

Cordt Kassner

From: Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter
<subscriptions@hospicepalliativecaretoday.com>
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2024 4:00 AM
To: Cordt Kassner
Subject: Your Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter for 07/08/24

OUR SPONSORS

[NPHI](#)

[CHAP](#)

[Teleios Collaborative Network](#)

[LMHPCO](#)

[Composing Life Out of Loss](#)

[Hospice Analytics](#)



**HOSPICE &
PALLIATIVE CARE
TODAY**

July 8th, 2024

Contents

- [1. 'I'm as happy as I've been in my life,' says aid worker Simon Boas as he faces death](#)
- [2. How Hospice of the Chesapeake is innovating bereavement care, family support](#)
- [3. Our Hospice Decatur Golf Tourney generates \\$28K](#)
- [4. 'Normalizing' Trauma-Informed Hospice Care Delivery](#)
- [5. States Advancing All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development \(AHEAD\) Model](#)
- [6. Medicare Program: End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System, Payment for Renal Dialysis Services Furnished to Individuals with Acute Kidney Injury, etc.](#)
- [7. 10 key Medicare Advantage updates in 2024](#)

8. [CMS Office of Minority Health: Advance health equity through accessibility](#)
9. [Survey: Adults dropped from Medicaid after pandemic faced healthcare access, affordability issues](#)
10. [16 hospital M&A moves to know in the 1st half of 2024](#)
11. [Cooper University Health acquires New Jersey system](#)
12. [38 hospitals, health systems cutting jobs](#)
13. [Illinois launches PACE services to provide better care integration for elderly population](#)
14. [DME Service Solutions joins the National Association for Home Care & Hospice \(NAHC\)](#)
15. [Today's Encouragement: Twenty years from now ...](#)

Hospice Provider News

'I'm as happy as I've been in my life,' says aid worker Simon Boas as he faces death

BBC News; 7/4/24

In September 2023, Simon Boas was diagnosed with throat cancer. Aged just 46, he was told the disease was terminal, and that it would ultimately take his life. Over the following year, he knitted together his reflections on life into a book - [A Beginner's Guide to Dying](#). The book is set to hit the shelves in October. It will be a posthumous publication. In what he expects to be one of his final interviews, Simon spoke to Emma Barnett on the Today Programme, offering his reflections on life and death as he moved into hospice care. "My pain is under control and I'm terribly happy - it sounds weird to say, but I'm as happy as I've ever been in my life. I used to think I'd rather be hit by the proverbial bus, but having a couple of months knowing this is coming has really helped me both do the boring 'death-min', but also get my thoughts and prepare myself, and feel so accepting of what's to come. It's been such a great bonus, actually. The book is called [A Beginner's Guide to Dying](#), but really what I'm trying to convey is how enjoying life to the full kind of prepares you for this. ... I spent my life as an aid worker - quite a lot with the UN - and I've lived in places where death is something that not just exists in the background, but is imminently possible."

Editor's Note: Click on the title's link to continue reading this inspirational story.

Simon's book--to be published posthumously--is available for [pre-orders on Amazon.com in Audible and Kindle formats](#) with Simon as the narrator. Let's support

this inspirational United Nations and United Kingdom healthcare aid, author, and teacher-to-us-all in these final times of his life.

How Hospice of the Chesapeake is innovating bereavement care, family support

Hospice News; by Jim Parker; 7/4/24

Maryland-based Hospice of the Chesapeake has been pursuing innovation in its bereavement and caregiver support programs. The nonprofit hospice and palliative care provider offers grief care to its entire community regardless of whether a family member was one of their patients. Out-of-pocket payments for those services are on a sliding scale. To expand its reach, Hospice of the Chesapeake works with organizations like schools, senior living communities and other community partners, according to Faith Fitzgerald, director of community support programs for the hospice.

