers' rights* **(WJACTV,** September 5, 2026) • *Nursing Home Jobs Nearly Flat in August as Healthcare Hiring Slows* **(Skilled Nursing News,** September 4, 2026) Alzheimer's and Other Dementia • *How Eloy van Hal's 'Dementia Village' Is Transforming Patient Care* **(Time,** September 2, 2026) State Policy • *Critics of the Legislature's productivity ignore a key legal distinction setting Mass. apart from nearly all other states* **(CommonWealth Beacon,** September 5, 2026) • *Governor Healey Launches Statewide Blue Envelope Program for People with Autism* **(Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll,** September 1. 2026) Federal Policy • *Public Charge Restrictions For Immigrants And Their Families: No Rules, No Accountability* **(Health Affairs,** September 3, 2026) • *Statement of National Disability Organizations on the Department of Justice's Proposed Resolution of Texas v. Kennedy* **(National Health Law,** September 1, 2026) • *Hospital Boarding In The ED: Federal, State, And Other Approaches* **(Health Affairs,** March 25, 2026) From Around the Country • *He lost 10 years in a Georgia nursing home. It's becoming more common* **(USA Today,** September 7, 2026) • *Advocates worry nothing will change as troubled nursing home operator goes bankrupt* **(The Sante Fe New Mexican,** September 5, 2026)
Quotes	*"Nobody came."* Nick Papadopoulos, a 38 year-old resident in a Georgia nursing home trying to get assistance after a confused resident tried to get into bed with him, *He lost 10 years in a Georgia nursing home. It's becoming more common* **(USA Today,** September 7, 2026) *"When there's a lack of any of those three — of care, dignity or safety — that's when people like me become involved to try to hold these big corporations accountable for not providing the things that they*

promise to provide. . . What I hope happens is that the new people come in and they commit to doing a safe, good job for all of our elderly population and they break the Genesis mold. My fear is that they're going to do the exact same thing."

Tyler Atkins, founding partner of an Albuquerque-based law firm that takes on nursing home abuse and wrongful death cases, *Advocates worry nothing will change as troubled nursing home operator goes bankrupt* **(The Sante Fe New Mexican,** September 5, 2026)

It is imperative that our society demand appropriate space to care for emergency patients with safety and dignity. While there may be periods of increased volume that necessitate care in hallways or even waiting rooms, this should not be the accepted standard of care.

Hospital Boarding In The ED: Federal, State, And Other Approaches **(Health Affairs,** March 25, 2026)

A traffic stop can be stressful for anyone, especially when a driver and an officer communicate differently. By making Blue Envelopes available across Massachusetts, we're helping people with autism and their families feel more prepared while giving officers another tool to support safe, respectful interactions."

Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, *Governor Healey Launches Statewide Blue Envelope Program for People with Autism* **(Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll,** September 1. 2026)

"We simply do not have enough people in our domestic market, when you exclude immigrants, to fill those [care service] jobs [from home health aides to assisted living]."

Kezia Scales, vice-president of policy and research at the Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute, *'He was a lifeline' - Families at a loss after Haitian caregivers let go in US* **(BBC,** September 5, 2026)

Thirty percent of older Americans die before they need any late-in-life institutional care. . . "Another 40 percent use minimal care — under 90 days, before end of life. That's why long-term-care policies have deductible periods," referring to the period that consumers must wait for payouts. The final 30 percent of Americans will have substantial long-term care bills.

Brad Paulis, a partner with Continuing Care Actuaries, *Getting Benefits of Retirement Home Care, at Your Own Home* **(New York Times,** September 6, 2026)

The $80-billion-a-year nursing-home industry developed after World War II largely as a result of government support, Uhlenberg points out. Fewer than 200,000 people lived in nursing homes in the mid-1940s. The Hill-Burton Act of 1946 provided money to build nonprofit nursing homes, while the Federal Housing Administration guaranteed mortgage loans to for-profit ones. After Medicaid was established in 1965, the government would pay the full cost of long-term care for poor older persons in nursing homes—but not in other settings. The "deinstitutionalization" of mental hospitals, starting in the 1960s, provided another boost to nursing homes. By the early 1970s, more than one million elderly folk were living in such institutions.

Homes, Not Nursing Homes **(Wilson Quarterly,** Summer 1997)

"Home care workers take care of our Pennsylvania families. They help seniors and people with disabilities live safely, independently, and with dignity in their own homes. These workers deserve to receive the wages they are owed for hours worked. Through Standing Up for Home Care Workers, we

are putting our enforcement resources where they are needed and using the tools available under Pennsylvania law to make sure workers are paid for all the time they work, and employers are held accountable when they fail to follow the law."

Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) Secretary Nancy A. Walker, *Pennsylvania launches new initiative to protect home care workers' rights* **(WJACTV,** September 5, 2026)

The health care system must engage people in treatment, provide them with care that is likely to set them on a path to recovery, and ensure that they have continued support. New federal agency requirements threaten those efforts.

New SAMHSA Requirements Threaten Opioid Use Disorder Treatment And Overdose Prevention **(Health Affairs,** September 1, 2026)

[M]ore balanced analyses document the contributions of immigrants as drivers of economic growth in the US. Ultimately, efforts to limit immigrants' ability to remain here may backfire and deprive our nation of the energy and promise of immigrants and their children for the nation's future.

