

## Cordt Kassner

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## June 17th, 2024

### Contents

- [1. Celebrate CNA Week Toolkit: June 13-19, 2024](#)
- [2. Advocates rally in DC for the future of hospice: NHPCO and HAN amplify provider voices on Capitol Hill](#)
- [3. CMS: Home healthcare spending estimated to grow by 7.1 percent from 2025 to 2026, surpassing other sectors](#)
- [4. Alive welcomes experienced hospice leader as new CEO: Middle Tennessee's only nonprofit hospice provider poised to build on industry-leading reputation](#)
- [5. Fashion for a Cause shatters another record, raises \\$240,000 for children's programs: Hospice of the Chesapeake](#)
- [6. Discharge for non-compliance?](#)
- [7. "A wholeness that grows out of that which is lacking": Providing palliative care to patients with anorexia nervosa](#)
- [8. Why doctors aren't participating in organ donation after cardiac death](#)

9. [Of Mice and Meaning: Multidisciplinary perspectives on the interconnectedness of pain, stress, and suffering](#)
10. [4 CFOs' keys to improved operating performance](#)
11. [A dream comes true: Hospice patient rides in hot air balloon](#)
12. [The value of a DNP degree: Translating your knowledge into nursing practice](#)
13. [Interim HealthCare Inc. recognized on Forbes list: America's Best Employers for New Grads 2024](#)
14. [Minnesota family featured in new Amazon docuseries covering end-of-life](#)
15. [Hospice staff cycle more than 300 miles to work](#)
16. [Today's Encouragement: CNAs don't just provide care ...](#)

## Headlines

### **Celebrate CNA Week Toolkit: June 13-19, 2024**

*NAHCA - The CNA Association; retrieved from the internet 6/14/24*

This year, CNA Week is from June 13th to June 19th. With the theme of "We'll Be There For You," NAHCA created this toolkit for CNAs and for the skilled nursing centers, assisted living communities, and staffing and home health agencies they work for so that everyone can celebrate, recognize, and pay their respects to the incredible work that the nearly 1 million-strong contingent of frontline heroes does everyday for elders and people with disabilities.

*Editor's Note: We apologize for the late date of this notice, as it has not been showing up in our many newsfeeds. That fact illustrates how healthcare leadership neglects our valued Certified Nursing Assistants, too often. What are you doing to celebrate your CNAs? Here are a few hospice examples we found:*

- [Ascend Hospice Care, Greater Houston area and parts of southeast Texas - "National Certified Nursing Assitants Week 2024"](#)
- [Healing Care Hospice, southern California - "National CNA Week"](#)
- [Oklahoma Palliative & Hospice Care - "Celebrating the Heart and Dedication of Nursing Assistants in Hospice Care"](#)
- [Paradiagm Health, Indianapolis, IN - "CNA Week: Every day is an opportunity to make a difference"](#)

### **Advocates rally in DC for the future of hospice: NHPCO and HAN amplify provider voices on Capitol Hill**

*NHPCO; Press Release; 6/13/24*

More than 100 hospice and palliative care advocates from across the country met with over 150 congressional offices this week to discuss key legislative and regulatory priorities for ensuring and expanding access to hospice and palliative care. The meetings were part of Hospice Action Week, hosted in Washington, DC by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) and its advocacy affiliate, the Hospice Action Network (HAN). “The cornerstone of effective advocacy is storytelling. It’s about sharing why hospice holds personal significance and why serious illness and end-of-life care policy should resonate with our lawmakers,” said Logan Hoover, NHPCO’s VP of Policy & Government Relations. “From Hawaii to Rhode Island, advocates from 35 diverse states came to DC this year. The relationships they’re building with Members of Congress hold the potential to shape the future of the healthcare landscape.” ... Key issues [discussed include]: ...

- Protecting care for patients and families ...
- Making meaningful benefit improvements to increase access and advance health equity ...
- Innovation in serious illness care delivery and payment ...
- Protecting access and expanding quality ...

### **CMS: Home healthcare spending estimated to grow by 7.1 percent from 2025 to 2026, surpassing other sectors**

*McKnight's Home Care; by Adam Healy; 6/12/24*

National spending on home healthcare is projected to grow faster than any other health sector in the years ahead, according to newly published data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ Office of the Actuary [see Health Affairs: [National Health Expenditure Projections, 2023-32: Payer Trends Diverge As Pandemic-Related Policies Fade](#)]. Between 2025 and 2026, national spending on home health care is expected to increase by 7.1%, a data analysis published Wednesday in Health Affairs revealed. Projected spending growth in home health care should outpace all other categories including hospital care services (4.9%), physician and clinical services (4.8%) and nursing homes care (4.8%), and it is expected to grow even faster during the following years. Between 2027 and 2032, the sector will see spending growth of 8.1%, compared to hospital spending (5.6%), physician and clinical services (5.5%) and nursing home care

(6%). In 2022, home health spending increased by roughly 6%, CMS disclosed in a previous report.

