

## Cordt Kassner

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## June 12th, 2024

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## Headlines

### **Pride Month 2024: LGBTQ+ Resources for Hospice & Palliative Care Organizations**

*Compiled from various search engines for our newsletter's readers*

#### **National Hospice and Palliative Care Organizations**

- [Hospice Foundation of America \(HFA\): Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgender \(LGBT\) Resources](#)
  - [On Demand Webinar: Ethical Issues in Effectively Providing LGBTQ-Inclusive Hospice & Palliative Care](#)
- [National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization \(NHPCO\): Hospice and Palliative Care Resource Guide for LGBTQ+ Communities \(2021\)](#)
- [National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice and Hospice Innovation \(NPHI\): Reflections on Pride Month - We've come far, but not far enough \(2021\)](#)

#### **National Aging Organizations**

- [AARP: Pride Month 2024 - Ways to Celebrate Across the U.S.](#)
- [SAGE, National Resource Center on LGBT Aging: Ten Tips on Finding LGBT-Affirming Services](#)

#### **Sample Hospice & Palliative Care Providers**

- [Fidelis Care Blog: LGBTQIA+ Pride Month, June 2024](#)

- [Hospice Care of the Low Country: Fostering Diversity and Inclusivity in Hospice and Palliative Care](#)
- [Ohio's Hospice: Celebrating Life Stories During Pride Month and Always](#)
- [Stillwater Hospice - LGBTQ+ Grief Support Group \(ongoing monthly, not limited to Pride Month\)](#)

## Hospice Provider News

### [Country club concert raises more than \\$7,500 for nonprofit mission](#)

*Avow Press Release; 6/7/24*

On April 28, 2024, Vineyards Country Club members gathered for a performance by Deb and the Dynamics, raising more than \$7,500 to support Avow's mission. The concert was held on the club's green, where members relaxed on lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy tunes from the seven-piece rock and soul band, who electrified the atmosphere for the evening. "Our members and staff love Avow and all they do for the community," says Vineyards Country Club Senior Director of Activities & Member Experience Julie Inman. "We couldn't imagine a more deserving organization to support." This concert was not just about entertainment but also about positively impacting the patients and families touched by Avow's services.

## Clinical News

### [How to choose the right hospice care - Brain & Life Magazine](#)

*Brain & Life; by Hallie Levine; June/July 2024*

Hospice care is designed to help patients die with dignity and provide support to their families. These tips can help ensure it does. ... [Case study examples follow.] In hospice, "the focus shifts from treating the disease to managing symptoms and maintaining quality of life," says James Gordon, MD, FAAN, a neurologist and retired hospice and palliative care expert at the University of Washington in Seattle. "Patients and their families often get to a point where they ask themselves if the cure is causing more suffering than it's worth," Dr. Gordon says. "If they are close to the end of life, it's often time for hospice."

*Editor's Note: We chose this article because its source, Brain & Life Magazine. This can be an excellent disease-specific resource for your serious illness, palliative, hospice,*

and bereavement team members. "Brain & Life is powered by more than 40,000 neurologists worldwide who are committed to keeping you and your family better informed." Visit its "Disorders A-Z: [Neurologic Disorders Resource Center \(brainandlife.org\)](https://www.brainandlife.org)."



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## **Navigating Aging: New help for dealing with aggression in people with dementia**

*Northern Kentucky Tribune; by Judith Graham, KFF Health News; 6/9/24*

Caring for older adults with dementia is stressful, especially when they become physically or verbally aggressive, wander away from home, develop paranoia or hallucinations, engage in inappropriate or repetitive behaviors, or refuse to let caregivers help them. Upward of 95% of patients experience these neuropsychiatric symptoms of dementia, which tend to fluctuate over time and vary in intensity. They're the primary reasons people with dementia end up in assisted living facilities or nursing homes. At some point, families and friends trying to help at home simply can't manage. "When people think about dementia, they usually think about forgetfulness and memory impairment," said Mary Blazek, director of the geriatric psychiatry clinic at the University of Michigan. "But it's behavioral and psychological disturbances that are most disruptive to patients' and caregivers' lives."