Public Charge Restrictions For Immigrants And Their Families: No Rules, No Accountability **(Health Affairs,** September 3, 2026)

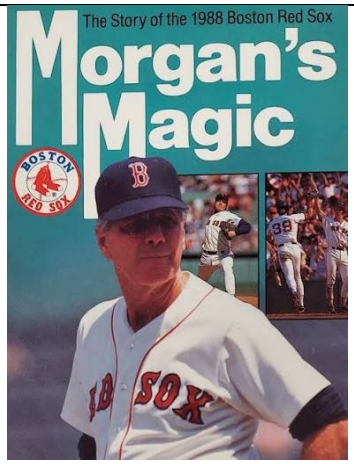
We strongly and unequivocally condemn the actions of DOJ [Department of Justice] and HHS [Department of Health and Human Services]. This resolution continues the federal government's abandonment of its duty to enforce the right of people with disabilities to live in their own homes and communities.

Statement of National Disability Organizations on the Department of Justice's Proposed Resolution of Texas v. Kennedy **(National Health Law,** September 1, 2026)

	Typically, in a single-subject state, the legislature will pass a great many bills in any given legislative session, as it really has no other option but to pass lots of bills when no bill can contain more than one subject. There's no such thing as an omnibus bill in those states. *Compare that to Massachusetts, where a single bill in the Legislature could—and often does—contain many discrete subjects. One need only look at one of Beacon Hill's recently passed budget bills – with lots of policy riders — or economic development bills to see how many separate policies and topics can be effectively addressed in a single piece of legislation here.* *Critics of the Legislature's productivity ignore a key legal distinction setting Mass. apart from nearly all other states* **(CommonWealth Beacon,** September 5, 2026) *At Hogeweyk, a nursing home in the Netherlands, residents live in small groups in separate homes where they cook together and share meals, go grocery shopping with aides, and even enjoy concerts or nights out at restaurants. None of that sounds particularly out of the ordinary, except that all of the people living in Hogeweyk have dementia.* *How Eloy van Hal's 'Dementia Village' Is Transforming Patient Care* **(Time,** September 2, 2026) *"Para athletes today are doing things nobody thought would be possible 10 years ago."* Paralympian Mike Schultz, *How Mike Schultz's Prosthetics Are Powering Paralympians* **(Time,** September 2, 2026)
Spotlight	**Time** September 7, 2026 ***Longevity Leaders*** 12 Trailblazers Marking the Way to a Longer, Healthier Life

	From cell resetters to longevity doctors, these 12 trailblazers are marking the way to a longer, healthier life. • *Shinya Yamanaka Made Cells Young Again. Can That Reverse Aging?* • *An Antiaging Medicine Could Already Exist. Nir Barzilai Is On A Mission To Find It* • *Muscle Isn't Vanity. Gabrielle Lyon Says It's Preventive Medicine* • *We Need to Change How We Think About Aging, Says AARP's CEO* • *David Sinclair's Research Is Now Testing Whether Blindness—and Aging—Can Be Reversed* • *Tony Wyss-Coray Is Measuring Biological Age One Organ at a Time* • *Jamie Justice Is Running a $101 Million Longevity Science Fair* • *Juan Carlos Izpisua Belmonte Believes Aging May Come Down to a Cell's Identity Crisis* • *Robert Waldinger Knows the Secret to a Happy Life* • *Andrea Maier Wants to Solve Longevity's Evidence Problem* • *Longevity Is More Genetic than We Thought. That's a Good Thing* • *What Ovaries Reveal About the Secret Ways Women Age, According to Francesca Duncan*
Recruitment	**See: Listings on MASSterList.com's Job Board** for all current listings
DignityMA Study Session  Grace Ferguson Investigating Reporter **The New Beford Light**	**DignityMA Study Session:** **Report: *Half of all nursing homes in Massachusetts are understaffed*** Presenter: **Grace Ferguson,** Investigating Reporter **The New Beford Light** in conversation with DignityMA Co-Founder, **former State Senator Richard Moore** Wednesday, September 16, 2026 10:00 a.m. Registration: https://tinyurl.com/StudySessionGraceFerguson Grace Ferguson reports on nursing home care, housing, and transportation for The New Bedford Light. She graduated from Boston University and recently completed a fellowship