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## Hospice Provider News

### **Alive welcomes experienced hospice leader as new CEO: Middle Tennessee's only nonprofit hospice provider poised to build on industry-leading reputation**

*Alive Hospice; 6/13/24*

Alive, Middle Tennessee's only nonprofit provider of hospice and palliative care and end-of-life services, today announced Kerry Hamilton as the organization's new president and chief executive officer. He will begin his new role on June 24. A highly accomplished health care leader, Hamilton joins Alive with more than 20 years of direct hospice management experience, including a decade as CEO of nonprofit Hospice of Central Ohio. ... Hamilton's hiring comes one year after news broke that Alive was considering a sale to a for-profit entity. The news led to a tremendous outpouring of support from the community for Alive to remain nonprofit. Ultimately, the Board of Directors made the decision that Alive would remain an independent nonprofit organization. The Board then began the search for a new CEO who shared its vision for the future.

### **Fashion for a Cause shatters another record, raises \$240,000 for children's programs: : Hospice of the Chesapeake**

*The Baynet, Annapolis, MD; by Hospice of the Chesapeake; 6/13/24*

Doing great never looked so good on June 7 as around 350 fun-loving people

enjoyed perfect weather outside and perfect looks inside at the 14th annual Fashion for a Cause. Held at the Fluegel Alumni Center in Annapolis, the high-spirited crowd smashed its fundraising record, bringing in more than \$240,000 for Chesapeake Kids, the Hospice of the Chesapeake program which supports children living with and affected by advanced illness and loss. Returning for his third year was emcee Bryan Nehman, cohost of C4 and Bryan Nehman weekday mornings on WBAL NewsRadio. Sharing the podium with Hospice of the Chesapeake President and CEO Becky Miller, they introduced Marie Burgess, who shared her family's journey with the Chesapeake Kids program.

*Editor's Note: Congratulations Hospice of the Chesapeake on this outpouring of community support!*

## **Discharge for non-compliance?**

*[Podcast] CHAPcast; 6/12/24*

Ever wondered why patients miss their medication schedules despite clear instructions? Our enlightening conversation with Dr. Kate Jones reveals the critical shift from simply labeling patients as "non-compliant" to understanding the complexities behind "patient adherence." Discover how patient-centered care and shared decision-making can transform healthcare outcomes and why addressing social determinants of health (SDOH) is paramount for effective and realistic care plans.



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## **Clinical News**

### **"A wholeness that grows out of that which is lacking": Providing palliative care to patients with anorexia nervosa**

*Psychiatric Times; by Rabbanit Allissa Thomas-Newborn, BCC; 6/13/24*

Sitting with the patient, I brought in a nesting doll, separating each doll and lifting the layers of self that surrounded the smallest version of herself within. We spoke about layers. Layers and walls we put up to protect ourselves. Layers that hide the things we are afraid for anyone—worst of all, ourselves—to see. Layers

that embrace and comfort and hold us together. ... With the fullness of the nesting doll displayed, we gave witness to her story together. ... To see ourselves as stories of wholeness growing out of that which is lacking requires that we accept what is lacking without judgment. We do not need to fix or fill whatever is lacking, or to pretend it is not there. It is there and may always be there. And there is a wholeness that can still grow.

*Editor's Note: Rabbanit Thomas-Newborn is a board-certified chaplain at New York-Presbyterian Columbia University Irving Medical Center and Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital. She specializes in Behavioral Health, Palliative Care, and Critical Care chaplaincy. She is the president of Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains.*

### **Why doctors aren't participating in organ donation after cardiac death**

*Physician's Weekly; by Frank D. Brodkey, MD, FCCM; 6/13/24*

Organ donation after cardiac death (DCD) differs from the more traditional organ donation after [brain death](#) (DBD) insofar that DCD donors are alive and donate organs after discontinuation of life support so that a natural death with cessation of heartbeat and circulation may occur, followed by extraction of organs. This may increase the availability of transplantable organs, leading to improvement in the lives of other humans. According to the Health Resources and Services Administration, 5896 donations, representing 36% of all donations in 2023, were DCD, representing an increase of 40.7% over the preceding three years. There, however, are significant ethical and scientific issues in the performance of DCD with concepts of end-of-life care, personal autonomy, and concepts of dignity of life and death. ...

## **Research News**

### **Of Mice and Meaning: Multidisciplinary perspectives on the interconnectedness of pain, stress, and suffering**

*The Free Library; by Claire Woodward and Taylor Woodward, Indiana University Bloomington; 6/13/24*

... We are siblings and scholars from seemingly disparate disciplines (one in humanities and one in neurobiology), yet we are both engaged in work to understand--and ultimately alleviate--various facets of pain and suffering. We currently work in two different laboratories at the same institution (Indiana University). Taylor works in a lab with mice and Claire works in a lab on

storytelling. Our scholarship includes interpreting reactions to pain, stress, and suffering, both felt and observed, behavioral and aesthetic. Such observations provide further insights into understanding how the mind and the brain process pain and suffering. ...



