The Dignity Digest

Issue # 310 November 23. 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	***Gratitude—and the Work Still Before Us***

"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

Franklin D. Roosevelt, Second Inaugural Address, 1937

This week, many of us will gather around familiar tables. We will share meals in warm, safe homes, surrounded by people we love, grateful for our health, our comfort, and the quiet security of daily life. Those are real blessings, and pausing to recognize them is right and good.

Yet genuine gratitude never asks us to look away.

Even as we count our own good fortune, we must hold in our hearts and minds the far too many older adults and persons with disabilities who do not share in that safety or comfort. Across our communities, too many are spending this holiday in understaffed nursing homes, longing for connection and basic respect. Too many are growing older or navigating disability behind prison walls, largely unseen by the outside world. Too many are experiencing homelessness as winter closes in, enduring abuse or neglect in silence, or struggling day by day without a safe home and the essential in-home supports that make independent living possible.

None of these realities are inevitable. They are not simply unfortunate circumstances; they are the consequences of choices we make—or fail to make—about how we value human dignity, how we invest in care, and who we decide belongs at the center of community life.

Thanksgiving is at its most meaningful when gratitude turns into resolve. Let us be thankful not only for the security we enjoy, but

	for the caregivers, neighbors, and advocates who refuse to accept that anyone should be left behind. Every older adult and every person with a disability deserves safety, autonomy, and a place to call home. As a society, we can do better. We must do better.
Guide to news items in this week's *Dignity Digest*	Nursing Homes • *CMS Proposes Rolling Back Hospital and Nursing Home Requirements* **(Legis 1,** November 21, 2026) • *Worcester nursing home was under state investigation* **(*Worcester Telegram and Gazette,** November 12, 2026) Disability Topics • *Texas Adopts Rule Letting Its Sickest Children Skip the Nursing Home* **(The Texas Dispatch,** November 21, 2026) Caregiving • *Funny skit highlights serious elder-care situation* **(*Salem News,** November 23, 2026) Veterans • *'Our veterans mean much to us': West Roxbury senior care home pays tribute to those who served* **(*Boston Globe,** November 11, 2026) State Policy • *Lower your expectations: House majority leader does not think Legislature will finish every bill stuck in negotiations* **(Commonwealth Beacon,** November 17, 2026) From Around the Country • *Virginia leaders say they delivered on promise to fix nursing home oversight. Did they?* **(WTVR Richmond,** November 20, 2026) • *Bill Targets Nursing Home Staffing and Medicaid Spending in State* **(Skilled Nursing News,** November 20, 2026) From Our Colleagues from Around the Country • November 18, 2026 **(American Geriatric Society,** *Last Week in Congress*) • **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (**November 12, 2026)
Quotes	*"We're extremely concerned about the rate of change and the nature of the entities that are stepping up to take ownership or attempting to take ownership. . . The whole sector is in a tailspin and someone has got to right the plane before it crashes."* *Paul Lanzikos, Coordinator, Dignity Alliance Massachusetts,* ***Five of 9 nursing home chains scrutinized in Spotlight report are***

	selling facilities, dropping Mass. expansions, or fighting revocation, (**Boston Globe,** November 23, 2026) *Massachusetts's largest health insurer, Blue Cross Blue Shield, alerted members in late October that it will no longer cover new admissions to RegalCare facilities, including for its members on Medicare. It cited the state's effort to revoke the chain's licenses.* ***Five of 9 nursing home chains scrutinized in Spotlight report are selling facilities, dropping Mass. expansions, or fighting revocation***, (**Boston Globe,** November 23, 2026) *"Caregivers, a majority of whom are women, bear the cost in lost jobs, paychecks, savings and retirement security. That's the real hidden cost of caregiving."* Angela M. Antonelli, executive director of the Center for Retirement Initiatives at Georgetown University, *Funny skit highlights serious elder-care situation* **(*Salem News,** November 23, 2026) *"How is there not an obligation to protect citizens from coming into a facility like this? It's crazy to me."* Jennifer Frobese, sister of Jamie Keys, a resident of Bear Mountain Nursing Home in Worcester who died unexpectedly, *Worcester nursing home was under state investigation* **(*Worcester Telegram and Gazette,** November 12, 2026) *"Medically fragile children often have complex overlapping needs that do not fit neatly into rigid categories."* *Texas Adopts Rule Letting Its Sickest Children Skip the Nursing Home* **(The Texas Dispatch,** November 21, 2026)
Spotlight	***Five of 9 nursing home chains scrutinized in Spotlight report are selling facilities, dropping Mass. expansions, or fighting revocation*** **Boston Globe** November 23, 2026 By Kay Lazar and Neena Hagen Five of the nine nursing home chains highlighted in a *Boston Globe* Spotlight investigation for care quality issues — **RegalCare, Azure Healthcare, Best Care Services, Stern**

Consultants, and Vantage Care — are facing license revocations, halting expansion, or moving to exit Massachusetts. Together, they operate **42 facilities** (roughly one in eight of the state's ~340 nursing homes) amid a record surge in proposed ownership transfers and tighter state oversight.

