

## Cordt Kassner

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## June 14th, 2024

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## Headlines

### **Top News Stories of the Month May 2024 - TCN Podcast**

*TCN Talks - Teleios Collaborative Network; Mark Cohen, Cordt Kassner and Joy Berger; 6/13/24*

In this week's podcast, Mark Cohen, Cordt Kassner, and Joy Berger discuss the top news stories in the Hospice community for the month of May. Additionally, they take you behind the scenes of how newsletters like [Hospice News Today](#) was assembled each day and how Hospice & Palliative Care Today is produced for your leadership to use, each day.

### **Breaking The Silence: Groundbreaking Guide on Tackling Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse Released by NPHI and NO MORE**

*NPHI press release; 6/13/24*

New Guide Equips Caregivers with Life-Saving Information to Spot Abuse and Empowers Them to Protect Elders. In advance of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) [on June 15, 2024], the National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation (NPHI) and NO MORE are proud to announce the release of a new educational resource titled Breaking the Silence, a comprehensive guide that takes a significant step towards tackling domestic violence, elder abuse, and neglect among more vulnerable populations. The guide provides insights into the prevalence and various forms of abuse. It offers steps for identifying signs of abuse, supports healthcare providers in screening and responding to suspected abuse, and includes information on available resources for victims, caregivers, and families. Some of the key takeaways from the guide include:

- Defining and identifying types of abuse
- Recognizing signs of abuse
- Advice on what medical/clinical professionals can do

### **Empath Health expands leadership team**

*Sarasota Herald-Tribune (FL); 6/10/24*

Empath Health, of Lakewood Ranch, has promoted Tarrah Lowry and Bivek Pathak to its executive leadership team. Lowry has been appointed chief operating officer and interim president of Trustbridge. Pathak will assume the role of chief information and digital strategy officer. Empath Health now serves one in five hospice patients in Florida, reinforcing its position as a leading provider of comprehensive health services in the state. Empath Health's network of hospice programs includes Tidewell Hospice, in Sarasota, Empath Hospice, Hospice by the Sea, Hospice of Marion County, Hospice of Palm Beach County, Suncoast Hospice and Suncoast Hospice of Hillsborough.

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## **Rep. Earl Blumenauer plans landmark hospice reform bill**

*Hospice News; by Jim Parker; 6/13/24*

Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Oregon) is drafting a landmark bill that, if enacted, would represent the most significant reforms to date for hospice payment and oversight. Blumenauer announced the bill, the Hospice Care Accountability, Reform, and Enforcement (Hospice CARE) Act, on Thursday at the Hospice News Elevate conference in Washington D.C. Though the bill language is still in development, key provisions will likely include a new payment mechanism for high-acuity palliative services, changes to the per-diem payment process and actions to improve quality and combat fraud.

## **Hospice Provider News**

### **Tillery becomes 1st in NC certified as age-friendly care at home**

*The Stanly News & Press; 6/10/24*

Tillery Compassionate Care has been officially named an Age-Friendly Care at Home organization by Community Health Accreditation Partner, Inc., (CHAP). Tillery Compassionate Care is the first hospice in North Carolina to achieve Age-Friendly Care at Home certification. “The 4Ms framework [what matters, medication, mentation and mobility] is evidence-based care and addresses the unique needs of older adults which leads to higher quality of life,” said Teresa Harbour, chief operating officer with CHAP.

## **June is Adult Protection Awareness Month**

*KREX Grand Junction (CO); by Jessica Livingstone; 6/8/24*

June is Adult Protection Awareness Month, and Mesa County kicked this month off by tying purple ribbons around their campus to show their support for the victims. WesternSlopeNow talked to HopeWest about the resources they have to protect the community. If you'd like to know more information about HopeWest's resources, you can call or click [here](#).

*Publisher's Note: How is your hospice participating in Adult Protection Awareness Month?*



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## **Palliative Care Provider News**

### **Integrating palliative care education into hematology-oncology fellowships**

*The ASCO Post; 6/11/2024*

An integrated palliative care rotation for hematology-oncology fellows may improve their palliative care knowledge and skill confidence, according to findings presented by Bauman et al at the 2024 ASCO Annual Meeting (Abstract 9007). “Despite national guidelines advocating that patients with advanced cancer receive dedicated palliative care services, many patients lack access to specialty palliative care due to workforce shortages,” stressed lead study author Jessica Bauman, MD, Associate Professor in the Department of Hematology/Oncology, Chief of the Division of Head and Neck Medical Oncology, and Director of the Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Training Program at Fox

Chase Cancer Center. “Training hematology-oncologists to provide primary palliative care could close this gap and ensure [the] basic palliative care needs of patients are met,” she highlighted.

## Clinical News

### **Mental distress, depression, drug deaths increasing among older adults**

*Becker's Behavioral Health; by Rylee Wilson; 6/7/24*

Rates of mental distress and other behavioral health conditions are on the rise among older adults, according to [America's Health Rankings 2024 Senior Report](#). The annual report, published by UnitedHealth Group, ranks states on over 50 dimensions of health.