	reporting on police accountability for WBUR. She previously investigated housing issues in western Massachusetts for GBH News. Some of her reports involved a nursing home with more health citations than any other nursing home in Massachusetts in a year; Next Step nursing homes which were put in receivership for millions in unpaid rent and fees; and the Fall River Nursing Home which was labeled "the worst of the worst". This study session will focus on Grace's findings reported in her July 28, 2026 article, Half of all nursing homes in Massachusetts are understaffed.
DignityMA Study Session  Kevin Lownds, JD Division Chief Medicaid Fraud Division Office of the Attorney General	**DignityMA Study Session:** ***The Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Division*** Presenter: Kevin Lownds, JD, Division Chief Wednesday, October 14, 2026 10:00 a.m. Registration: https://tinyurl.com/Oct14StudySession The Medicaid Fraud Division within the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office functions as the federally certified Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for the Commonwealth, dedicated to protecting the integrity of MassHealth and defending vulnerable residents. Operating with multidisciplinary teams of prosecutors, forensic auditors, and investigators, the division conducts statewide civil and criminal investigations into healthcare providers suspected of defrauding the system through illegal practices such as false billing, upcoding, kickbacks, and cost-report falsification. Alongside recovering millions in misappropriated taxpayer funds under state and federal False Claims statutes, the unit fulfills a critical patient-protection mandate by investigating and prosecuting allegations of abuse, neglect, mistreatment, and financial exploitation of patients in nursing homes, long-term care facilities, and community-based healthcare settings.
Life Well Lived	**Joe Morgan** Red Sox Manager (1988-1991) Celebrated for the Red Sox's "Morgan Magic" Joe Morgan, the former Boston manager who inspired a magical in-season turnaround of its 1988 team, died Saturday. He was 95. Morgan replaced John McNamara at the All-Star break in 1988, with Boston 43-42 and well back in the American League East race. Morgan, serving as the interim manager, guided the Red Sox to wins in his first 12 games and 19 of his first 20 overall. They went on to win the AL East and reach the AL Championship Series.



Joe Morgan
1930-2026

The second-half run was famously known as "Morgan Magic," one of the greatest turnarounds in Boston's long history.
"Joe Morgan holds a special place in Red Sox history," Red Sox owner John Henry said. "When he took over in 1988, he changed the course of a season and created one of the most memorable chapters in the history of this club. The two division titles that followed only strengthened a bond with Red Sox fans that endured for the rest of his life."
Added Red Sox president/CEO Sam Kennedy: "Joe Morgan managed the Red Sox during some of my most formative years as a fan. Joe made us believe, and when you experience that as a kid, it stays with you. I was fortunate enough to get to know him later in life and found an even better person than the baseball man I had admired. I will miss him deeply."
Morgan, who grew up in Walpole, Massachusetts, led the Red Sox to another division title in 1990 and remained as manager of the team through 1991, finishing 301-262. It was his only big league managerial stint.
He was with the Red Sox organization for 18 years, serving a variety of roles, and was part of its 2006 Hall of Fame class.
"He was a big part of my life and will be missed," Hall of Fame third baseman Wade Boggs said in a statement, according to MLB.com. "Not only in Triple-A, but in the big leagues, too. I don't think he got enough credit for how baseball-smart he was. He played baseball hunches instead of statistics. He will always be one of my favorites."
Morgan, an infielder, also played 88 games in the majors, with stints with the Milwaukee Braves, Kansas City Athletics, Philadelphia Phillies (1960), Cleveland (1960-61), and St. Louis Cardinals (1964).

In Person and / or Online Events

1. **Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Aging**
September 11, 2026, 11:00 a.m.
Meeting
Agenda includes committee reports, strategic plan updates and commissioner updates.
LGBTQAgenda and Livestream

Webinars and Online Sessions

2. ***National Recovery Month Virtual Event: Recognizing Addiction Transfer in Recovery***
National Council for Mental Well Being
Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
Recovery does not happen in isolation. Substance use, eating disorders, gaming and gambling can intersect through shared patterns of reward, coping and compulsion. During this Recovery Month webinar, experts will examine which recovery skills carry across conditions, how

one addiction may shift into another and what individuals, families and providers should watch for as recovery evolves.
Speakers Anmarie Reed, LCSW, CCS Clinical Director, Prosperity Eating Disorder & Wellness Center Specialty: Eating disorders and co-occurring conditions Alexandra Waxer Director, Healthy Gamer Specialty: Gaming addiction and problematic gaming Andrew Schreier Counselor and Speaker Specialty: Problem gambling and gambling disorders.
Addiction Transfer in Recovery Registration

3. ***From Employment to Career: Supporting Autistic Young Adults in the Workforce***
Mathmetica
Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.
The webinar will discuss the current state of evidence and actionable opportunities to support autistic young adults in the workforce. It will draw on evidence from a large-scale survey with more than 3,400 autistic young adults, qualitative interviews and listening sessions, review of more than 140 publications, analyses of administrative data, program case studies, and discussions with employers.
Researchers and other experts will discuss what the evidence shows about preparing autistic young adults for employment, helping them find jobs, and supporting retention and career advancement. The conversation will also explore opportunities to strengthen and expand effective programs and practices.
Guest speakers:
Julie Hocker
U.S. Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy, U.S. Department of Labor
Jeffrey Hemmeter
Director of Employment Support, Social Security Administration
Scott Robertson
Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Disability Employment Policy, U.S. Department of Labor
Tiffany Payton-Jameson
Founder and Managing Partner, grit & flow consultancy
Autistic Workforce Registration

4. ***Transportation Strategies to Strengthen Social Connectedness***
Commit to Connect
Tuesday, September 22, 2026, 1:30 p.m.
The Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility Technical Assistance Center (CCAM-TAC) will share strategies and resources for aging and disability networks to strengthen their transportation programs and services impact on social connectedness. Attendees will hear from Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio on their home52 Transportation program, a person-centered coordination model providing specialized door-to-door transit services for older adults and people with disabilities. Aging & Independent Services in the County of San Diego Health and Human Services will present on how their public transit training “field trips” leverage peer support, community engagement, and skill building to increased mobility and social connection of older adults.

