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TODAY**

April 4th, 2024

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Hospice Provider News

[Meet the women who give end-of-life care to Utah's homeless](#)

Good Things Utah, by Nicea DeGering; 4/2/24

A Utah non-profit's mission is to provide medical help and end-of-life care to those in our community experiencing homelessness. The Inn Between has been providing unique services in Salt Lake City for eight years. ... [The] mission of The Inn Between is to end the tragedy of vulnerable people dying on the streets of our community by providing medical respite and end-of-life care to those experiencing homelessness. The group provides a home environment that enables adults experiencing homelessness to gain access to professional hospice care from State-licensed hospice agencies; undergo life-saving medical treatment; stabilize in preparation for surgery; or recuperate from serious illness, injury, or surgery.

Editor's Note: Read more to meet Jillian Olmsted, Executive Director and Kellie Mierement, Community Engagement Manager.

[Estate gift boosts Hospice of the Foothills' mission of compassionate care](#)

YubaNet.com, by Hospice of the Foothills; 3/27/24

Nonprofit Hospice of the Foothills is pleased to announce the receipt of a

transformative estate gift generously bequeathed by Templeton Family Trust. This significant contribution underscores the enduring commitment of community members to support our mission of providing compassionate palliative, hospice, and bereavement services to those in need. John and Lucile Templeton, Hospice of the Foothills supporters, have exemplified the spirit of generosity and philanthropy.

Hospice, home health provider Charter Healthcare files for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy

Hospice News, by Jim Parker; 4/2/24

Hospice and home health provider Charter Healthcare, a portfolio company of Pharos Capital, recently filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy. No public announcement was made. The petition for bankruptcy was filed in the Federal District Court of Delaware in late January, according to documents obtained by Hospice News. A public record search showed Chapter 7 filings for Charter locations in at least eight states, which span the company's entire footprint.



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Palliative Care Provider News

2024 budget and paylines update: [\$12.5 million for palliative care research]

National Institute on Aging, by Kenneth Santora; 3/28/24

The recently signed into law H.R. 2882, the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, includes full-year NIH funding through Sept. 30, 2024. ... The budget designates a \$100 million increase for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (AD/ADRD) research, including \$90 million for NIA and \$10 million for the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke; as well as \$12.5 million for palliative care research.

Blue Shield's Palliative Care Program wins national recognition for improving lives

Blue Shield California; 3/28/24

During the first quarter of this year, the Journal of Palliative Medicine published results of a study entitled “Cost and Utilization Implications of a Health Plan’s Home-Based Palliative Care Program” from leaders at Blue Shield and researchers from West Health Research Institute that garnered attention from industry publications. ... Major findings from the study were that home-based palliative care delivered to people not yet eligible for hospice reduced their hospital and emergency room use, showed trends towards an increased length of life, and extended the continuum of care for people with serious illness and their caregivers.

Clinical News

Art exhibit in Sandy centers experiences of grief

OPB, by Sheraz Sadiq; 4/3/24

Art and writing prompts were used during grief support groups offered by Mt. Hood Hospice to help participants process their experience with grief. Dozens of pieces of artwork, poems and other forms of writing created during those sessions are featured in "Grief Made Visible," an exhibit now in its second year that will open on April 5 at AntFarm Café and Bakery in Sandy, OR.



Regulatory News

Elevating quality, outcomes, and patient experience through Value-Based Care: CMS Innovation Center’s Quality Pathway

NEJM Catalyst; by Susannah M. Bernheim, MD, MHS; Noemi Rudolph, MPH; Jacob K. Quinton, MD,

MPH; Julia Driessen, PhD; Purva Rawal, PhD; and Elizabeth Fowler, PhD, JD; 4/3/24

The U.S. Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation is launching a new Quality Pathway to elevate patient-centered quality goals in the design and evaluation of alternative payment models. The Quality Pathway will align model design around quality goals; elevate outcomes and experience measures, particularly patient-reported outcomes; and ensure that evaluations have the ability to assess the impact of models on primary quality goals. These determinations will help the

Innovation Center make critical decisions about which models to scale or expand in the pursuit of improving the quality of care for people with Medicare and Medicaid.