Key Developments by Chain

- **RegalCare (12 facilities):** The state moved to revoke its licenses, citing repeated resident safety citations, admitted improper Medicare/Medicaid billing, and administrator license misrepresentations. Owner Eli Mirlis is appealing, while Blue Cross Blue Shield halted new admissions coverage for members (including Medicare) at RegalCare homes. Nurses at the Wakefield facility protested poor conditions (such as broken laundry machines and staffing shortages), though staff noted superficial fixes following new unannounced weekly state inspections.
- **Azure Healthcare (6 facilities):** Half of its homes hold the lowest federal rating, and its owner, Azriel Lieberman (a business partner of Mirlis), dropped plans to acquire two nonprofit facilities (Penacook Place in Haverhill and Nevins Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Methuen) to focus on existing properties.
- **Best Care Services (8 facilities):** In the process of transferring its eight homes to Missouri-based **American Medical Administrators (AMA)**, which holds a low 1.7-star federal average across its 68 facilities.
- **Stern Consultants (7 facilities):** Had a deal to sell all seven homes to AMA, which backed out on Nov. 11 over concerns about expanding too fast; whether Stern is pursuing another buyer is unclear.
- **Vantage Care (9 remaining facilities):** Founded in 2022 by two New York men with no prior nursing home ownership experience, Vantage expanded rapidly despite early safety failures (including a 2023 incident where a resident with mild dementia wandered off and died). It plans to transfer its remaining homes to **Heritage Healthcare Consulting**, though regulators recently requested an updated suitability application under stricter rules.

Broader Market & Regulatory Shift

- **Historic Turnover:** In the first 10 months of 2026, **84 Massachusetts nursing homes** (nearly one in four) were registered for potential ownership changes — triple the prior-year period and the highest count in two decades of federal tracking.

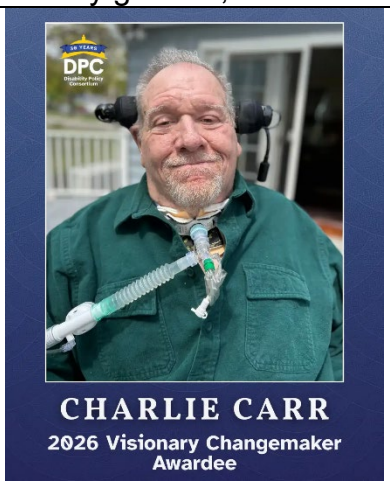
- **Stricter Vetting:** Public Health Commissioner Dr. Robbie Goldstein said regulators are tightening suitability reviews across buyers, operators, real estate entities, management companies, and out-of-state star ratings — marking the first license revocation effort or acquisition rejection in at least seven years (including rejecting a troubled California chain's bid for 11 homes).
- **Advocate Warnings:** Dignity Alliance cofounder Paul Lanzikos warned that departing operators do not guarantee better care if buyers have spotty records, calling for a coordinated response across the governor's office, MassHealth, the attorney general, and health regulators.

30 YEARS DPC

Disability Policy Consortium

30th Anniversary Gala

Photos by Sue Rorke



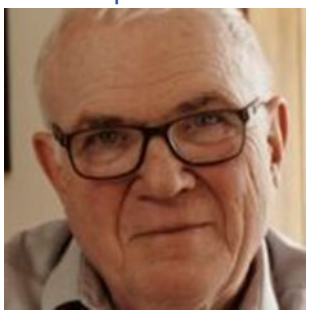


At the Disability Policy Consortium's 30th Anniversary Gala: Charlie Carr, recipient of DPCV's Visionary Changemaker Award. Left to right: Rebecca Gutman, Vice President, 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, Bill Henning, Executive Director, Boston Center for Independent Living; Paul Lanzikos, Coordinator, Dignity Alliance Massachusetts.



Sandy Novack, DignityMA Coordinating Committee Member at DPC 30th Anniversary Gala.

