

## Cordt Kassner

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December 23rd, 2023

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## Headlines

## **NAHC and NHPCO Announce Transition Board of Directors**

*News Release, 12/21/23*

Alexandria, VA, and Washington, DC—The National Association for Home Care & Hospice and the National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization jointly announced today that they have developed a proposed slate of Transition Board of Directors and officers for 2024. The Transition Board will oversee the transition to a new, consolidated organization pursuant to its ratification by both associations' Boards of Directors in an agreement to combine which is contemplated in early 2024. ... The proposed Transition Board was selected collaboratively by the boards of NAHC and NHPCO and represents the full breadth of the patient-centered healthcare sector providing care in homes and communities nationwide, with wide-ranging expertise, demographic and geographic diversity, varied organizational tax statuses, and other criteria. The Transition Board includes equal representation from NAHC and NHPCO ... The proposed Transition Board is as follows:

- Ken Albert, R.N., Esq., Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice, NAHC, Transition Board Chair
- David Causby, Gentiva, NAHC
- Trisha Crissman, MA, CommonSpirit Health at Home, NHPCO
- Melinda Gruber, PhD, MBA, CNA, Corewell Health, NHPCO, Transition Board Vice Chair
- Demetress Harrell, MA, LBSW, DAPA, Hospice in the Pines, NHPCO
- Susan D. Lloyd, MSN, RN, Delaware Hospice, Inc., NHPCO
- Tarrah Lowry, Trustbridge / Empath, NHPCO
- Christine McMichael, MA, Hospice & Palliative Care Federation of Massachusetts, current chair of Council of States, NHPCO
- Mark Morse, Enclara Pharmacia, NHPCO
- Mary Myers, Retired Johns Hopkins, NAHC
- John Olajide, Axxess, NAHC
- Bob Parker, DNP, RN, CENP, CHPN, CHP, Kindful Health, NHPCO
- Susan Ponder-Stansel, Alivia Care, Inc., NAHC
- Sara Ratcliffe, Illinois HomeCare & Hospice Council, current chair of Forum of States, NAHC
- Lynne Sexten, FACHE, Agrace, NHPCO, Transition Board Secretary
- William Simione, SimiTree, NAHC, Transition Board Treasurer
- Jennifer Sheets, NAHC
- Beth Slepian, Granite VNA, NAHC
- Dave Totaro, BAYADA Home Health Care, NAHC
- Nick Westfall, VITAS Healthcare, NHPCO

## **The Top 10 Home Health Care News Stories Of 2023**

*Home Health Care News, 12/20/23*

In the first year that truly felt “post-COVID,” home-based care providers did not see a shortage of challenges. Instead, in 2023, home health providers saw another year defined

by payment struggles, with both the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and Medicare Advantage plans. ... Reflect back on this year in home-based care by revisiting 10 of HHCN's most widely read stories.

1. Optum Lures Amedisys Away From Option Care Health With \$3.3B All-Cash Deal (June 26)
2. \$5.4 Billion LHC Group-Optum Deal Closes (Feb. 22)
3. Rumors Swirl Around Potential Cigna Group-Humana Combination (Nov. 28)
4. CMS Finalizes 0.8% Home Health Payment Increase For 2024, Additional PDGM Cuts (Nov. 1)
5. Humana's CenterWell To Acquire Trilogy Home Health (April 24)
6. Details Emerge Around Home Health Titan April Anthony's New Venture, VitalCaring (Feb. 2)
7. The Potentially Dire Long-Term Impact Of Home Health Agency Closures (Jan. 17)
8. Honor Lays Off 15% Of HQ Staff, Including Long-Time Home Instead Employees (June 27)
9. CD&R-Backed Gentiva Agrees To Acquire ProMedica's Home Care, Hospice Assets For \$710M (Feb. 27)
10. New CMS Dementia Care Model Opens Doors Of Opportunity For Home-Based Care Providers (Jul. 31)

### **The Major Healthcare Deals of 2023**

*Becker's Hospital Review, By Naomi Diaz, 12/21/23*

Healthcare disruptors such as Amazon, CVS Health and VillageMD spent billions in 2023 to increase their presence in the healthcare space through mergers and acquisitions. Here are six healthcare disruptor acquisitions that have been closed or announced since Jan. 3.

1. UnitedHealth Group's Optum announced plans June 26 to merge with home and hospice care provider Amedisys in an all-cash deal valued at \$101 per share, pending shareholder and regulatory approvals.
2. On May 2, CVS Health completed its \$10.6 billion acquisition of primary care company Oak Street Health.
3. On March 29, CVS Health completed its \$8 billion acquisition of Signify Health, adding more than 10,000 clinicians to its network.
4. On Feb. 22, Amazon completed its \$3.9 billion acquisition of virtual and in-person primary care company One Medical.
5. In February, UnitedHealth Group closed on its \$5.4 billion acquisition of home health firm LHC Group.
6. On Jan. 3, VillageMD, which is majority-owned by Walgreens Boots Alliance, completed its acquisition of Summit Health-CityMD, adding more than 2,800 providers to its ranks. The deal was worth \$8.9 billion.



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## Hospice Provider News

### [Helios Care Partners with Bassett Healthcare to Expand Hospice, Palliative Services](#)

*Hospice News, 12/21/23*

The hospice and senior care provider Helios Care is partnering with the integrated health system Bassett Healthcare Network to bring more extensive access to hospice and palliative care to patients in central New York. ... As a result of the partnership, the New York State Department of Health issued certificates of need allowing Helios to expand into additional counties.