What home health providers need to know about the Medicare TPE Audit Process

Home Health Care News, by Joyce Famakinwa; 4/2/24

... TPE is a medical review program that began for the home health and hospice settings in December 2017. The goal of the program is to weed out improper payments by zeroing-in on providers with high claims denial rates or unusual billing practices. ... TPE has three pillars. Target refers to errors or mistakes that are identified through data in comparison to providers or peers. Probe is the examination of 20 to 40 claims. ... Education means helping providers reduce claim denials and appeals through one-on-one individualized education.

Public Policy News

Home care providers hail bill establishing standard classification for direct support workers

McKnights Home Care, by Adam Healy; 4/3/24

The Senate last week passed legislation that would address the dire shortage of direct support workers with the establishment of a classification to help stakeholders collect workforce data. Specifically, if signed into law, the Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act would require the Office of Management and Budget to consider establishing a standard occupational classification (SOC) for direct support professionals (DSPs). This classification would make it easier for policymakers to gather useful data about these workers and help them better address critical workforce challenges.



Research News

Bereaved Parent Support Study: Seeking Participants

Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center/University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, St. Jude Children's Hospital, and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; 4/2/24

This program is offered as a research study examining three types of support for bereaved parents who have lost a child to cancer. This is a National Institutes of Health-funded trial taking place at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center/University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, St. Jude Children's Hospital, and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; however, families need not have received care from one of these institutions. ... For those assigned to receive counseling, services will be provided through videoconferencing, and all study activities can be completed from the participant's home. ... There will be no charge for any support offered through the study. ... [Click on the title's link for more information.]

Editor's Note: If your hospice does not have bereavement services tailored to the needs of parents who have lost a child, consider this opportunity for free support from these reputable sources. Click on the title's link for eligibility requirements and descriptions.

Mergers & Acquisition News

Lutheran Senior Services/Diakon agreement forms one of largest US nonprofit LTC organizations

McKnights Senior Living, by Kathleen Steele Gaivin; 3/29/24

Diakon Senior Living operations and its four continuing care retirement / life plan communities will become part of Lutheran Senior Services under an agreement ... that the organizations say will create one of the largest nonprofit senior living and care organizations in the country. The transaction is pending regulatory approvals and is expected to close this summer.

Post-Acute Care News

Home Healthcare Statistics 2024 by demographics, utilization, diagnoses

Market.us, by Samruddhi Yardi; 4/3/24

- In the United States, there were approximately 33,200 home healthcare agencies as of 2022.
- The number of home healthcare professionals in the United States, including registered nurses, home health aides, and therapists was more than 1.5 million in 2022.
- About 12 million Americans receive home healthcare services each year.
- The majority of home healthcare patients in the United States are aged 65 and older, representing 86% of the total patient population
- [Click on the title's link for much more summary data]



Nursa Survey finds 98% of hospital CFOs view nurse staffing as top challenge

Morningstar, provided by Business Wire; 4/2/24

Survey results offer insight into C-suite perspectives on workforce trends and financial impact. Nursa, a nationwide platform that exists to put a nurse at the bedside of every patient in need, today released the results of a survey with healthcare decision-makers that examines their perspectives on the evolving social contract of employment, opinions on the 1099 workforce, and reflections on what makes a nurse truly valuable to an organization. Key findings from the survey include:

- 98% of CFOs viewed nurse staffing as a significant challenge for their health system
- 86% of health systems had 10% or more of their nurse staff quit in 2023 even though
- 77% of CFOs indicated they increased the starting wages for nurses by at least 20% in the past two years

PACS Group could raise \$400 million in IPO

McKnights Long-Term Care News, by Kimberly Marselas; 4/3/24

PACS Group, one of the nation's largest nursing home operators, could raise about \$400 million in an initial public offering, according to a fresh round of documents filed this week. Utah-based PACS plans to offer 19.05 million shares of common stock when it goes public, with an estimated price of \$20 to \$22 per share. At the top of that range, the move to the New York Stock Exchange could net the company \$429 million in value.