Our Hospice Decatur Golf Tourney generates \$28K

Local News Digital, Greensburg, IN; by LND Staff; 7/2/24

The 30th Annual Our Hospice Decatur Golf Tournament in late June raised about \$32,500, with an estimated net revenue of \$28,000, thanks to the Greensburg community. Over 60 golfers participated in the annual fundraiser, benefiting Our Hospice of South Central Indiana patients and families in Decatur County. The first-place team this year was DC Integrated Medicine. Our Hospice Event and Volunteer Services Manager Julie Davis said, "Over the past 30 years, including this year, we have raised over \$778,000. This would not be possible without the support of sponsors, golfers, and everyone who contributes so generously.



Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today

Clinical News

'Normalizing' Trauma-Informed Hospice Care Delivery

Hospice News; by Holly Vossel; 7/2/24

Stakeholders and advocacy organizations recently collaborated to develop stronger trauma-informed care delivery guidelines that help hospices better address violence, abuse and neglect among serious and terminally ill populations. The global anti-violence advocacy organization NO MORE in concert with the National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation (NPHI) recently unveiled a resource guide to help strengthen hospice providers' understanding of traumatic experiences and their impact on end-of-life outcomes. "Understanding that elder abuse and domestic violence are two really distinct and prevalent issues in the older population has really become front and center," NPHI President Carole Fisher told Hospice News. "These victims often suffer in silence, and we need to pay better attention to their issues." The guide, dubbed ***Breaking the Silence: Addressing Domestic Violence, Elder Abuse and Neglect***, is one of many steps needed in developing more supportive structures for patients and their families, according to Fisher. A main aim is to illuminate the prevalence of abuse and trauma and to arm hospice providers with tools to shape more innovative trauma-informed care models, she said.

Editor's Note: [NPHI is a sponsor](#). This significant Guide pairs with readers' "Top Read" articles we posted recently:

- *["Retraumatization when an adult child cares for the parent who harmed them through serious illness or the end of life"](#); *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*. We posted this in our Saturday "Research" edition 5/11/24 and Sunday's "Top Read" stories for the week on 5/19/24. We discussed this crucial trauma topic in [TCN's monthly podcast that summarizes the month's top news stories](#).*
- *["Psychological trauma can worsen symptom burden at end-of-life"](#); *Hospice News*. We posted on 5/17/24 and again in Sunday's "Top Read" stories on 5/26/24.*

Regulatory News

States Advancing All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development (AHEAD) Model

CMS.gov; 7/2/24

On July 2, 2024 CMS announced that Connecticut, Maryland, and Vermont will be the first state participants in the States Advancing All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development (AHEAD) Model. Hawaii will also participate, pending satisfaction of certain requirements. Applications to participate in Cohort 3 of the model are due August 12, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. EST (Cohort 3). Eligibility requirements and additional model details can be found in the NOFO. To stay up to date on model announcements, events, and resources, please sign up for the [AHEAD Model listserv](#).

Medicare Program: End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System, Payment for Renal Dialysis Services Furnished to Individuals with Acute Kidney Injury, etc.

Federal Register; Proposed Rule by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; 7/5/24

This proposed rule would update and revise the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Prospective Payment System for calendar year 2025. This rule also proposes to update the payment rate for renal dialysis services furnished by an ESRD facility to individuals with acute kidney injury.&nb sp; In addition, this proposed rule would update requirements for the Conditions for Coverage for ESRD Facilities, ESRD Quality Incentive Program, and ESRD Treatment Choices Model. ... To be assured consideration, comments must be received at one of the addresses provided [in the article], by August 26, 2024.



NEW Workshop

Become one of the first to achieve the CHLead® credential.

