

Cordt Kassner

From: Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter
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Sent: Sunday, July 7, 2024 4:00 AM
To: Cordt Kassner
Subject: Your Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter for 07/07/24

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July 7th, 2024

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

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Headlines

[A little help from your friends... Jennifer Hale, MSN, RN, CHPN, CPHQ](#)

A little help from your friends is a memorial fund set up for Jennifer Hale's family. If interested, you can [read more about it and donate here](#). Donations accepted 6/30/24 - 7/15/24. ... We recently [announced](#) Jennifer Hale unexpectedly died Friday, 6/21/24. Vice President of Quality and Standards at Compassus, former Vice President Clinical Services at Optum Palliative Care and Hospice, and former Executive Director of the Georgia Hospice & Palliative Care Organization, Jennifer was widely known, respected, and loved in the hospice community. We share our condolences with her family, friends, and colleagues. Her obituary is posted [here](#).

[Fixing the hospital-to-home health care transition](#)

Home Health Care News; by Andrew Donlan; 6/25/24

The transition between hospital discharge and home health care is often fraught with issues. Unfortunately, it also happens to be one of the most crucial parts of a patient's care journey. With more sick and complex patients coming into home health care than ever, a swift start of home health care is also arguably more important than ever. ... The Discharge to Assess (D2A) Model was a response to this issue in England. The Supporting Older Adults at Risk (SOAR) program, following a similar framework to D2A, was also recently established in the U.S. A study of SOAR's results within a pilot program in Pennsylvania was recently [published in the Journal for Healthcare Quality](#).

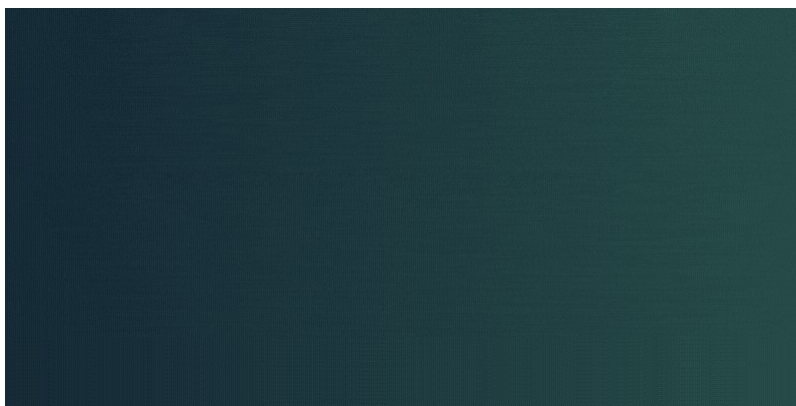
Empowering ‘deeply undervalued’ caregivers would improve ‘lifeline for older adults’

McKnights Senior Living; by Kimberly Bonvissuto; 6/28/24

Direct care workers and family caregivers remain “deeply undervalued” and often overlooked despite calls for investment in the care economy, according to the authors of a new report. “These caregivers provide a lifeline for older adults, people with disabilities, and people living with chronic conditions,” PHI and the National Alliance for Caregiving said in an issue brief released Wednesday.

“Empowering them in their roles will help to ensure high quality, responsive care to meet the needs and preferences of millions of Americans now and in the future.” The organizations called on providers, Congress, the Department of Labor, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the federal Health Resources and Services Administration, states, managed care plans and advocates to invest in the “essential partnership” between direct care workers and family caregivers. The new brief includes insights from a variety of stakeholders ... The result is a list of recommendations that prioritize improvements to direct care jobs.

Editor's Note: Our sponsor, [Composing Life Out of Loss](#), equips hospice and palliative care organizations with caregiver education and support video libraries to strengthen relationships between the direct care professional and the family caregiver, with timely information for the entire family. Contents are written to CMS CoPs, CAHPS, and contemporary grief research; English and Spanish.



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Monroe Clinic & Hospital Foundation celebrates record-breaking mini golf event

The Monroe Times, Monroe, WI; 6/30/24

The Monroe Clinic & Hospital Foundation’s “Little Golf” and Grill event, held on

June 11, was an afternoon of mini golf that led into a night full of generous giving for a great cause. ... The event raised a record-breaking more than \$79,600 from countless heartfelt donations provided by community members and businesses. This brought the total raised over the event's 32 years to over \$1,005,000. "Three decades of commitment from our healthcare team and the community to support and grow local hospice care is an incredible achievement," shared Jane Sybers, Executive Director of Monroe Clinic & Hospital Foundation, a member of SSM Health. "I have the privilege to share gratitude stories with donors whose loved ones walked through hospice with us. To surpass one-million-dollars is such an incredible milestone and shows how much our community values this meaningful service." The evening program walked attendees through the hospice patient journey. During the program, different staff members shared their role in patient care and the impact their patients have on them.

