

## Cordt Kassner

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**From:** Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter  
<subscriptions@hospicepalliativecaretoday.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 7, 2023 4:00 AM  
**To:** Cordt Kassner  
**Subject:** Your Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter for 12/07/23



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**December 7th, 2023**

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## Hospice Provider News

### [Execs—Retention program has lasting positive effect on turnover, culture for VITAS](#)

*McKnight's Home Care Daily*

December 5, 2023

A successful retention program, which has since ended, has had an enduring impact on recruitment, retention and employee satisfaction at hospice provider VITAS, executives said Monday during an investor conference. "We got a lot of goodwill with the employees," David Williams, chief financial officer of Chemed, VITAS' parent company, said during the conference hosted by Bank of America. "It showed that we were responding to their needs. They were concerned they were overworked, that they were underappreciated. The program responded to those issues."

### [\\$200,000 raised for Hospice of Redmond at Festival of Trees](#)

*Central Oregon Daily News (Bend, OR)*

December 5, 2023

More than \$200,000 was raised at this year's Festival of Trees. The Hospice of Redmond holds the event every year to raise money for its non-profit services, making sure that people who need end-of-life care can get it even if they don't have the funds.

### [Hospice awareness campaign launched to educate D.C. residents about care benefits](#)

*WTOP-FM (Washington, DC)*

December 4, 2023

Capital Caring Health, a part of the nation's largest not-for-profit advanced illness care and hospice provider, Chapters Health System, was awarded a charitable grant by The Washington Home Foundation, a DC-based foundation dedicated to improving the quality of life for elderly and/or terminally ill residents in the metropolitan area.

### [Circle of Life Hospice announces major donation for Hospice House Project](#)

*KOLO-TV (Reno, NV)*

December 5, 2023

Eno, NV—Circle of Life Hospice Foundation is excited to announce an individual has donated a house and additional land to the Hospice House Project. The plan for this project is to create a community-based social model for end-of-life care that is provided in a "home-away-from-home" environment for individuals who are unable to die in their own home. Resident care is provided by a combination of family members, volunteers and paid caregivers in collaboration with the many medical-hospice providers in the Reno area.

## **Palliative Care Provider News**

### [The Center to Advance Palliative Care Celebrates 20th Anniversary of its Palliative Care Leadership Centers](#)

*News Release*

December 5, 2023

New York, NY—Since 2000, the percentage of hospitals (with 50 or more beds) with a

palliative care program has more than tripled, from 25% to more than 83%. Additionally, palliative care has expanded beyond the hospital into community settings such as long-term care facilities, nursing homes, office practices, and patient homes. This expansion and growth has been fueled by the Center to Advance Palliative Care's Palliative Care Leadership Centers first launched in 2003 with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. ... Over the past 20 years, more than 1,300 palliative care teams have trained with a PCLC. And, 80% of them went on to institute palliative care services within two years. Today, there are eight Palliative Care Leadership Centers, including:

- Bluegrass Care Navigators, Lexington, KY
- Mount Carmel Health System, Columbus, OH
- Northwell Health, Manhasset, NY
- Presbyterian Healthcare Services, Albuquerque, NM
- University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Medical Center, Birmingham, AL
- University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), San Francisco, CA
- University of Virginia Health System (UVA), Charlottesville, VA
- Virginia Commonwealth University Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center; Richmond, VA

## Clinical News

### [Medical marijuana takes off in Mississippi, but stalls out in Alabama](#)

*Birmingham (AL) News*

December 5, 2023

Alabama passed a law legalizing medical marijuana in May 2021. Mississippi followed seven months later in January 2022. While Alabama's medical marijuana licensing process has faced several deadlocks in the face of lawsuits, mismanagement and political opposition, Mississippi's has marched steadily forward. Its first dispensaries opened in early 2023, and the number has already grown to about 100 by year's end, said Henry Crisler, assistant director of the Mississippi Medical Marijuana Association. ... Dispensary owners said the industry has encountered some obstacles in Mississippi but have also shown that medical marijuana has a place in the Deep South.

### [WVU Medicine Hospice hosts annual 'Gift of Lights' remembrance ceremony](#)

*WBOY-TV (Clarksburg, WV)*

December 5, 2023

WVU Medicine Hospice held a Gift of Light service at United Hospital Center in Bridgeport Tuesday night. Names were read of the loved ones who were remembered this holiday season and family members were able to light a battery-operated candle in remembrance of their them and to celebrate their lives. The family members and caregivers in attendance were given Christmas tree ornaments to honor their loved one who has passed. A tree will also be lit in the hospice garden near the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical

Center. Hospice officials said the service gives families a chance to get together and share memories and stories of their loved ones with others.