CHAP CERTIFIED
Healthcare Leader®
CHLead®

Healthcare Leadership Certification Workshop

San Diego, CA | October 8-9

Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today

10 key Medicare Advantage updates in 2024

Becker's Payer Issues; by Rylee Wilson; 6/27/24

The first half of 2024 brought shifting trends for Medicare Advantage. Payers continued to warn of rising medical costs in the MA population, and some are predicting they will lose members next year. Insurers picked up a win in June when CMS said it would recalculate star ratings for 2024. Here are 10 key Medicare Advantage updates to know:

1. CMS recalculated Medicare Advantage plans' star ratings ...
2. Some Medicare Advantage insurers may [pare down](#) their plan offerings in 2025 ...
3. Hospitals' contentious relationship with MA plans continued in the first half of 2024 ...
4. The two-midnight rule took effect at the beginning of 2024 ...
5. A co-branded Medicare Advantage plan offered by UnitedHealthcare and Walmart will come to an end ...
6. CMS issued its final 2025 Medicare Advantage and Part D rule in April, setting new standards around marketing, broker payments and prior authorization ...
7. CMS finalized a slight decrease in Medicare Advantage benchmark payments for 2025 in April ...
8. Don Berwick, MD, who served as CMS administrator during the Obama administration, told *Becker's* he would like to see Medicare Advantage "slowed or stopped."
9. The Cigna Group reached a [deal](#) to sell its Medicare business to Health Care Service Corp. for \$3.3 billion ...
10. Though MA enrollment keeps climbing, the program may not have the profitability [it once did](#) for insurers ...

CMS Office of Minority Health: Advance health equity through accessibility

CMS.gov; posted for July 2024

Throughout July, the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services Office of Minority Health (CMS OMH) celebrates Disability Pride Month and the anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). Twenty-seven percent of adults in the United States have some type of disability, with mobility (serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs) and cognitive (serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions) disabilities being the most prominent types. Individuals living with disabilities often face worse overall health outcomes,

including likelihood of obesity (41.6%), diabetes (15.9%), and heart disease (9.6%). ... Find these resources on our [health observance page](#) this month or our [Improving Access to Care for People with Disabilities](#) page all year long.

Survey: Adults dropped from Medicaid after pandemic faced healthcare access, affordability issues

CIDRAP - Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy Research and Innovation Office, University of Minnesota; by Mary Van Beusekom, MS; 7/2/24

A survey of low-income adults in four southern US states shows that nearly half of those disenrolled from Medicaid after COVID-19 pandemic protections ended had no insurance in late 2023, leading to struggles to afford healthcare and prescription drugs and threatening to broaden a gap that had narrowed during expanded governmental benefits. The data were derived from 89,130 adult residents of Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Texas participating in the National Health Interview Survey in 2019, 2021, and 2022. In 2023, states rechecked Medicaid eligibility after COVID-19 governmental protections expired, disenrolling millions. The average participant age was 48.0 years, and 51.6% were women. Researchers from Beth Israel Medical Center and Harvard Medical School published the results late last week in *JAMA Health Forum*.



Accelerate Impact
Accelerate Influence
Accelerate Innovation

Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today

Mergers & Acquisition News

16 hospital M&A moves to know in the 1st half of 2024

Becker's Hospital Review; by Andrew Cass; 6/28/24

From a Tenet selling spree to Risant Health's acquisition of Geisinger, here are 16 hospital merger and acquisition moves to know from the first six months of 2024.

1. Birmingham, Ala.-based UAB Health on June 25 [agreed](#) to acquire the five-hospital Ascension St. Vincent's Health System from St. Louis-based

Ascension. The \$450 million deal still needs approval from federal regulators and is expected to close this fall.