6 guidelines from ASCO on AI, cancer care

Becker's Hospital Review; by Ashleigh Hollowell; 6/25/24

Leaders at the American Society of Clinical Oncology [published a formal document](#) June 25 that outlines what the group deems as the most appropriate use of artificial intelligence when it comes to clinical oncology care. ... When considering AI technology for oncological care, the American Society of Clinical Oncology says clinicians should keep the following principles in mind to guide their use:

1. Transparency ...
2. Inform Stakeholders ...
3. Equity and Fairness ...
4. Accountability ...
5. Oversight and Privacy ...
6. Human-Centered Application ...

Grief care efforts should include settings outside of hospice, provider group say

McKnights Senior Living; by Kimberly Bonvissuto; 7/3/24

If standards are developed for high-quality bereavement and grief care, they must apply to settings outside of traditional hospice care, such as affordable senior housing, where there is a "critical lack" of mental health services. That's according to LeadingAge, which submitted [comments](#) last week to the Agency for

Healthcare Research and Quality on a draft report from a research project that will inform an independent panel that will develop standards for high-quality bereavement and grief care. Katy Barnett, LeadingAge director of home care and hospice operations and policy, highlighted the need for cross-continuum grief and bereavement assessments, interventions and resources, including in settings outside of traditional hospice care, such as affordable senior housing.



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Diagnosis for 6.26.24: Checking the pulse of Florida health care news and policy [Certificate of Need]

Florida Politics, scroll down to "Death and Dying"; 6/26/24

Florida health care regulators this week announced they tentatively denied 21 Certificate of Need (CON) applications for new hospice programs and approved 9 others. Heavily populated Broward and Hillsborough counties drew the most interest, with seven providers wanting to establish new hospice programs in each area. [For details, click on the title's link and scroll down to "Death and Dying."]

Anxiety in late life and serious illness: A podcast with Alex Gamble and Brianna Williamson

GeriPal [podcast]; by Eric Widera, Alex Smith, Alex Gamble, Brianna Williamson; 6/27/24

"Anxiety is a lot like a toddler. It never stops talking, tells you you're wrong about everything, and wakes you up at 3 a.m." I'm not sure who wrote this quote, but it feels right to me. We've all had anxiety, and probably all recognize that anxiety can be a force of action or growth but can also spiral to quickly take over our

lives and our sleep. How, though, do we navigate anxiety and help our patients who may end up in the anxiety spiral that be comes so hard to get out of? On today's podcast, we've invited Alex Gamble and Brianna Williamson to talk to us about anxiety. Alex is a triple-boarded (palliative care, internal medicine, and psychiatry) assistant professor of medicine at Stanford. Brianna is one of UCSF's palliative care fellows who just completed her psychiatry residency.

Hospices' 2024 Public Policy Priorities

Hospice News; by Jim Parker; 6/27/24

A group of hospice leaders recently participated in Hospice Action Week, a lobbying event held last week by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) and the Hospice Action Network. In their meetings with legislators, providers made known their policy priorities. A key goal of these discussions was to establish open lines of communication with congressional offices to foster continued advocacy on hospice issues, according to NHPCO COO and interim CEO Ben Marcantonio. [Key issues include:]

- Battling fraud ...
- Gerald's Law [i.e.] a regulatory loophole that adversely affects veterans ...
- Rebuilding the workforce [more specifically,] action on the the Palliative Care and Hospice Education Training Act (PCHETA) ...
- Revising the Special Focus Program ...

[Click on the title's link to read more]



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[Updated] CMS proposes over 4% cut to Home Health Medicare payments in 2025

Home Health Care News; by Andrew Donlan; 6/26/24

The U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published its FY 2025 home health proposed payment rule Wednesday. With it, the agency signaled

that more significant cuts could be on the way for providers. To rebalance the Patient-Driven Groupings Model (PDGM) and make it budget neutral, at least according to its internal methodology, CMS is proposing a permanent prospective adjustment to the CY 2025 home health payment rate of -4.067%. For CY 2023 and CY 2024, CMS previously applied a 3.925% reduction and a 2.890% reduction, respectively.

Dwayne Johnson sings Moana song for a 4-year-old girl in home hospice care: 'It's my honor'

People; by Tommy McArdle; 4/2/24

Dwayne Johnson said the Make-a-Wish Foundation connected him with the family of a young girl who "watches 'Moana' every day, all day." Dwayne made a special video for a major *Moana* fan. On July 1, the actor, 52, shared a video on [Instagram](#) in which he said the Make-a-Wish Foundation had reached out to him with an urgent request to send a message to a 4-year-old girl named Lily Guerrero, who Johnson said is currently on home hospice care. "A 'rush' wish means what the implication sounds like, which is time is just not on our side when it comes to this particular wish," Johnson said in the video. "This rush wish is that Lily is on home hospice now and she watches *Moana* every day, all day, her dad said. Her wish is to have Dwayne Johnson sing 'You're Welcome' to her and have it recorded so she can listen to it over and over and over and over."


[Click on the title's link to view the article and its video of Dwayne Johnson telling the public about Lily and singing to her.]

Today's Encouragement

Trust is earned in drops and lost in buckets. ~Kevin Plank



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