	Transportation Strategies Registration
Previously posted webinars and online sessions	Previously posted webinars and online sessions can be viewed at: https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/
Nursing Homes	**5. Office of the Inspector General – Department of Health and Human Services** September 4, 2026 *CMS Could Improve Oversight of States' Use of Contract Surveyors for Nursing Home Surveys* **What OIG Found** • CMS did not provide adequate oversight of States' use of contract surveyors to conduct nursing home surveys. • During our audit period, CMS issued a memo to SAs outlining contracting practices SAs could use to ensure that contract surveyors meet Federal requirements, but CMS did not monitor whether SAs implemented practices that achieved the memo's underlying objectives. • The survey of 14 States that used contract surveyors found that all 14 could have improved their policies and procedures to ensure that the CMS guidelines were met. In the absence of CMS monitoring and oversight, there is an increased risk that SAs have not implemented sufficient controls to ensure that contract surveyors meet Federal requirements when performing nursing home surveys. **What OIG Recommends** They made two recommendations to CMS, including that it add worker classification (i.e., employee or contract surveyor) as a required entry in its quality improvement and evaluation system and confirm that SAs have policies and procedures in place to ensure that contract surveyors performing nursing home surveys meet Federal requirements. The full recommendations are in the report. Full Report (PDF, 3.7 MB) Report Highlights (PDF, 334.0 KB) **6. Wilson Quarterly** Summer 1997 *Homes, Not Nursing Homes* By Peter Uhlenberg In "Homes, Not Nursing Homes," *The Wilson Quarterly* reviews sociologist Peter Uhlenberg's critique of America's institutionalized eldercare model, arguing that post-WWII federal subsidies—such as the Hill-Burton Act of 1946, FHA loan guarantees, and Medicaid's historical bias toward facility-based coverage—artificially built an expansive nursing home industry that forces older adults to deplete their life savings to receive often dehumanizing, sub-optimal care. Uhlenberg contends that while individuals with the most severe disabilities may require institutional settings, the vast majority of older adults needing assistance with activities of daily living can and should be supported in their communities. To achieve this, he advocates phasing out public

	subsidies for institutional facilities and redirecting public funding toward cost-effective, non-institutional alternatives—such as home health care, assisted living, group homes, and adult day care—which not only cost less to deliver than institutional care, but also grant individuals and families greater autonomy, preserve critical social bonds, and deliver vastly superior quality of life.
Home and Community Based Services	**7. New York Times** September 6, 2026 *Getting Benefits of Retirement Home Care, at Your Own Home* By Joanne Cleaver The *New York Times* article, *"Retirees, Get Ready to Need Long-Term Care. Here's What to Know"* (published in its business/retirement coverage), examines the looming financial and structural collision between America's rapidly aging demographic and an ill-equipped care system. As the oldest baby boomers enter their 80s—an age bracket historically tied to surging care needs, with the 85-and-older population projected to nearly double by 2035—research from institutions like Boston College indicates that roughly 80% of retirees will require some level of long-term services and supports, with one in five needing severe, intensive assistance. Compounding this demand are soaring out-of-pocket costs—where round-the-clock home care can exceed $300,000 annually—widespread misconceptions among older adults who incorrectly assume Medicare covers non-rehabilitative custodial care, and severe labor shortages driven by depressed frontline wages, leaving retirees and their families forced to navigate fragmented private insurance options or spend down their life savings to qualify for Medicaid.
Behavioral Health	**8. Health Affairs** September 1, 2026 *New SAMHSA Requirements Threaten Opioid Use Disorder Treatment And Overdose Prevention* By Maureen Stewart, Alisa B. Busch, Sage R. Feltus, Sharon Reif, Traci C. Green, and Richard G. Frank In this *Health Affairs Forefront* article, researchers Maureen Stewart, Alisa Busch, Richard Frank, and colleagues warn that recent policy shifts from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) threaten to derail national overdose prevention efforts by undermining evidence-based care. The authors critique two SAMHSA guidance letters: one requiring grantees providing medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD)—such as buprenorphine and methadone—to conduct annual reviews specifically discussing medication discontinuation, and another withdrawing federal grant support for harm reduction interventions like fentanyl test strips and syringe services. The authors argue that pushing MOUD discontinuation runs counter to extensive clinical evidence showing that long-term maintenance drastically cuts fatal overdoses, transmission of infectious diseases, and mortality, especially when only 16% of individuals with opioid use disorder access MOUD and early dropout rates remain high. By deemphasizing long-term medication treatment and restricting proven harm reduction tools, the authors contend these federal