2. Risant Health, a nonprofit formed under Oakland, Calif.-based Kaiser Permanente, [signed](#) a definitive agreement June 21 to acquire Greensboro, N.C.-based Cone Health.
3. Winston-Salem, N.C.-based Novant Health on June 18 [called off](#) its planned \$320 million acquisition of two North Carolina hospitals from Community Health Systems after an appellate court granted the Federal Trade Commission an emergency injunction blocking the deal.
4. [Click on the title's link for the rest of Becker's list]

Cooper University Health acquires New Jersey system

Becker's Hospital Reivew; by Alan Condon; 7/1/24

Cooper University Health Care on July 1 completed the acquisition of Cape May, NJ-based Cape Regional Health System. As part of the closing, Cape Regional Medical Center has been renamed Cooper University Hospital Cape Regional. The combined health system comprises two hospitals with more than 900 beds, 130 ambulatory sites and almost 11,000 employees, including over 1,000 physicians. It is projected to have revenue exceeding \$2.2 billion a year. The transaction unlocks significant growth opportunities, particularly in the out patient market, as healthcare continues its shift away from inpatient settings, Camden, N.J.-based Cooper CFO Brian Reilly told *Becker's*.

Post-Acute Care News

38 hospitals, health systems cutting jobs

Becker's Hospital CFO Report; by Kelly Gooch; 6/28/24

A number of hospitals and health systems are reducing their workforces or jobs due to financial and operational challenges. [Listed] are workforce reduction efforts or job eliminations announced this year [by Becker's]. June:

- Winston-Salem, NC-based Novant Health is laying off 81 IT workers ...
- Middletown, NY-based Garnet Health laid off 26 employees ...
- West Monroe, LA-based Glenwood Regional Medical Center ... laid off 23 employees ...
- Cleveland-based University Hospitals is reducing its leadership structure by more than 10%, as part of its more than 300 layoffs ...

- Portland-based Oregon Health & Science University told staff June 6 that it plans to lay off at least 500 employees, citing financial issues

[Click on the title's link for cuts made January - May 2024]



Illinois launches PACE services to provide better care integration for elderly population

State of Reform - Illinois News; by Maddie McCarthy; 7/2/24

The Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) officially [launched](#) in Illinois in June, and designated PACE centers have begun rolling out services to their members. ... “PACE is an integrated model of care that provides all the care and services covered by Medicare and Medicaid, as authorized by the interdisciplinary team, as well as additional medically-necessary care and services not covered by Medicare and Medicaid,” said the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) in a statement sent to State of Reform. Illinois has five regions offering PACE services: West Chicago, South Chicago, Southern Cook County, Peoria, and East St. Louis. HFS and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded contracts to [seven](#) designated centers.

DME Service Solutions joins the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC)

OpenPR - Worldwide Public Relations; Press release from DEM Service Solutions; 7/4/24

DME Service Solutions, a provider of B2B outsourcing solutions specializing in healthcare, is pleased to announce its partnership with the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC). This partnership allows DME Service Solutions to engage with a community dedicated to advancing quality care and operational efficiency in the home care and hospice industry. NAHC represents the home care and hospice community, advocating for accessible and affordable care. By partnering with NAHC, DME Service Solutions connects with a network of professionals focused on effective home care solutions. This partnership provides access to the latest information and in-depth analysis of industry trends, which is essential for staying aligned with current industry needs. NAHC also offers educational programs that will help DME Service Solutions enhance staff expertise and continuously improve service quality.

Today's Encouragement

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover. ~ Mark Twain





TURNING DATA INTO INFORMATION – TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today

Sign up for our free daily newsletters [here!](#)

The Fine Print:

Paywalls: Some links may take readers to articles that either require registration or are behind a paywall. ***Disclaimer:*** Hospice & Palliative Care Today provides brief summaries of news stories of interest to hospice, palliative, and end-of-life care professionals (typically taken directly from the source article). Hospice & Palliative Care Today is not responsible or liable for the validity or reliability of information in these articles and directs the reader to authors of the source articles for questions or comments. Additionally, Dr. Cordt Kassner, Publisher, and Dr. Joy Berger, Editor in Chief, welcome your [feedback](#) regarding content of Hospice & Palliative Care Today. ***Unsubscribe:*** Hospice & Palliative Care Today is a free subscription email. If you believe you have received this email in error, or if you no longer wish to receive Hospice & Palliative Care Today, please unsubscribe [here](#) or reply to this email with the message "Unsubscribe". Thank you.