## Regulatory News

### [OIG Report - Louisiana Nursing Home Background Checks](#)

Press Release 12/6/23.

Louisiana Should Improve Its Oversight of Nursing Homes' Compliance With Requirements That Prohibit Employment of Individuals With Disqualifying Background Checks.

## M&A News

### [2023's Most Impactful Hospice Deals](#)

*Hospice News*

December 5, 2023

A rich mix of hospice merger and acquisition activity at the end of 2023 is fueling trends into next year. Hospice M&A activity has diverged from the frenzied pace set in recent years. The hospice space in the last five years has seen record-breaking multiples, a prevalence of private equity-backed platform transactions and large-scale assets up for grabs. This year saw a slow but significant start, with mainly smaller and fewer hospice transactions taking place. As valuations have come down, asset sizes have varied and the scope of buyers has pivoted. However, the hospice market also saw a number of multi-billion-dollar “mega-deals” involving payers that stand to reshape aspects of the industry. The forthcoming sale of Amedisys to Optum marks one of the most significant transactions in the hospice industry in terms of valuation and buyer trends.

### [National HME Acquires Hospice Source](#)

*Business Wire*

December 5, 2023

Irving, TX—National HME, a leading provider of durable medical equipment solutions and services to hospice and alternate sites of care, today announced that it has acquired Hospice Source, a provider of medical equipment to hospice patients and facilities.

### [Baptist Health completes acquisition of Drew Memorial Health in Monticello](#)

*KARK-TV (Little Rock, AR)*

December 5, 2023

Monticello, AR—The former Drew Memorial Health System in Monticello is now the Baptist Health Medical Center—Drew County. The change-over was marked by a ribbon cutting Monday morning. The Monticello operation is the 12th Baptist Health hospital and has approximately 300 employees.

## Post-Acute Care News

## **Patient-centered medical homes can reduce care cost of chronically ill patients, study finds**

*McKnight's Home Care Daily*

December 5, 2023

High-cost patients receiving care through patient-centered medical home programs are less likely to remain high-cost in the long term, according to a recent study published in the *American Journal of Managed Care*. ... The researchers compared the healthcare expenditures and health outcomes of thousands of PCMH and non-PCMH patients across Maryland during the state's Multi-Payer PCMH program. They found that high-cost patients, such as those with chronic conditions, frailty or greater rates of hospital or ambulance usage, experienced better health outcomes with less health service utilization.

## **After strike, Everett nurses, Providence agree on tentative contract**

*Everett (WA) Herald*

December 5, 2023

Everett, WA—Providence Regional Medical Center Everett reached a tentative contract agreement with more than 1,300 union nurses, the hospital announced Monday. The agreement—reached Friday night—comes after nearly nine months of talks and a five-day strike in November. Nurses walked out Nov. 14 to protest understaffing, the main sticking point between both sides. ... If the new agreement stands, nurses will have a contract that includes most of the terms they have asked for. The nurses' union, United Food and Commercial Workers 3000, declared victory in a message to nurses Saturday.& nbsp;

## **Dartmouth Health finances improve**

*Valley News (West Lebanon, NH)/VT Digger*

November 29, 2023

Lebanon, NH—Dartmouth Health continues to see a financial loss on operations, but the red ink has subsided substantially since last year, according to filings with bondholders last week. For the first quarter of fiscal year 2024, which ended Sept. 30, DH saw an operating loss of \$8.2 million, or 1%. Overall, including SVHC, expenses were up about 10% to \$844 million for the first quarter of the year, over the same period last year. ... Meanwhile, revenues were up nearly 15%, or \$107.5 million, compared with the same quarter last year. That was partially aided by SVHC's membership, as well as by growth in patient volumes, contracted payment rates and higher inpatient acuity at DHMC, the system's flagship academic medical center.

## **Insights on Exposing, Resolving Chronic Underfunding of Nursing Homes**

*Skilled Nursing News*

December 5, 2023

As nursing homes grapple with a tough economic and labor environment—which has forced closures and created access issues—patient and nursing home advocates underscored the emotional toll of care, calling upon the federal and state governments to do more to address new and emerging generational challenges to care.

## Today's Encouragement

"Waking up this morning, I smile. Twenty-four brand new hours are before me. I vow to live fully in each moment and to look at all beings with eyes of compassion." Thich Nhat Hanh

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