	directives compromise patient safety, contradict established medical consensus, and erect dangerous barriers to sustained recovery.
Workforce	**9. BBC** September 5, 2026 *'He was a lifeline' - Families at a loss after Haitian caregivers let go in US* By Sheila Flynn The BBC News article, *"'He was a lifeline' – Families at a loss after Haitian caregivers let go in US,"* reports on the severe disruptions facing older adults and individuals with disabilities following the termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for roughly 350,000 Haitians. Because Haitian immigrants represent one of the top five national origins in the direct-care workforce, the loss of legal work authorization has forced residential care facilities, non-profits, and home-care agencies to abruptly lay off thousands of essential direct support professionals and aides. Highlighting personal accounts—such as a Long Island mother whose nonverbal, 23-year-old disabled son lost the trusted caregiver who managed his round-the-clock personal care—the piece illustrates how abrupt immigration policy shifts directly collide with an already fragile, critically understaffed long-term care infrastructure, leaving families scrambling, compromising continuity of care, and stripping vulnerable individuals of vital support systems. **10. WJACTV** September 5, 2026 *Pennsylvania launches new initiative to protect home care workers' rights* Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) Secretary Nancy A. Walker - along with leaders from the Pennsylvania Departments of Human Services (DHS), and Aging, SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania, labor partners, worker advocates, and home care workers - announced the launch of Standing Up for Home Care Workers, a strategic labor law enforcement initiative to protect home care workers' wages and ensure home care agencies and other third-party employers comply with Pennsylvania law. Led by L&I and carried out by its Bureau of Labor Law Compliance (BLLC), the initiative will use proactive investigations, outreach, and partnerships to focus enforcement in an industry where workers are particularly vulnerable to wage violations and where complaints are substantial. **11. Skilled Nursing News** September 4, 2026 *Nursing Home Jobs Nearly Flat in August as Healthcare Hiring Slows* By Zahida Siddiqi According to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data reported by *Skilled Nursing News*, employment growth at skilled nursing facilities remained virtually flat in August 2026, inching up by just 100 jobs—from 1.5901 million in July to 1.5902 million on a seasonally adjusted basis. While skilled nursing avoided the broader monthly contraction seen across the wider nursing and residential care category (which fell by 1,800 jobs overall), the sector mirrored a broader slowdown across healthcare hiring, where modest employment gains were largely concentrated in

	hospitals and home health agencies rather than facility-based settings. Although skilled nursing staffing levels remain elevated compared to year-ago figures, the stall in August hiring highlights ongoing recruitment challenges and a cooling labor market as operators continue navigating workforce constraints.
Aging Topics	**12. New York Times** August 27, 2026 *The Most Important Longevity Term You've Probably Never Heard Of* By Dana G. Smith *Intrinsic capacity is quickly becoming a preferred way to measure and assess human aging.* The *New York Times* article explores **intrinsic capacity**—a holistic longevity framework first established by the World Health Organization in 2015 that shifts geriatric medicine away from merely diagnosing disease and toward measuring and preserving an individual's total physical and mental capabilities. Evaluated across five core domains—cognition, locomotion (strength and mobility), sensory capacity (vision and hearing), psychological well-being, and vitality (underlying energy and physiological resilience)—the metric provides a composite benchmark of a person's functional reserve "from the skin in." While not yet a standard office-visit test, researchers and longevity scientists emphasize that tracking intrinsic capacity trajectories over time will enable clinicians to catch subtle declines early, tailor preventative lifestyle and clinical interventions, and objectively evaluate whether emerging therapies or medications successfully extend healthspan.
Disability Topics	**13. Sunday Today** September 6, 2026 *Summer Camp Teaches Kids With Autism How to Set Sail* By Gadi Schwartz Spectrum Sailing is a free summer camp for kids on the autism spectrum that helps them with life lessons, staying calm during unexpected changes all while being out on the water. The program was founded by lifelong sailor Scott Herman after he faced dozens of rejections from camps that couldn't accommodate his autistic son Daniel. **14. Time** September 2, 2026 *How Mike Schultz's Prosthetics Are Powering Paralympians* By Matt Alderton In a *TIME Trailblazers* profile titled *"How Mike Schultz's Prosthetics Are Powering Paralympians,"* Matt Alderton details how Paralympic multi-medalist Mike Schultz transformed an above-the-knee amputation sustained during a 2008 snocross accident into a groundbreaking adaptive technology enterprise. Frustrated by conventional hinge prosthetics that could neither withstand extreme impact nor support the deep crouches required for action sports, Schultz engineered his own garage-built solutions—incorporating high-pressure mountain bike shocks to mimic quadricep mechanics and create the heavy-impact-absorbing Moto Knee and Versa Foot. In 2010, he founded BioDapt to commercialize these innovations, which have not only propelled his own

