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**HOSPICE &
PALLIATIVE CARE
TODAY**

May 22nd, 2024

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Hospice Provider News

Modern Healthcare's Best Places to Work

Publisher's Note: On 5/20/24 we ran Modern Healthcare story recognizing [Teleios as one of the best places to work in healthcare in 2024](#). We would like to recognize all hospice and palliative care providers on this list, including:

- *Avow Hospice, FL*
- *Carolina Caring, NC*
- *City of Hope Orange County, CA*
- *Community Healthcare of Texas, TX*
- *Four Seasons, The Care You Trust, NC*
- *Hospice Home Care, AR*
- *Inspire Hospice and Palliative Care, GA*
- *Nathan Adelson Hospice, NV*
- *Teleios Collaborative Network, NC*
- *Tillery Compassionate Care, NC*
- *YoloCares, CA*

Montgomery Hospice & Prince George's Hospice hires new Chief Executive Officer

Press release; 5/21/24

Montgomery Hospice & Prince George's Hospice is pleased to announce the selection of Karen Brubaker Miller, MSW, as the organization's next Chief Executive Officer. Brubaker Miller's tenure will start on July 1, succeeding Ann

Mitchell, MPH, who was at the organization for the past 26 years. A licensed clinical social worker, Mrs. Brubaker Miller is a business and strategic minded leader with over 25 years of leadership experience working in the non-profit and for-profit hospice industry.

The Pennant Group acquires hospice provider Nurses on Wheels

Hospice News; by Jim Parker; 5/16/24

The Pennant Group, Inc. (NASDAQ: PNTG) has acquired the Corpus Christi, Texas-based hospice provider Nurses on Wheels Inc. for an undisclosed amount. This is the latest in a string of acquisitions for Pennant. Earlier this month Pennant acquired Utah-based South Davis Home Health and South Davis Hospice. The company in December 2023 picked up Arizona-based Southwestern Palliative Care & Hospice after acquiring five Medicare hospice providers in multiple states the prior month. Financial terms were not disclosed in these deals.



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Palliative Care Provider News

Patients fare better when they get palliative care sooner, not later

Scientific American; by Lydia Denworth; 5/14/24

Supportive care is often started late in an illness, but that may not be the best way. I was happy to have the help but wished it had been available earlier. I'm not alone in that. Evidence of the benefits of palliative care continues to grow. For people with advanced illnesses, it helps to control physical symptoms such as pain and shortness of breath. It addresses mental health issues, including depression and anxiety. And it can reduce unnecessary trips to the hospital. But barriers to access persist—especially a lack of providers. As a result, palliative care is too often offered late, when “the opportunity to benefit is limited,” says physician Kate Courtright of the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

Clinical News

Have a heart – caregivers need care, too

American Heart Association; 5/14/24

Living with a chronic medical condition after surviving a heart attack or stroke may come with additional health and personal care needs. Often survivors must rely on a family member or close friend to help. However, there's a growing body of scientific research that shows people who serve as unpaid caregivers may not be getting the care they need to live longer, healthier lives, according to the American Heart Association.

Public Policy News

NAHC hails legislation to extend Hospital at Home Waiver Program

NAHC Newsroom - National Association for Home Care & Hospice; Press Release; 5/20/24

The National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) applauds the introduction in the United States Senate of the [Hospital Inpatient Services Modernization Act of 2024](#), bipartisan legislation sponsored by Sen. Thomas Carper (D-De) and Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC) to extend the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Acute Hospital Care at Home waiver program for five years. The Acute Hospital Care at Home waiver program is due to expire on December 31, 2024, but this legislation would extend it for five additional years.



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Post-Acute Care News

Long-term care workers grapple with twice the 'toxic stress' as others, study shows

McKnight's Long-Term Care News; by Josh Henreckson; 5/14/24

Nurses and nurse aides in long term care report rates of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) double that of the general population - results that should lead providers to more aggressively support and communicate with their workforce, authors of a new research study said Tuesday. The study suggests

that providers should invest in mental health initiatives for their workers to address and prevent the effects of toxic stress. Nearly 60% of those surveyed had never sought mental health support for these traumatic experiences.

Sanction-free InnovAge faces new challenges in Colorado, California during fiscal Q3

McKnight's Home Care; by Adam Healy; 5/14/24

InnovAge posted a loss in its third fiscal quarter, but executives of the for-profit Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly provider said business will only continue to improve as temporary headwinds fall by the wayside. “The company’s third quarter results were largely consistent with our expectations,” Patrick Blair, president and chief executive officer, said during a third quarter earnings call last week, according to a transcript. “We continue to see ongoing performance improvement in every facet of our operations which is driving greater stability in our financial results and increased confidence in our ability to deliver high-quality care and a great participant experience while also growing our top and bottom lines.” During the quarter ended March 31, InnovAge lost \$6.1 million. That compares to a \$7.3 million loss during the third fiscal quarter of 2023. Revenues grew by nearly 12% year-over-year to \$193 million.