Commentary Offered by DignityMA Participants



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

What Public Administrators Can Learn From a Zoom Call That Changed Nursing Home Policy

PA Times

By James Lomastro

November 20, 2026

In his November 20, 2026 *PA TIMES* commentary, James A. Lomastro references the tragedy of 84 veteran deaths at the Holyoke Veterans' Home during the early COVID-19 pandemic to illustrate how slow, rigid public engagement channels fail during fast-moving crises. Out of that gap emerged the Dignity Alliance of Massachusetts—starting as a Zoom gathering of family members, lawyers, and retired nursing home administrators and growing over six years into an unfunded, 35-member coalition that helped drive nursing home ownership disclosures, revised staffing ratios, and stronger complaint enforcement. Lomastro attributes its outsized impact to three practices: distributed professional expertise across clinical, financial, regulatory, and family perspectives; operational discipline (a steady multi-year schedule, shared live records, and a 48-hour rapid-response protocol); and constructive engagement that pairs workable alternatives with independent parallel analysis rather than relying solely on delayed public comment periods.

For public administrators, Lomastro argues that this model requires no new budget or statutory authority—only a cultural shift to treat knowledgeable stakeholder networks as early sources of ground-level intelligence rather than audiences to manage. Because the coalition's data and analysis proved accurate, state officials began consulting members informally

before rules were finalized, while journalists increasingly sought their perspective alongside state agencies. Lomastro urges agencies to share unflattering information transparently rather than hoarding it behind public records friction, warning that grassroots, expertise-rich networks will inevitably keep forming and challenging institutions to adapt proactively before the next crisis strikes.

SNL's Caregiving Skit Exposes the Unpaid Labor We Assign to Women

Generations Now

By James Lomastro

November 11, 2026

In *Generations*, Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Coordinating Committee member James A. Lomastro examines how *Saturday Night Live*'s viral "Sister" sketch reflects real caregiving data. Women make up roughly three in five of America's 63 million family caregivers—absorbing steep career and lifetime wage losses while families face prohibitive costs for 24/7 home care ($5,880/week) or nursing homes ($129,575/year) without Medicare coverage. Lomastro calls for paid family leave, respite services, and direct financial caregiver support.

Ribbon is cut at the new vets home in Holyoke. Now fill the beds

MassLive.com

By James Lomastro

November 8, 2026

Governor Maura Healey cut the ribbon on the new Massachusetts Veterans Home at Holyoke on Oct. 29, 2026 — six years after a COVID-19 outbreak at the former facility killed 76 veterans. Both state veterans' homes (Holyoke and Chelsea) are now licensed and CMS-certified, with Holyoke earning a zero-deficiency VA survey rating, outperforming the statewide average on six of seven CMS quality metrics, doubling capacity from 117 to 234 long-term care beds (adding memory care and adult day health), and adopting the VA's "small house" model of 10- to 14-resident households.

Why the Real Work Starts Now

Because Holyoke and Chelsea represent Massachusetts's only public nursing home option alongside a $200 million bond for alternative veteran supportive housing, their operational success carries major stakes — and faces **three core tests**:

1. **Operating True "Small House" Culture:** Architecture alone does not end institutional habits. Running small households requires consistent staff assignments, cross-trained teams

	handling cooking, cleaning, and care, and resident-directed daily routines — drawing lessons from Chelsea (open since 2023), nearby Mary Meadows, Leonard Florence in Chelsea, and VA models such as San Antonio. 2. **Moving Waiting Lists Transparently:** With initial staffing set well above baseline skilled-nursing requirements, staffing ratios can step down gradually as census rises without adding proportional hires. The piece calls for ending informal admissions ("who you knew") by publishing waiting lists, vacancies, admission criteria, monthly census data, and target fill dates. 3. **Transitioning Veterans Out of Low-Rated Facilities:** Many veterans currently reside in clinically weak, isolating one- and two-star nursing homes, often with PTSD or service-related trauma. The state needs a clear outreach, funding, record-transfer, and family-support plan to move them safely and with dignity.
Recruitment	**See:** **Listings on MASSterList.com's Job Board** for all current listings
Webinars and Online Sessions	***1.*** ***Dual Eligible Basics*** **Justice in Aging** Thursday, December 3, 2026, 2:00 p.m. Dually eligible individuals are older adults and people with disabilities who are simultaneously enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid because of their age or disability and limited resources. On average, dually eligible individuals have more chronic conditions and higher health needs than Medicare-only individuals, yet they often face barriers to accessing care because of their enrollment in two separate health insurance programs. Medicare and Medicaid were not designed to work together, and dually eligible individuals face unique barriers to accessing the full range of benefits available under both programs. Today, dually eligible individuals have an array of options to choose how to receive their care, and the number of options is growing. In this webinar, presenters will discuss dually eligible individuals, Medicare and Medicaid coverage, enrollment choices, benefits available under Medicare and Medicaid, and the challenges this population faces navigating their health needs. Who Should Attend: • Legal services professionals – legal aid and private attorneys, paralegals, clerks, interns • State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs) • Aging and disability service providers Key Takeaways: • Understand who dually eligible individuals are and their demographic characteristics • Understand how Medicare and Medicaid overlap and the importance of Medicaid to dually eligible individuals • Gain advocacy tips on assisting, navigating coverage, and resolving issues **Dual Register Now**