	decorated career across snowmobiling, snowboarding, and motocross, but have revolutionized the Para-sports landscape: over 90% of elite competitive Para-snowboarders now rely on BioDapt gear, with dozens using his devices at the Paralympic Winter Games. Having retired from the national team in 2026 to focus full-time on his business and partner with Autodesk on adaptive equipment for the 2028 Los Angeles Summer Paralympics, Schultz continues expanding functional autonomy and athletic possibilities for lower-limb amputees worldwide.
Health Care Topics	**15. Time** September 2, 2026 *Salum Mshamu Showed How Smarter Home Design Can Prevent Deadly Diseases* By Veronique Greenwood In a *TIME Trailblazers* profile titled *"Salum Mshamu Showed How Smarter Home Design Can Prevent Deadly Diseases,"* journalist Veronique Greenwood highlights the pioneering public health research of Salum Mshamu and his collaborators on the "Star Homes" project in Tanzania. Driven by personal experience—including his own daughter's brush with severe malaria—Mshamu teamed up with architects and medical researchers to design and test climate-resilient, disease-preventing housing intended to replace traditional, vulnerable earthen structures in rural communities. By integrating features such as air-permeable mesh walls that lower indoor temperatures and reduce carbon dioxide levels (which attract mosquitoes), elevated sleeping areas, improved sanitation and water filtration, and secure food storage, the Star Homes design has demonstrated remarkable clinical outcomes: a 2026 randomized controlled trial revealed that children living in these homes experienced a 44% drop in malaria risk, 30% fewer diarrheal infections, and 18% fewer acute respiratory infections, proving that thoughtful architectural design can serve as a powerful frontline defense in global public health.
Alzheimer's and Other Dementia	**16. Time** September 2, 2026 *How Eloy van Hal's 'Dementia Village' Is Transforming Patient Care* By Alice Park In a *TIME Trailblazers* profile, journalist Alice Park highlights Eloy van Hal, co-founder of the revolutionary Dutch nursing facility Hogeweyk—widely known as the "Dementia Village"—and his pioneering mission to dismantle institutional, sterile eldercare models in favor of person-centered autonomy. Having witnessed firsthand the stress and confinement traditional facilities inflicted on residents, van Hal helped spearhead a paradigm-shifting approach where individuals with dementia live in small, home-like domestic settings grouped into a vibrant neighborhood complete with streets, grocery stores, and restaurants, allowing them to participate in daily activities and maintain their personal dignity. By prioritizing residents as active human beings rather than medical patients, Hogeweyk has successfully demonstrated marked clinical benefits—including reduced agitation, happier daily living, and significantly lower reliance on psychotropic medications—inspiring care providers worldwide (such as Agrace in Wisconsin) to

	adopt its revolutionary philosophy of redefining dementia care around community, normalcy, and human connection.
Medicare	**17. 247wallst.com** September 5, 2026 *They Sold the House to Pay for the Nursing Home. The Capital Gain Doubled Her Medicare Premium Two Years After the Funeral* By Jake Fitzgerald *Selling the family home to cover a spouse's nursing home bills felt like the responsible choice, but for thousands of widows and widowers, that single transaction quietly triggers a Medicare penalty that arrives long after the crisis has passed.* Selling a primary residence to cover escalating nursing home expenses can unexpectedly trigger Medicare's Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA) two years later due to the program's two-year lookback period and strict income "cliff" thresholds. Because the resulting capital gains inflate modified adjusted gross income (MAGI), a surviving spouse may see their monthly Part B and Part D premiums double or more, even long after the spouse has passed away and the crisis has ended. While a one-time capital gain from a home sale does not qualify on its own for an exemption, the article highlights that the death of a spouse *is* an officially recognized life-changing event; surviving spouses can file Form SSA-44 with the Social Security Administration to report their reduced income and request that the IRMAA surcharge be eliminated or reduced. **18. Skilled Nursing News** September 4, 2026 *As Special Needs Plans Surge, CMS Weighs Consolidating Plan Types Against Specialized Care in Nursing Homes* By Amy Stulick Amid rapid enrollment growth in Medicare Advantage Special Needs Plans (SNPs), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is actively weighing whether to streamline or consolidate distinct plan categories—such as Dual Eligible (D-SNPs), Institutional (I-SNPs), and Chronic Condition (C-SNPs)—in an effort to standardize quality metrics and oversight across the program. While CMS is currently in an information-gathering stage utilizing requests for information and expert input, long-term care stakeholders and policy analysts caution that consolidating these distinct frameworks risks eroding the tailored clinical care models and specialized flexibilities that nursing home-centric plans (particularly I-SNPs) provide to medically complex, institutionalized residents. Ultimately, CMS faces the regulatory challenge of establishing consistent quality benchmarks without undermining the targeted care coordination and population-specific benefits essential to vulnerable nursing home populations.
State Policy	**19. CommonWealth Beacon** September 5, 2026 *Critics of the Legislature's productivity ignore a key legal distinction setting Mass. apart from nearly all other states* By James DiTullio

	We are one of only seven states that allow omnibus bills covering multiple subjects In an opinion piece for *CommonWealth Beacon*, Massachusetts Senate Counsel James DiTullio argues that persistent media critiques labeling the Massachusetts Legislature as the "least productive" in the nation—often citing raw bill-passage metrics from sources like FiscalNote—fundamentally misrepresent Beacon Hill by ignoring a pivotal legal distinction: the single-subject rule. While 43 states have constitutional provisions restricting legislation to one narrow topic (naturally inflating the sheer quantity of individual bills enacted), Massachusetts is one of only seven states that permits broad omnibus legislation, routinely consolidating hundreds of diverse policy riders and reforms into singular budget, bond, or economic development packages. DiTullio contends that measuring legislative effectiveness strictly by the volume of standalone bills passed, while disregarding both the sweeping scope and potency of Massachusetts omnibus packages and the state's continuous two-year legislative cycle, presents an incomplete and misleading comparison to other statehouses across the country. **20. Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll** September 1. 2026 *Governor Healey Launches Statewide Blue Envelope Program for People with Autism* *Free tool will help improve communication during traffic stops and other interactions with law enforcement* Governor Maura Healey launched Massachusetts' statewide **Blue Envelope Program**, a free, voluntary initiative designed to facilitate safer and more effective communication between law enforcement officers and individuals with autism during traffic stops. The bright blue envelope holds essential driving documents—such as a driver's license, vehicle registration, and emergency contact card—and alerts officers that the driver or passenger may communicate, process information, or react differently, while providing printed guidance on how officers can adapt their approach. Codified into law following a 2024 State Police pilot, the program requires no fee or documentation of diagnosis, and envelopes can be obtained at any Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) Service Center, participating AAA locations, or through an online request form.
Federal Policy	**21. Health Affairs** September 3, 2026 *Public Charge Restrictions For Immigrants And Their Families: No Rules, No Accountability* By Leighton Ku In this *Health Affairs Forefront* policy analysis, health policy professor Leighton Ku examines the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) finalized "public charge" regulation, warning that it dismantles crucial procedural guardrails and will trigger severe public health harms for immigrant families. Rescinding the protective 2022 standards, the new rule vastly expands the scope of means-tested assistance that immigration officers can penalize when adjudicating applications for lawful permanent residency—now penalizing the use of non-cash

