

## Cordt Kassner

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**From:** Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter  
<subscriptions@hospicepalliativecaretoday.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 26, 2024 4:00 AM  
**To:** Cordt Kassner  
**Subject:** Your Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter for 05/26/24

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TODAY**

## May 26th, 2024

*Sunday newsletters focus on headlines and top read stories of the last week (in order) - enjoy!*

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## Headlines

### **Emerging leaders in hospice and palliative care**

*AAHPM - American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine; webpage source for various press releases of individuals; 5/24*

AAHPM developed the Emerging Leaders in Hospice and Palliative Care program to recognize the exceptional work accomplished by the next generation of leaders and bring increased exposure to the specialty of hospice and palliative medicine. In 2014, the first class of Emerging Leaders was named. AAHPM seeks to recognize accomplished early career professionals and the next generation of hospice and palliative care leaders. This award recognizes new Emerging Leaders in recognition of their career accomplishments, involvement in the Academy, mentoring of residents and students, and participation in charitable work. [Click on the title's link for the list of 36 honorees.]

*Editor's Note: Do you work with or know any of these honorees? If so, please share this with them and your colleagues, along with congratulations from [Hospice & Palliative Care Today!](#) (Invite them to [register for free](#)--no strings attached--to our daily newsletter.)*

### **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.

## **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.



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## **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.

## **A Review of "Heartwood: The Art of Living with the End in Mind" by Barbara Becker**

*CU Anschutz; by Darcy Campbell, AGNP-D, ACHPN; 5/14/24*

This year, one of our [small group] readings was the book, Heartwood; The Art of Living with the End in Mind, by interfaith pastor Barbara Becker. The book is composed of small vignettes from her life that explore death and dying. Many of her experiences as a hospice volunteer are captured as well. Her book was to be about death, but she learned that in writing about death she really explored what it means to live. Heartwood is the inner core of a tree. While dead it does not decay as it is supported by the outer living rings of the tree. Becker, describes Heartwood as the ideal metaphor for our life, "where life and death cannot exist separately from each other." ... Working in palliative care, we too are forced to look at our own mortality.

## 10 most common sentinel events in 2023: Joint Commission

*Becker's Clinical Leadership; by Mackenzie Bean; 5/15/24*

In 2023, patient falls were once again the most common sentinel event reported by healthcare organizations, according to a May 15 [report](#) from The Joint Commission. The Joint Commission defines a sentinel event as a patient safety event that results in death, permanent harm, severe temporary harm or intervention required to sustain life. ... The 10 most frequently reported sentinel events for 2023:

1. Falls — 48% *[the other sentinel events are only at 8% or lower]* ...

*Editor's Note: Persons receiving hospice care can be especially vulnerable to high risks for falls. The person and/or caregiver/family members can be unaware to signs of decreased mobility, balance paired with cluttered floors and pathways. Changes in medication can affect blood pressure, dizziness, cognition, and more. Education is the key: for **all** interdisciplinary team members, caregivers, and family members. Social workers and chaplains can address emotional and spiritual dynamics of accepting limitations, fears of "giving up or giving in," finding quality of life, changing patient/caregiving needs and solutions, and more. What does your Quality data report about sentinel events, especially falls?*



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## Psychological trauma can worsen symptom burden at end-of-life

*Hospice News; by Holly Vossel; 5/15/24*

Recent research has found that traumatic experiences can lead to increased pain and symptom burden at the end of life, along with a greater likelihood of emotional suffering and isolation. Collective trauma experiences have been associated with higher instances of pain and dyspnea among more than half of seniors nationwide, a recent study found, published in the Journal of Pain and Symptom Management. Traumatized seniors are also more likely to experience loneliness, dissatisfaction with their life and depression. ... Hospices need a

greater understanding of both the depth of these patients' suffering and the scope of their unique needs to improve trauma-informed care delivery, [Dr. Ashwin] Kotwal said, assistant professor of medicine at the University of California San Francisco's (UCSF) Division of Geriatrics.

### **Compliance strategies for forthcoming hospice HOPE tool**

*Hospice News; by Holly Vossel; 5/16/24*

Hospices will have a learning curve when it comes to implementing the Hospice Outcomes and Patient Evaluation Tool (HOPE) tool. The U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is currently developing quality measures that will be included in the HOPE tool, which will replace the current Hospice Item Set (HIS). After years of development, the agency in its recent hospice proposed rule indicated that the HOPE tool's implementation would begin in 2025.

*Notable Mentions: Jennifer Kennedy, CHAP; Kimberly Skehan, CHAP.*

### **The human side of AI: Insights on balancing automation and empathy**

*Innovation & Tech Today; by Enrico Palmerino; 5/20/24*

... As AI automates more tasks with clinical precision, empathy is a critical human element we cannot overlook. That intangible ability to understand and share the feelings of another isn't just a soft skill — it's an essential catalyst for trust, loyalty, and genuine connection. Consider the healthcare industry, where empathy is (quite literally) often a matter of life and death. Can an AI-powered diagnostic system truly grasp a patient's fear and vulnerability when facing a serious illness? ... Finding the delicate balance between leveraging AI automation and preserving human empathy is the new challenge before us. It's a duality that will shape how businesses operate and how we interact with technology. ... Let the machines optimize processes while we optimize the ability to connect and inspire. In this harmonious future, [AI is a tool](#) that elevates us — not replaces us.

*Editor's Note: Is AI a hot topic among your leaders and interdisciplinary clinicians? Often, "empathy" and "communication" are cited as key cautions and conflicts. See the previous article, "Nurses don't trust employers to safely implement AI tools, survey shows."*



## **Executive Personnel Changes - 5/17/24**

- Crystal Coast House in Newport appointed Charlie Miller as Executive Director
- Mount Carmel Health System, part of Livonia, MI-based Trinity Health, named Tauana McDonald president and CEO, effective July 1.
- Mount Sinai's Brookdale Department of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine appoint Robert M. Arnold, MD Vice Chair for Professional Development
- Phoenix Children's has named Blake Bulloch, MD as Chief Medical Officer.

## **Vitas' acquisition pipeline likely growing**

*Hospice News; by Jim Parker; 5/15/24*

Vitas Healthcare, a subsidiary of Chemed Corp. is gearing up for potential acquisitions. ... VITAS is targeting its home state of Florida and other Certificate of Need (CON) states for potential deals, Michael Witzeman, vice president, CFO and controller at Chemed said during the Bank of America Securities Health Care Conference. "We certainly think that there's a pipeline growing, and we have the resources on our balance sheet with cash and no debt to be able to really be a player in any of these," Witzeman said. "We would like to be in states th at have CON restrictions much more than an unrestricted state, but we certainly have

the interesting inability when things come available to be able to jump on them.”

...

## Today's Encouragement

**Dance like no one's watching; Sing like no one's listening; Love like you'll never be hurt; Play like there's no winners; Behave like mom's watching; Give like you have plenty; And SMILE. ~Adapted from William Watson Purkey**





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