## **Hospice patient reunites with music student in Mesa after 40 years**

*Mesa Independent; by Lin Sue Flood; 6/7/24*

When Hospice of the Valley music therapist Tammy Reiver first met patient Nancy Scullion and her husband Mike, it was clear the visit was going to be special. ... Tammy realized she was sitting face to face with her junior high music teacher. ... Nancy owns several instruments, including a keyboard, guitar and violin. The weekly music therapy sessions motivated Nancy to play one of them again. With her husband's help, she took out her violin. ... "Finding those old instruments in the back of the closet and playing them allowed Nancy to

reconnect to an old version of herself...suddenly, she became energized and vibrant!" Allison said. "Music fills a soul and brings it to life!" ... Tammy will never forget this experience. "This is life coming full circle with those who served, and who we now serve in return. ... I am honored and blessed beyond measure."

## Mergers & Acquisition News

### **Compassus announces new partnership for home care and hospice.**

*InvestorsObserver; by PR Newswire; 6/10/24*

Compassus, a leading national provider of integrated home-based health care services, announced today they have formed a partnership with Columbus, Ohio-based [OhioHealth](#) for home health and hospice services. "We're proud to collaborate with OhioHealth to deliver high-quality, patient-centered home health and hospice care to ensure patients and families have the support they need wherever they call home," said Compassus CEO Mike Asselta. "As our teams come together, we'll continue to focus on patients, partnership and innovation to deliver superior care." The company's nearly 7,000 team members serve more than 120,000 patients annually across more than 270 touchpoints across 30 states.



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### **Addus to buy Gentiva's personal care assets for \$350 million**

*Home Health Care News; by Andrew Donlan; 6/10/24*

Addus HomeCare Corp. is set to acquire Gentiva's personal care assets for about \$350 million. Those assets amount to over 16,000 home care patients per day, in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. Addus – which just left the state of New York – will fund the acquisition through its existing revolving credit facility. "We believe this acquisition is a great strategic fit for Addus, and we are excited about the opportunity to expand our personal care market coverage in seven states, including Texas and Missouri, which are new markets for Addus," Addus CEO Dirk Allison said. ... Addus currently

provides home care, home health care and hospice services to over 49,000 consumers through 214 locations spanning 22 states.

## Post-Acute Care News

### Is long-term care evolving or devolving?

*McKnights Long-Term Care News; by John O'Connor; 6/9/24*

... Is long-term care evolving or devolving? First, let's look at some of the positive ways operators in this field are changing with the times. In my view, here's the first among equals: person-centered care models have emerged as never before. ... Here are some other ways the sector has made notable strides:

- Enhanced infection control protocols ...
- Reduced reliance on antipsychotics ...
- Harnessing technology-driven tools ...
- Better staff training and education ...
- Integration of palliative and end-of-life care ...

Here are some additional challenges where progress has moved at a snail's pace, or worse:

- A lingering reputation for substandard care ...
- Physical and infrastructure deterioration ...
- Financial instability and funding challenges ...
- Continuing arrests of providers for fraud and abuse ...

### Personal conflicts, even violence, are not uncommon in long-term care

*The New York Times; by Paula Span; 6/9/24*

... In long-term care facilities, residents sometimes yell at or threaten one other, lob insults, invade fellow residents' personal or living space, rummage through others' possessions and take them. They can swat or kick or push. Or worse. Eilon Caspi, a gerontologist at the University of Connecticut, has searched news coverage and coroners' reports and identified 105 resident deaths in long-term care facilities over 30 years that resulted from incidents involving other residents. The actual number is higher, he said, because such deaths don't always receive news media attention or are not reported in detail to the authorities. "We have this extraordinary paradox: the institutions, nursing homes

and assisted livings who care for the most vulnerable members of our society are some of the most violent in our society,” said Karl Pillemer, a Cornell University gerontologist who has studied resident-to-resident conflict for years. *[Click on the article's title for more. Might require subscription to access the full article.]*