## Regulatory News

### **Medicare Advantage members spend over \$2,500 less than traditional Medicare enrollees annually: Study**

*Becker's Payer Issues; by Jakob Emerson; 6/10/24*

Medicare Advantage enrollees spend more than \$2,500 less on healthcare costs on average than traditional Medicare enrollees, according to an independent analysis by ATI Advisory. The analysis was commissioned by the Better Medicare Alliance and published June 10. It used data from the Medicare current beneficiary survey and cost supplement files from 2019 to 2021. Six key takeaways:

1. Medicare Advantage enrollees spent \$2,541 less on healthcare costs on average than FFS Medicare enrollees in 2021.
2. From 2020 to 2021, the average total healthcare spend for Medicare Advantage and FFS Medicare beneficiaries rose 24% and 15%, respectively.
3. Among Black, Latino, and white MA and FFS enrollees, white enrollees had the highest total spending, while Latinos had the lowest.
4. In 2021, MA enrollees were 58% more likely to report an income under 200% of the FPL compared to one-third of FFS Medicare enrollees.
5. Among Medicare beneficiaries who reported incomes less than 200% of the FPL, less than one-third of MA enrollees experienced a cost burden from healthcare expenses in 2021 compared to half of FFS Medicare enrollees.

6. Among Medicare beneficiaries with zero to two chronic conditions, FFS enrollees spent an average of \$1,392 more on healthcare expenses annually than MA enrollees. Among members with three or more chronic conditions, FFS Medicare enrollees spent \$3,165 more on healthcare expenses than MA enrollees annually.



## Mergers & Acquisition News

### **Missouri system acquires Illinois hospice, home health companies**

*Becker's Hospital Review; by Mariah Taylor; 6/7/24*

St. Louis, Mo.-based Dover Health is expanding into the Chicagoland area with the acquisition of Joliet, Ill.-based Centered Care Hospice and Palliative Care, and Cornerstone Home Health.

## General News

### **Decatur Fire & Rescue brighten day for man in hospice care**

*WAFF 48 (AL); 6/6/24*

Decatur Fire & Rescue helped cheer up a man in hospice care on Thursday. Bobby Lacy, 68, is in hospice care due to congestive heart failure. Lacy, whose biggest passions are fire trucks and cowboy boots, also has Down syndrome.

Members of Decatur Fire & Rescue made a special visit to Lacy to see one of their fire trucks in person.

## International News

### **Should children be enrolled in end-of-life clinical studies?**

Medscape Medical News; by Elena Riboldi; 6/11/24

MILAN, Italy - Is it appropriate to enroll children and adolescents in end-of-life clinical studies? Experts discussed this challenging topic at the 2024 annual congress of the European Society for Pediatric Oncology, which was held in May. Monika Führer, MD, a professor of pediatric palliative medicine and head of the Pediatric Palliative Center in Munich, Germany, highlighted the following three aspects of the issue that require careful attention: Decisional autonomy, nonmaleficence, and advance care planning.



## Other News

### **Other Business Headlines of Interest, updated 6/13/24 per nasdaq.com**

- Adus HomeCare (ADUS: \$118.45)
- Amedisys (AMED: \$91.81)
  
- BrightSpring Health (BTSG: \$10.84)
- Encompass (EHC: \$85.38)
- Enhabit (EHAB: \$9.40)
- Ensign Group (ENSG: \$120.48)
- HCA Healthcare (HCA: \$360.84)
- Humana (HUM: \$352.28)

- Pennant Group (PNTG: \$23.30)
- Vitas / Chemed Corp (CHE: \$541.26)

### **Executive Personnel Changes - 6/14/24**

- Beebe Healthcare has named Kathy Tregear as their new Chief Nursing Executive
- Blue Ridge Hospice names Mohamad Hamad as Vice President of Information Technology
- Fall Health appointed Dr. Jean Jaoude as Vice President and Medical Director of its Massachusetts Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), locally called Summit ElderCare
- Hospice of the Chesapeake announces the promotions of
  - Brian Berger to Chief Operating Officer, as of June 1
  - Sandra Dillon to Vice President of Strategic Communications & Advocacy
- Knute Nelson and Walker Methodist, based in Minnesota announces
  - Katie Perry as Executive Vice President
  - Samantha Beckman as Senior Vice President / Chief Marketing and Transformation Officer
  - Jamie Loken as Senior Vice President / Chief Information Officer

## **Today's Encouragement**

**My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person, he believed in me. - Jim Valvano**

*Editor's Note: We wish you a great Father's Day Weekend! We share with you a grief support video for persons experiencing loss this Father's Day, from our sponsor Composing Life Out of Loss; [click here](#).*

*Remembering my Dad, Jake, with deepest thanks ...*





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