### [Festival of Trees raises \\$50K for Compass Hospice](#)

*Star Democrat (Easton, MD), 12/21/23*

Denton, MD—Dozens of donated, decorated evergreen trees at the Towers Family Historical Museum in Hobbs were not just a beautiful display of Christmas cheer. They prompted \$50,000 in donations for Compass Hospice's work in Caroline County. Despite the rainy weather, the annual Festival of Trees the first weekend of December attracted almost two dozen corporate sponsors who raised over \$25,000 of the total proceeds.

## Clinical News

### [Award-winning 'Music With Movement' program arms caregivers with tuneful tool to treat dementia](#)

*McKnights Senior Living, By Aaron Dorman, 12/19/23*

One recent music and movement intervention program designed for seniors combines a number of different technologies, including augmented reality, to help them combat depression and anxiety from their condition, researchers say. Music, and music therapy, have been recognized as a way to help enrich life for senior living community residents.



# HOSPICE ANALYTICS

TURNING DATA INTO INFORMATION – TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

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## [\*\*State tries to remove 'veil of arbitration secrecy' in memory care elder abuse case\*\*](#)

*McKnights Senior Living, By Kimberly Bonvissuto, 12/19/23*

In a bid to remove a “veil of arbitration secrecy,” one state attorney general filed a motion to intervene in a lawsuit alleging elder abuse at a memory care facility. Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes filed a motion to intervene on Friday in an abuse and neglect lawsuit against Senita Ridge, the memory care community on the campus of Ridges at Peoria in Peoria, AZ. A judge’s Oct. 31 order moved the case to arbitration, but Mayes charged that the secrecy of arbitration removes transparency in an elder abuse case, which violates the state’s Adult Protective Services Act. The act requires notification to the state’s top attorney when a lawsuit alleging elder abuse or neglect is filed, allowing the state to track and potentially join the case.

## **Regulatory News**

### [\*\*Unlicensed Saratoga County nursing home operator to pay \\$650,000\*\*](#)

*Times Union (Albany, NY), 12/21/23*

Ballston Spa, NY—The unlicensed operator of a now shuttered Saratoga County nursing home is set to repay Medicaid \$656,000 after an investigation by the state attorney general’s office and U.S. attorney for the Northern District of New York found years’ worth of fraud and resident neglect at the facility.

## **Post-Acute Care News**

### [\*\*Madera hospital could reopen with new management partners. What to know\*\*](#)

*Fresno (CA) Bee, 12/20/23*

Nearly a year after shutting down operations, Madera Community Hospital has approved a second deal with a financial partner to help it reopen. The hospital board of trustees approved a temporary management service agreement on Monday with American Advanced Management Inc., a Modesto—based hospital management company.

### [\*\*Ratings agency knocks Dartmouth Health over financial performance\*\*](#)

*Concord (NH) Monitor, 12/21/23*

Lebanon, NH—Fitch ratings downgraded Dartmouth Health’s outlook from stable to

negative last week. The outlook change was due to weak operating cash flow with operating losses that accelerated in fiscal year 2023, according to the Dec. 13 rating action commentary from Fitch.

### **[What to know about home healthcare and home care](#)**

*Modern Healthcare, By Diane Eastbrook, 12/19/23*

Home healthcare and home care are often confused with each other. Both play an increasingly important role in the healthcare.

## **Technology / Innovations News**

### **[What Do Physicians Really Think of AI?](#)**

*MedCityNews, By Katie Adams, 12/18/23*

Nearly half of physicians are equally excited and concerned about the use of AI in their field, according to a new AMA survey. Those who felt optimistic about AI cited reduced administrative burden as the number one benefit they're seeking. Patient privacy and the impact to the patient-physician relationship were the most common reasons physicians cited for having reservations about AI.

## **General News**

### **[As new nursing program launches at WVSU, health care officials turn eye to retaining workers](#)**

*West Virginia Watch, 12/21/23*

Amid ongoing staffing shortages in hospitals locally and nationwide, West Virginia State University will be launching a new nursing degree program next year. The licensed practical nurse to Bachelor of Science in nursing pathway will be a hybrid degree program and will launch in the summer of 2024, according to a news release from WVSU. "The new [program] is designed as a pathway for working licensed practical nurses who desire to obtain a Bachelor of Science in nursing degree," the press release reads.

### **[OSHA, NAHCA alliance aims to protect CNAs from safety and health hazards](#)**

*McKnight's Senior Living, 12/21/23*

A new alliance between the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the National Association of Health Care Assistants aims to help protect certified nursing assistants in Missouri from exposure to safety and health hazards. The agreement, signed by OSHA's regional office and NAHCA last month, provides the framework for a new alliance.

### **[Workers launch 7-day strike at 4 Prime Healthcare hospitals](#)**

*Los Angeles Daily News, 12/20/23*

Nurses, medical assistants, ER techs and others at four Prime Healthcare hospitals

launched their second strike of the year Wednesday, Dec. 20, claiming severe understaffing and high turnover have undermined patient care.

## Books

### [AJN Books of the Year 2023](#)

American Journal of Nursing, in the Palliative Care and Hospice category, first-place winner: *The Nature of Suffering and the Goals of Nursing*, edited by William E. Rosa and Betty R. Ferrell. 2nd edition. New York City, Oxford University Press.

## Today's Encouragement

[There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle. ~Albert Einstein](#)

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