## Technology / Innovations News

### **White House enlists Microsoft, Google for rural hospital cyberdefense**

*Becker's Health IT; by Naomi Diaz; 6/10/24*

The Biden-Harris administration has secured commitments from Microsoft and Google to offer free and low-cost resources to rural hospitals nationwide to help them boost their cyber defenses. As part of the effort, Microsoft will be extending its nonprofit program to provide grants and up to a 75% discount on security products for independent critical access hospitals and rural emergency hospitals, according to a June 10 news release from the White House. Additionally, larger rural hospitals using eligible Microsoft solutions will also receive the most advanced security suite at no additional cost for one year. ... Meanwhile, Google committed to offering endpoint security advice to rural hospitals and non-profit organizations at no cost, alongside funding support for software migration.

## **AI in healthcare – Enhancing treatment plans, engaging patients, and impacting patient outcomes**

*Healthcare IT Today; by Grayson Miller; 6/10/24*

A lot of the buzz around AI is about the potential that it holds. We talk a lot about how different AI applications and tools *could* save us time or how they *could* improve the patient experience. But what is it actively doing to the world of healthcare? In order to find out, we reached out to our incredible Healthcare IT Today Community to ask them – how is artificial intelligence being utilized to enhance treatment planning, engage patients at scale, and what impact is it having on patient outcomes? The following are their answers. ... *[Click on the title's link to read more.]*

## **WorldView announces Referral AI, the most accurate referral classification platform to increase home health and hospice revenue**

*Investors Observer; by PR Newswire; 6/10/24*

WorldView , a leading provider of integrated healthcare technology to the top home health and hospice EHR/EMR platforms, today announced the upcoming launch of Referral AI, an enhancement to automate intake referrals using a custom AI/ML model built specific for the healthcare industry. ... Home health and hospice agencies receive many forms of electronic documents in their inbox, including referrals for new patient service. Referrals must be acted on quickly, but with documents being dozens of pages, they often sit unread or, worse, are missed or overlooked. Over time, the referral can become invalid, resulting in lost revenue for the agency and posing a risk of delayed service for patients.



## **Ethics**



## **Daughter stole \$25K using [dying] father's credit, debit cards**

*Latrobe Bulletin, Latrobe, PA; by Joseph Bell; 6/6/24*

A Vandergrift woman is facing multiple felony charges after she racked up over \$25,000 in credit and debit card debt using her father's accounts. According to court records, 44-year-old Kimberly Sue Shaw of Hancock Avenue is accused of using three of her father's credit and debit cards for unauthorized purchases, in addition to transferring a sum of money from one of his bank accounts to another while he was hospitalized and later under hospice care. The defendant's father, Dennis Lee Ba rger of Washington Township, died May 2.

*Editor's Note: Often, we think of elder abuse as being physical harm. However, it includes much more, and your interdisciplinary team members must be trained to signs, assessments, interventions, and safety (for the patient and self). Definitions are available on the [CDC's "About Abuse of Older Persons" webpage](#). These definitions include physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, neglect, and financial abuse.*

## **General News**

### **3,000+ nurses at 6 Providence facilities to strike**

*Becker's Hospital Review; by Kelly Gooch; 6/10/24*

Members of the Oregon Nurses Association are [set to begin](#) a three-day strike June 18 at six Providence facilities, in what the union deems the largest nurses' strike in the state's history. The union represents more than 3,000 nurses at the following facilities, according to an ONA news release:

- Providence St. Vincent Medical Center (Portland)
- Providence Newberg (Ore.) Medical Center
- Willamette Falls Medical Center (Oregon City)
- Providence Medford (Ore.) Medical Center
- Providence Hood River (Ore.) Memorial Hospital
- Providence Milwaukie (Ore.) Hospital

## **Today's Encouragement**

**Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can. - Arthur Ashe**



# HOSPICE ANALYTICS

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