Technology / Innovations News

9 health systems join digital startup venture with Northwell Health

Becker's Health IT, by Giles Bruces, 4/2/24

Nine health systems are partnering with a venture studio aiming to launch digital health startups. The systems will work with Aegis Ventures, a startup incubator that has built four companies over the past three years with New Hyde Park, N.Y.-based Northwell Health. John Noseworthy, MD, emeritus president and CEO of Rochester, MN-based Mayo Clinic, will serve as chair of the new Digital Consortium. The group says its goal is to develop solutions "built for health systems by health systems." The nine founding members of Aegis Ventures' Digital Consortium are:

- Endeavor Health (Evanston, IL)
- IU Health (Indianapolis)
- Memorial Hermann Health System (Houston)
- Northwell Health
- Novant Health (Winston-Salem, NC)
- Ochsner Health (New Orleans)
- Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center (Columbus)
- Sharp HealthCare (San Diego)
- Stanford Health Care (Palo Alto, CA)

Ethics

Survey shines light on health care discrimination against LGBTQ+ people

KFF Health News; 4/3/24

Members of the LGBTQ+ community are twice as likely to experience

discrimination in health care, a survey found. ... The survey, conducted by KFF, noted that members of the LGBTQ community have historically faced disparities while receiving health care, including challenges to accessing mental and physical health care.

Editor's Note: This article includes specific examples from Utah, Colorado, and New Hampshire.

General News

As America's population ages, women shoulder the burden as primary caregivers

PBS News; by Ali Rogin, Claire Mufson, and Satvi Sunkara; 3/30/24

Currently, 1 in 6 Americans is older than 65, a number that's projected to rise to 1 in 4 by 2050. As older Americans' needs for medical care and other support grow, women bear the biggest part of the burden of caring for them. Ali Rogin speaks with some women about their experiences and author Emily Kenway about the often unseen costs of caregiving.

Remembering my daughter while being a cancer survivor myself

Coping, by Dottie Monroe; 4/1/24

Her name was Jill, my daughter. She was a beautiful, sensitive woman who loved animals and the joys of nature. ... Can you imagine that there is any parent in the world who wouldn't give up their own life to save their child? Or question why my child and not me because that seems so wrong? Sometimes there is no explaining the why of things, although I gave it thought for a long time. Then one day I was done with "why."

Vietnam veterans group salutes Mish, the World War II vet in hospice care who adopted them

NBC News KGET.com, Bakersfield, CA; by Robert Price; 4/2/24

Ray Mish's military service to this country ended with World War II, but his service to the community of Bakersfield and to his fellow veterans never ended. As the number of Kern County veterans of World War II gradually diminished over the years, and Ray Mish saw the brotherhood of fighters he so cherished slowly erode, he looked elsewhere for that special sort of camaraderie. He found it in a generation-younger group of local Vietnam War veterans. ... This week [as Mish rests at home receiving hospice care], 24 days before his 100th birthday, a

dozen members of Bakersfield's Vietnam Rat Pack converged on his home in north Bakersfield. ...

Education

Destigmatizing conversations around the end of life

ABC News WCVB 5, Boston; produced by Lisa Thalhamer; 3/28/24

Stanley Sagov is a jazz musician and physician who is managing a diagnosis of malignant melanoma. He shares his story with medical students and doctors, offering counsel on how to discuss end-of-life matters.

Today's Encouragement

The most valuable gift you can give to humanity is a good example. - Ifeanyi Enoch Onuoha

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