PE sponsors of Comfort Keepers, New Day Healthcare are in home-based care for the long haul

Home Health Care News; by Joyce Famakinwa; 5/13/24

While some private equity investors have been sidelined by macro and micro headwinds, there are still plenty of PE firms invested in home-based care that like where they are.



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Hospital-at-home grows despite regulatory uncertainty

Modern Healthcare; by Diane Eastabrook; 5/17/24

Health systems and technology companies are betting big on home-based hospital care, despite regulatory uncertainty about the program's future. Hospitals are bullish on at-home acute care because it can save money and make more beds available in their facilities for sicker patients. Medicare also pays health systems the same rate as it would for an inpatient admission. Since January, two health systems and 16 hospitals launched hospital-at-home programs under the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Acute Hospital Care at Home waiver, bringing the total number of programs to 336 across 37 states, according to the agency's website. More programs are slated to launch this year as Congress considers whether to extend the waiver beyond its Dec. 31 expiration date. Hospital-at-home allows certain patients to receive acute-level care where they live through telehealth and in-person visits, supplemented with remote patient monitoring. The concept gained traction during the COVID-19 pandemic when CMS approved a waiver in 2020 to alleviate overcrowding in hospitals. Large health systems, including Mass General Brigham, Geisinger and the Cleveland Clinic have invested heavily in home-based acute care. Many smaller hospital systems are doing the same by leveraging in-home care technology.

UnitedHealth Group's Optum to close Ohio location, lay off 129

Modern Healthcare; by Lauren Berryman; 5/17/24

UnitedHealth Group's Optum will lay off 129 employees and close a Toledo, Ohio, facility, according to a notice filed with the state's job and family services department. The separations are expected to take place in three waves, from July 15 to September 6, and will affect employees in Ohio and remote locations, Optum said in the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act notice filed Thursday. The affected employees include senior software engineers, senior technology product managers, associate business systems analysts and associate business operations coordinators, the notice said.

Kaiser to sell \$3.5B in PE funds: WSJ

Becker's Hospital CFO Report; by Alan Condon; 5/13/24

Oakland, Calif.-based Kaiser Permanente plans to sell up to \$3.5 billion of holdings in private-equity funds due to cash constraints, The Wall Street Journal said in a May 12 report citing unnamed sources "familiar with the matter." Kaiser is working with investment bank Jefferies Financial Group to offload up to \$3.5 billion of stakes to secondary buyers, but a spokesperson for the system told Becker's that the recent shift in investment out of private equity is not driven by liquidity concerns.



Breaking down walls: The other care models marking their territory in home-based care

Home Health News; by Joyce Famakinwa; 5/17/24

Traditional home-based care companies aren't the only ones serving seniors, while helping shift care away from brick-and-mortar settings. Adult day, PACE and continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs) without walls are a few of

the care models working to meet the needs of seniors that want to age in place. In many ways, these care models are natural allies to home-based care providers.

A disconnect between healthcare leaders, workers

Becker's Hospital Review; by Mariah Taylor; 5/17/24

A recent Indeed survey suggests that many workers do not intend to leave healthcare entirely, but rather break ties from individual employers due to dissatisfaction with the job, a recent Indeed survey suggests. The survey also cites a gap in perception between what the workers find important and what management thinks they find important. Indeed commissioned a survey of 1,014 healthcare job seekers and 489 professionals engaged in recruiting or hiring healthcare employees. Participants were surveyed between November and January. [Highlights include:]

- Nine percent of respondents said they were dissatisfied with the profession overall, but 82% plan to stay in the healthcare industry.
- Fifty-four percent of healthcare employers say the average tenure of their employees is four years or less.
- The top two reasons for job dissatisfaction were related to pay, including shift incentives (36%) and sign-on bonuses (34%).
- Healthcare workers said they are most satisfied with their relationships with patients (72%), colleagues (67%) and managers (56%).
- Employers, meanwhile, underestimate employees' stance on several issues. When asked, only 20% of employers thought workers put importance in appropriate staffing in the workplace, compared to 50% of workers who said it was important to them. Similar gaps were also seen in work-life balance (48% vs. 78%), flexibility with shifts (26% vs. 56%) and psychological safety measures (8% vs. 20%).

Home-based care investors show interest, but M&A pace remains cautious

Home Health Care News; by Andrew Donlan; 5/13/24

Home-based care dealmakers have been busier of late, but that has not yet translated into more transactions. There's some feeling that sidelined private equity firms will eventually have to enter the game, but that may not be the case.



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Technology / Innovations News

Cybersecurity execs share healthcare's biggest vulnerabilities

Modern Healthcare; by Brock E.W. Turner; 5/20/24

A recent string of massive healthcare cybersecurity breaches has put data security leaders on edge. Recent incidents have shined a light on some of the most significant vulnerabilities at health systems. Here are four of the biggest, according to experts.

1. Lack of shared organizational goals
2. Third-party vendor risks
3. Multi-factor authentication misses
4. Slow response times

Today's Encouragement

I smile at obstacles. - Tiger Woods



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