

## Cordt Kassner

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TODAY**

## July 12th, 2024

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## Headlines

### **[Top News Stories of the Month, June 2024 \(teleioscn.org\)](#)**

*Teleios Collaborative Network (TCN); podcast by Chris Comeaux, with Mark Cohen; 7/10/24*

In this week's podcast, Mark Cohen joins me once more for the Top News Stories for the prior month from Hospice & Palliative Care Today. ... Join us for an enlightening exploration of the latest advancements in hospice and palliative care. Discover the heartfelt stories of D-Day veterans, the remarkable journey of a terminally ill teen who became an honorary sheriff, and the impactful efforts of U.S. Representative Elizabeth Ann Van Duyne in combating Hospice fraud. We also discuss the pressing issues surrounding advanced care planning for late-stage cancer, the increasing mental distress among older adults, and a critical report on Medicare and the healthcare delivery system.

### **[\[Global Partners in Care\] 25 Years of Compassion and Impact](#)**

*eHospice; 7/9/24*

In 2024, Global Partners in Care (GPIC) celebrates its 25th anniversary. Over the past 25 years, GPIC has been dedicated to enhancing access to compassionate care for individuals and families across the globe who face serious illness, death and grief. This silver anniversary is a significant milestone in the history of the organization. Not only does it provide an occasion to reflect on the impact the organization has made, but it also provides an opportunity to consider numerous future possibilities.

- Origins and Evolution: Global Partners in Care began as the Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa (FHSSA). During a professional tour to hospices in South Africa and Zimbabwe, U.S. hospice leaders witnessed the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic across the region. ... In 2004, it became an affiliate of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), allowing direct connection with NHPCO's membership and expanding the scope of their work. ...
- Expanding Horizons ...
- Our Impact ...
- Embracing Our Principles into the Future ...

To join our mission or learn more about Global Partners in Care, contact us at [info@globalpartnersincare.org](mailto:info@globalpartnersincare.org).

*Editor's Note: We celebrate Global Partners in Care and thank you for your compassionate, strategic mission, vision and perseverance through its beginnings, developments, and ahead. We remember those leaders who saw needs and created solutions. We honor the many USA hospice organizations who have partnered with FHSSA/GPIC.*

## Hospice Provider News

### **Spectrum Home Health & Hospice Care rebrands as Legacy Lifecare VNA & Hospice**

*HCN Healthcare News; by HCN Staff; 7/11/24*

Spectrum Home Health & Hospice Care, a care provider in Western Mass. since 1994, will now be known as Legacy Lifecare VNA & Hospice. The team, led by Madeline Presz, senior director of Home and Community-based Services, will continue to provide the same level of care. Legacy VNA & Hospice cares for patients with a broad range of conditions, including injuries, strokes, speech, memory and swallowing issues, joint replacements, neurological disorders, arthritis, traumatic brain injuries, and other debilitating conditions.



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## **Palliative Care Provider News**

### **Stigmas about palliative care are harming our seriously ill patients**

*Oncology News Central; by Stephen "Fred" Divers, MD, Chief Medical Officer; Julia Frydman, MD, Medical Director for Palliative Care; 7/10/24*

"I wish we had done this sooner." This is something that we hear a lot from our patients and their families when they finally begin to work with a specialist palliative care team – and not only when they are nearing the end of life. This is equally true when patients' conditions are curative. ... [Only] a fraction of our patients who would benefit from early palliative care actually get it. In addition to other access barriers, the pervasive misconception remains that palliative care equals hospice. There is an urgent and unmet need to normalize the use of palliative care from the moment of serious illness diagnosis. For that to happen, we need to take a long, hard look at how we can help patients and clinicians overcome pervasive myths.

- Mortality Is the Elephant in the Room ...
- Palliative Care Should Align With Patients' Personal Values ...
- We Need to Eat the Elephant "One Bite at a Time" ...
- Positive Steps Toward Early Adoption of Palliative Care ...
- Improved Reimbursement Options ...
- Statewide Palliative Care Laws ...
- Opioid Legislation ...
- Changing Generational Perspectives ...
- Telemedicine Access ...