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	**2. Legis 1** November 21, 2026 *CMS Proposes Rolling Back Hospital and Nursing Home Requirements* By Legis1 Editorial A November 21, 2026 *Legis1* report examines a November 10 CMS proposed rule rolling back federal participation and reporting requirements across 21 Medicare and Medicaid provider types—estimating roughly $320 million in annual administrative savings, including $142.6 million for long-term care facilities and $123.2 million for hospitals. It rescinds certain Medicaid payment transparency rules and directs inspectors after January 1, 2027, to prioritize rules not slated for imminent revision. Public comments close January 11, 2027. **3. *Worcester Telegram and Gazette** November 12, 2026 *Worcester nursing home was under state investigation* By Henry Schwan In a November 2026 *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* investigation, reporter Henry Schwan examines why Massachusetts officials did not halt patient admissions at Worcester's Bear Mountain nursing home while the Attorney General's Office investigated the facility for chronic understaffing and neglect—an inquiry that later contributed to a $2.75 million civil settlement. Jennifer Frobese, whose 51-year-old brother Jamie Keys died in October 2023 after suffering prolonged oxygen deprivation at the facility, argued that the state failed in its duty to protect residents by keeping inquiries confidential and allowing new admissions during active investigations. While both the Attorney General's Office and the Department of Public Health cited statutory limits—noting admissions are typically frozen only upon a federal "immediate jeopardy" finding—Dignity Alliance Massachusetts co-founder Paul Lanzikos emphasized that non-public investigations and outdated, opaque state inspection tools leave families in the dark, urging prospective residents and loved ones to conduct thorough due diligence by reviewing ProPublica reports, CMS star ratings, and speaking directly with current families and certified nursing assistants.
Caregiving	**4. *Salem News** November 23, 2026 *Funny skit highlights serious elder-care situation* Editorial Board A viral *Saturday Night Live* parody ad starring John Mulaney—where a son solves unaffordable elder care by texting his sister to quit her job and provide free 24/7 care—exposes a painful reality. Behind the laughs, 63 million Americans serve as unpaid family caregivers, 60% of them women sacrificing wages and retirement security. Without

	universal paid leave or subsidized long-term care, the U.S. leaves families—and disproportionately daughters and sisters—to bear the cost alone.
Disability Topics	**5. The Texas Dispatch** November 21, 2026 *Texas Adopts Rule Letting Its Sickest Children Skip the Nursing Home* By The Texas Dispatch *The Texas Dispatch* reports that Texas health officials adopted a rule allowing medically fragile children to access Medically Dependent Children Program home nursing care starting December 1, 2026—bypassing a nearly 7,500-child waiting list or prior nursing home admission. While the rule slightly eases seizure and physician-override criteria, it leaves slot counts undisclosed, omits cancer-related immunosuppression, and excludes family caregiver hardship from qualifying factors.
Veterans	**6. *Boston Globe** November 11, 2026 *'Our veterans mean much to us': West Roxbury senior care home pays tribute to those who served* By Bryan Hecht At West Roxbury's German Centre, more than 25 resident, past, and staff veterans—including World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans—were honored during the senior care facility's 16th annual Veterans Day celebration around its lobby "Wall of Honor." Joined by Mayor Michelle Wu, Suffolk DA Kevin Hayden, state representatives, Boston Police, and Veterans Advocate liaison Truc DeCoste, residents shared memories and music from Roxbury Latin students while celebrating lasting recognition of their service.
State Policy	**7. Commonwealth Beacon** November 17, 2026 *Lower your expectations: House majority leader does not think Legislature will finish every bill stuck in negotiations* By Chris Lisinski *'The good thing is we have next session to go right back at it,' says Rep. Michael Moran* *CommonWealth Beacon* reports that House Majority Leader Michael Moran does not expect Beacon Hill lawmakers to finish every bill stalled in negotiations before the legislative term ends on January 5, 2027, though he noted lawmakers can resume work next session. With 13 conference committees—plus the FY2027 closeout budget—facing a tight end-of-term clock on issues from data privacy and school cell phones to animal welfare, unresolved bills will expire and restart from scratch. **8. Commonwealth Beacon** November 14, 2026 *Massachusetts led twice on health care. It's time for a third major reform – this one focused on keeping people well.* By M. Vaman Rao In a November 14, 2026 *CommonWealth Beacon* commentary, health care entrepreneur and scientist M. Vaman Rao argues that after leading