safety-net benefits such as Medicaid, CHIP, SNAP, WIC, rental assistance, and refundable tax credits, and uniquely permitting adjudicators to count benefits accessed by an applicant's family members, including U.S.-citizen children. Granting individual officers broad discretion while stripping applicants of formal appeal rights, Ku emphasizes that the policy will generate a pervasive "chilling effect" that drives over a million low-income individuals to forgo essential healthcare, nutrition, and housing programs out of fear of deportation or denied residency status.

22. **National Health Law**
    September 1, 2026
    Statement of National Disability Organizations on the Department of Justice's Proposed Resolution of Texas v. Kennedy
    In a joint statement published by the National Health Law Program and allied disability advocacy organizations (including The Arc, Bazelon Center, DREDF, Justice in Aging, CPR, and the ACLU), disability rights leaders strongly condemned a proposed resolution filed on August 31, 2026, by the Department of Justice—on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)—alongside Texas and other plaintiff states in *Texas v. Kennedy*. The proposed settlement asks the federal court to vacate the community integration provisions established under the HHS 2024 regulations implementing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibit discrimination and mandate that federally funded programs serve disabled individuals in the most integrated setting appropriate. Warning that the administration is relying on a June 2026 DOJ Office of Legal Counsel memorandum to abruptly abandon five decades of settled civil rights precedent dating back to 1977, the coalition denounced the resolution as a dangerous abdication of the federal government's legal duty to protect community living, arguing that stripping these regulatory safeguards threatens to reverse decades of deinstitutionalization, facilitate unlawful segregation, and deny people with disabilities their fundamental autonomy and dignity
23. **Health Affairs**
    March 25, 2026
    Hospital Boarding In The ED: Federal, State, And Other Approaches
    By Chris Moore and Rebekah Heckmann
    In this *Health Affairs Forefront* analysis, authors Chris Moore and Rebekah Heckmann examine the escalating national crisis of hospital boarding in emergency departments (EDs)—where admitted patients are held in ED hallways and treatment rooms due to severe shortages of staffed inpatient beds and downstream discharge bottlenecks. Pointing out that boarding has worsened post-pandemic (with average wait times climbing from two hours in 2020 to nearly three hours in 2022) and poses dire clinical risks to patient safety while eroding staff morale, the authors stress that market forces alone have failed to correct the systemic economic incentives driving bed shortages. In response, policy momentum is slowly emerging across multiple fronts: federal regulators at CMS are developing a new Equity of Emergency Care Capacity and Quality (ECCQ) measure, states like Connecticut and Oregon are mandating boarding data transparency or studying

	discharge barriers, Maryland is considering tying boarding benchmarks directly to hospital Medicaid reimbursement, and quality groups like the Leapfrog Group are exploring boarding metrics for annual hospital safety evaluations. Ultimately, the authors conclude that meaningful progress will require moving beyond voluntary guidelines toward mandatory public reporting, enforceable accountability, and direct financial penalties tied to patient flow.
From Around the Country	**24. USA Today** September 7, 2026 *He lost 10 years in a Georgia nursing home. It's becoming more common* By Jayme Fraser This *USA Today* investigation highlights how millions of disabled and elderly Americans remain confined to institutional nursing facilities rather than receiving care in their homes, centered on the story of a Georgia man who spent ten years seeking community living under the landmark Supreme Court decision *Olmstead v. L.C.* In response to a lawsuit brought by several Republican-led states, Trump administration Justice Department lawyers signaled a willingness to erase a longstanding federal requirement that directs funding toward in-home care whenever feasible. Disability rights advocates warn that abandoning these community-integration standards weakens core protections of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and risks systematically funneling individuals with disabilities back into segregated institutional facilities. **25. The Sante Fe New Mexican** September 5, 2026 *Advocates worry nothing will change as troubled nursing home operator goes bankrupt* By Margaret O'Hara The article, published by *The Santa Fe New Mexican* and syndicated via Yahoo News (*"Advocates worry nothing will change as troubled nursing home operator goes bankrupt"*), reports on growing alarm among elder-care advocates and families after a major regional nursing home operator entered Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings and initiated asset sales. Citing chronic understaffing, severe quality deficiencies, and a track record of resident neglect and regulatory violations that plagued the facilities leading up to the financial collapse, advocates contend that the bankruptcy and restructuring process often serves merely to shield operators from mounting legal liabilities and financial obligations rather than resolving fundamental operational failures. Emphasizing systemic lack of accountability in ownership transfers, advocates warn that transferring distressed facilities to new or restructured entities without strict state oversight, robust staffing mandates, and enforceable quality protections will do little to alter the daily reality of substandard care for vulnerable residents.
A Raise for Mom: Campaign to Increase the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)	***The Campaign to Increase the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)*** 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. **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.*
Books by DignityMA Participants	***A Perfect Turmoil: Walter E. Fernald and the Struggle to Care for America's Disabled*** By Alex Green **Buy the book here** 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. ***American Eldercide: How It Happened, How to Prevent It*** By Margaret Morganroth Gullette **Buy the book here.** **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 *Agewise*, *Aged by Culture*, and *Ending Ageism, or How Not to Shoot Old People*. Her writing has appeared in publications such as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Guardian*, *Atlantic*, *Nation*, and the *Boston Globe*. 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 *The Dignity Digest* 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	
Blogs	***Risking Old Age in America*** **https://okayboomer.substack.com/** By Harry Margolis With 65 million Baby Boomers becoming older by the day, the United States is facing a looming elder care crisis. This blog explores how the nation and individuals can prepare for it.