## Post-Acute Care News

### **4 CFOs' keys to improved operating performance**

*Becker's Hospital CFO Report; by Andrew Cass; 6/13/24*

Altru, Memorial Health, Penn State Health and Sharp HealthCare are among the systems that reported improved year over year operating performance in their most recent financial reports. *Becker's* asked the CFOs of the four health systems to share one key to their boosted operating performance: ...

- Altru ... CFO Derek Goebel said a key to the system's operational improvement has been an aligned executive leadership team that is focused on improving the culture of the organization. ...
- Memorial Health ... Memorial's Senior Vice President and CFO Katie Keim said that over the past year the system made a strategic decision to focus on the "core functions of our mission and to cease programs that were nonessential." ...

- Penn State Health ... Executive Vice President and CFO Paula Tinch said the system has boosted operational performance by transitioning from a period of substantial facility growth into "one of optimizing our expanded academic health system by strategically utilizing our new assets and implementing better strategic processes." ...
- Sharp HealthCare ... Sharp's Executive Vice President and CFO Susan Green said the health system is "relentlessly focused" on improving margins that have eroded post the COVID-19 pandemic.

## General News

### **A dream comes true: Hospice patient rides in hot air balloon**

*Sedalia Democrat; by Faith Bemiss-McKinney; 6/10/24*

A long-time dream came true for an area woman with a long-term illness on Friday, June 7, with a tethered hot air balloon ride [courtesy of Crossroads Hospice & Palliative Care].

*Publisher's Note: Subscription may be required to read full article.*

## Education

### **The value of a DNP degree: Translating your knowledge into nursing practice**

*Delaware State Nurses Association; by Karen L. Pickard, DNP, RN, CNE, NEA-BC; 6/13/24*

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree has gained traction in the United States over the last twenty-two years. Nurses who specialized in clinical practice and held an advanced practice license supported the development of the DNP degree as an alternative to a terminal degree specialized in research science and academia, the Ph.D. ... Having a broader perspective related to the business of healthcare while understanding the clinical challenges nurses face at the bedside gives a DNP-prepared nurse opportunities to present information and solutions through a different lens. Opportunities on boards, advisory committees, and professional organizations have become vast, ...

*Editorial Note: Does your organization have DNP professionals whose skills you are under-utilizing? Do you have talented, motivated nurses who would benefit from a*



*DNP career ladder plan? Share this article. What career ladder options and support do your Human Resources systems provide?*



## **Interim HealthCare Inc. recognized on Forbes list: America's Best Employers for New Grads 2024**

*Morningstar; by Business Wire; 6/13/24*

Interim HealthCare Inc. ... [with] senior care, home health, hospice and medical staffing services,... is recognized as one of the best places to work for recent college graduates on the Forbes America's Best Employers For New Grads 2024 list. ... For the America's Best Employers For New Grads list, more than 100,000 professionals with 10 or fewer years of work experience were surveyed at companies with 1,000 or more employees in the United States. The young professionals responded to questions about compensation, benefits, advancement opportunities, working conditions, flexibility, company image, and inclusion, along with whether they would recommend the employer to others. This award is presented by Forbes and Statista Inc.

## **Non-print News**

### **Minnesota family featured in new Amazon docuseries covering end-of-life**

*CBS News WCCO (MN); by Mackenzie Lofgren, Derek James; 6/12/24*

A Blaine woman and her family will be featured in Amazon Prime's new six-episode docuseries, "Take Me Out Feet First." The docuseries follows individuals advocating for end-of-life options. The series was created by New York City native, Serene Meshel-Dillman, who was inspired to make the docuseries after she witnessed both of her parents end their lives in the comfort of their home. "Take Me Out Feet First" is a six-part docuseries made in partnership with the

nonprofit advocacy group Compassion & Choices. Each episode will follow a different individual or family who has, advocated for, or is actively exploring end-of-life options. The docuseries is available to stream now on Amazon Prime.

## International News

### Hospice staff cycle more than 300 miles to work

VNExplorer - [bbc.com](http://bbc.com); 6/13/24

Hospice staff have collectively cycled more than 300 miles this week to raise money for their place of work. Seven St Margaret's Hospice employees cycled to work on Tuesday morning to mark Bike Week. ... The group raised £1,000 for the Taunton hospice, which they say could pay for 24 hours of expert specialist care on its inpatient unit, with donations still coming in. ... The idea for the challenge began with senior IT technician, Jack Gorman, whose colleagues had been encouraging him to cycle to work more often. Tom White, head of business intelligence, challenged Mr. Gorman that if he cycled to and from work - a 50-mile commute to work and back - then Mr. White would cycle in from his Barnstaple home, a round trip of 100 miles. ...

*Editor's Note: Does this spark ideas for your organization, especially for your office-based staff? Take this and adapt it to a fun, practical, revenue-generating, relationship-building activity for your organization.*



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## Today's Encouragement

**CNAs don't just provide care; they create moments of joy and connection! - Anonymous**

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