	the nation on insurance coverage in 2006 and cost-containment benchmarks in 2012, Massachusetts must launch a third wave of reform under Governor Maura Healey focused on predicting and preventing illness rather than paying to treat disease after it strikes. With health care spending reaching $83.3 billion in 2024, exceeding the state's growth target for four straight years, and commercial insurance still dominated by fee-for-service incentives, Rao proposes five targeted reforms: publishing an annual Health Policy Commission prevention scorecard; using the state's all-payer claims database to identify rising health risks early; finalizing pending legislation to dedicate at least 15% of health care spending to primary care; tying MassHealth and Group Insurance Commission payments to measurable health outcomes and avoided hospitalizations; and offering multiyear global contracts that credit providers for prevention savings over five or more years.
From Our Colleagues from Around the Country	**9. American Geriatric Society** *Last Week in Congress* November 18, 2026 • The **Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has proposed sweeping changes to the administration of federal grants and awards** that could affect research, workforce development, and other programs critical to the health and well-being of older adults. While implementation of this rule is currently blocked through December 11th, we urge you to contact your legislators and ask them to include language in any continuing resolution (CR) or year-end spending package that would permanently prevent the OMB grant rule from taking effect. **Click Here to Take Action Now.** • **Congress is also working to finalize FY 2027 appropriations, including funding for vital geriatrics workforce programs.** The current Senate proposal would provide $50.245 million for the Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) and the Geriatrics Academic Career Awards (GACA) program, which is $2 million more than the funding level approved by the House. We encourage you to contact your legislators and urge them to support this funding level in any CR or year-end spending package. **Click Here to Take Action Now.** • The **Older Americans Act (OAA) Reauthorization Act of 2025** would ensure continued support for the more than 11 million older adults and family caregivers who rely on OAA-funded services by authorizing appropriations for FYs 2026 through 2030. The OAA expired on September 30, 2024, and the reauthorization bill passed the Senate unanimously in July. We encourage you to contact your legislators and urge them to include the OAA Reauthorization Act in any year-end legislative package. **Click Here to Take Action Now.** **10. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services** November 12, 2026 • Concerns & Help For Observation Status Appeals • **Concerns & Help For Observation Status Appeals** • **CMS Releases Final Rule: Some Immigrants Will Lose Medicare in 2027**

	• **In Memory of Sen. Jay Rockefeller** • **Free Webinar Next Week | Medicare Appeals: "I've Been Denied – Now What?" In Partnership with the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation's National Paralysis Resource Center_**
From Around the Country	**11. WTVR Richmond** November 20, 2026 *Virginia leaders say they delivered on promise to fix nursing home oversight. Did they?* **12. Skilled Nursing News** November 20, 2026 *Bill Targets Nursing Home Staffing and Medicaid Spending in State* By Zahida Siddiqi A November 20, 2026 *Skilled Nursing News* report covers a draft state bill requiring nursing homes to spend at least 70% of revenue on direct patient care starting in January 2028—excluding rent, leases, capital improvements, and non-nursing overhead—while setting a 3.6-hour daily direct-care staffing minimum (including 2.0 CNA hours and 1.0 licensed nurse hour) for facilities receiving upper payment limit (UPL) funds.
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.
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.*
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

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>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</td></tr>
<tr><td>Nursing Home Closures</td><td>List of Nursing Home Closures in Massachusetts Since July 2021:
https://dignityalliancema.org/2025/04/07/nursing-home-closures-since-july-2021/</td></tr>
<tr><td>Determination of Need Projects</td><td>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</td></tr>
<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>
</table>

<table>
<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>
<tr><td>DignityMA Call Action</td><td>• 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>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>
<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>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</td></tr>
</table>

	Newsletter registration: https://marsters.centerforpublicrep.org/7b3c2-contact/
REV UP Massachusetts	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.
The Dignity Digest	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
Note of thanks	Thanks to the contributors to this issue of *The Dignity Digest:* • Wynn Gerhard • Jim Lomastro • Dick Moore 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.*	