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 *The Dignity Digest.*	
Previously posted funding opportunities	For open funding opportunities previously posted in *The Tuesday Digest* please see https://dignityalliancema.org/funding-opportunities/.	
Websites of Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Members	See: https://dignityalliancema.org/about/organizations/	
Contact information for reporting complaints and concerns	**Nursing home**	Department of Public Health 1. Print and complete the Consumer/Resident/Patient Complaint Form 2. Fax completed form to (617) 753-8165 Or Mail to 67 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA 01752 Ombudsman Program
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	

<table>
<tr><td>List of Special Focus Facilities</td><td>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
List of Special Focus Facilities and Candidates
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.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Nursing Home Inspect</td><td>ProPublica
Nursing Home Inspect
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</td></tr>
<tr><td>Nursing Home Compare</td><td>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
Nursing Home Compare Website
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</td></tr>
<tr><td>Data on Ownership of Nursing Homes</td><td>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Data on Ownership of Nursing Homes
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.</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><td>DignityMA Call Action</td><td colspan="3">

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

</td></tr>
<tr><td>Access to Dignity Alliance social media</td><td colspan="3">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</td></tr>
<tr><td>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.</td><td colspan="3">
<table>
<tr><th>Workgroup</th><th>Workgroup lead</th><th>Email</th></tr>
<tr><td>General Membership</td><td>Bill Henning
Paul Lanzikos</td><td>bhenning@bostoncil.org
paul.lanzikos@gmail.com</td></tr>
<tr><td>Assisted Living</td><td>John Ford</td><td>jford@njc-ma.org</td></tr>
<tr><td>Behavioral Health</td><td>Frank Baskin</td><td>baskinfrank19@gmail.com</td></tr>
<tr><td>Communications</td><td>Lachlan Forrow</td><td>lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu</td></tr>
<tr><td>Facilities (Nursing homes and rest homes)</td><td>Jim Lomastro</td><td>jimlomastro@comcast.net</td></tr>
<tr><td>Home and Community Based Services</td><td>Meg Coffin</td><td>mcoffin@centerlw.org</td></tr>
<tr><td>Legislative</td><td>Richard Moore</td><td>Dickmoore1943@gmail.com</td></tr>
<tr><td>Legal Issues</td><td>Stephen Schwartz</td><td>sschwartz@cpr-ma.org</td></tr>
<tr><th>Interest Group</th><th>Group lead</th><th>Email</th></tr>
<tr><td>Housing</td><td>Bill Henning</td><td>bhenning@bostoncil.org</td></tr>
<tr><td>Veteran Services</td><td>James Lomastro</td><td>jimlomastro@comcast.net</td></tr>
<tr><td>Transportation</td><td>Frank Baskin
Chris Hoeh</td><td>baskinfrank19@gmail.com
cdhoeh@gmail.com</td></tr>
<tr><td>Covid / Long Covid</td><td>James Lomastro</td><td>jimlomastro@comcast.net</td></tr>
<tr><td>Incarcerated Persons</td><td>TBD</td><td>info@DignityAllianceMA.org</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Bringing People Home: Implementing the Marsters class action settlement</td><td colspan="3">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/</td></tr>
<tr><td>REV UP Massachusetts</td><td colspan="3">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.</td></tr>
<tr><td>The Dignity Digest</td><td colspan="3">For a free weekly subscription to The Dignity Digest:
https://dignityalliancema.org/contact/sign-up-for-emails/
Editor: Paul Lanzikos
Primary contributor: Sandy Novack
MailChimp Specialist: Sue Rorke</td></tr>
<tr><td>Note of thanks</td><td colspan="3">Thanks to the contributors to this issue of The Dignity Digest:

Wynn Gerhard
Dick Moore
David Roush

</td></tr>
</table>

	Special thanks to the MetroWest Center for Independent Living for assistance with the website and MailChimp versions of *The Dignity Digest.* *If you have submissions for inclusion in The Dignity Digest or have questions or comments, please submit them to Digest@DignityAllianceMA.org.*

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: https://dignityalliancema.org/dignity-digest/*
For more information about Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, please visit www.DignityAllianceMA.org.