## **Clinical News**

## **A journey shared: Navigating cancer as a caretaker, nurse, and patient**

*Oncology Nursing News; by Charlotte Goor, BSN, RN, OCN; 7/9/24*

An oncology nurse's experience with mother's cancer and her own BRCA2 diagnosis shapes her approach to patient care. "She had a tumor the size of a cantaloupe," the surgeon said. I felt like the world had caved in on me and I was suffocating in its core. I was 22 years old when my mother developed a mysterious "bulge" in her lower abdomen—stage 4 ovarian cancer, as it turned out. As a bonus, we learned that both she and I carried the *BRCA2* gene mutation, which meant that I was at an increased risk of developing breast and ovarian cancer as well." The ensuing journey from caregiver to nurse to patient has profoundly shaped my nursing practice by providing unique insights and deepening my empathy. ...

## **Mergers & Acquisition News**

### **Adena Health announces new joint venture to advance home health and hospice services**

*Chillicothe Gazette - USA Today Network; 7/10/24*

Adena Health has announced a new joint venture partnership with national home health leader Alternate Solutions Health Network (ASHN). The new home health and hospice collaboration will be jointly owned by Adena Health and ASHN, and operate as Adena Home Health and Hospice effective this August. Headquartered in Kettering, ASHN partners with more than 90 multi-facility home healthcare and hospice healthcare systems across five states through joint ventures that include a real partnerships with The Christ Hospital Health Network, Genesis Healthcare System, Kettering Health, and The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. The Adena team will join forces with ASHN's group of leading physicians and healthcare professionals to expand the suite of home health and hospice services while enhancing patient experience and nurturing clinical talent.

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## **Primary, palliative provider HarmonyCares gains \$200M investment**

*Hospice News; by Jim Parker; 7/9/24*

The home-based care provider HarmonyCares, a leading provider of value-based in-home care has secured \$200 million in a new funding round. HarmonyCares offers palliative care, home-based primary care, home health, hospice, radiology and other services to more than 70,000 patients in 15 states through value-based partnerships with Medicare Advantage plans and Accountable Care Organizations. ... The company plans to use the infusion of capital to expand to new geographies and develop new technologies designed to improve clinical outcomes and patient satisfaction, according to a statement. The funding round was led by General Catalyst, McKesson Ventures and an unnamed large national payer. Other participants included K2 HealthVentures, Rubicon Founders, Valtruis, HLM Capital and Oak HC/FT.

## **Post-Acute Care News**

### **Senior living providers embrace role in CMS dementia care pilot program**

*McKnights Senior Living; by Kimberly Bonvissuto; 7/11/24*

Senior living providers named participants in the federal government's new dementia care pilot program said they are excited to be part of a new effort to support people living with dementia and their family caregivers. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, CMMI, announced the Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience, or **GUIDE**, model last summer. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services launched the eight-year GUIDE model on July 1 and published

the program participant list on Monday [7/8]. Eligible model participants are Medicare Part B-enrolled providers eligible to bill for Medicare services and that provide, or will provide, ongoing care to people living with dementia. Eligible organizations include accountable care organizations, home health and hospice agencies, Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, and physician practices. Additional long-term care providers and other healthcare providers, however, can participate as partner organizations by contract with another Medicare provider/supplier to meet the program care delivery requirements. Assisted living residents who are Medicare beneficiaries may be part of the model.

*Editor's Note: Adding to our previously published posts about the new CMS GUIDE Program (7/10/24 and 7/11/24) and its use by hospice organizations, this article describes its use by senior living care providers.*

## Technology / Innovations News

### **Telehealth can drive more meaningful serious illness conversations in MDS, AML**

*AJMC - American Journal of Managed Care; by AJMC contributor; 7/10/24*

Using telehealth to have conversations about serious illnesses with patients may help increase clinician confidence in having these types of conversations, suggest findings from a small pilot study. Researchers collected feedback from 20 clinicians implementing a telehealth serious illness conversation with their patients with acute myeloid leukemia and myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS). The group found the intervention was considered simple and easy, and helped clinicians better understand the unique needs of their patients at end of life. The findings were published in *JMIR Formative Research*.



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### **Mythbusting some misconceptions about operational improvement technology**

*HIMSS; by Bill Siwicki; 7/10/24*



Revenue cycle management is a great place for operational improvement technologies. These technologies can leverage process and task mining to give leaders a bird's-eye view of their teams' workflows. But according to 20-year healthcare veteran Todd Doze, CEO of Janus Health, a revenue cycle management technology company, there are three common myths associated with operational improvement technologies:

1. Operational improvement systems replace human touch – even though they're designed to help humans make better decisions.
2. Operational improvement technologies lack the granularity needed to make decisions – even though they provide a granular view at the workflow level that the human eye cannot comprehend.
3. Operational improvement systems require time a team does not have – even though many organizations find these technologies help reallocate staff in a low-risk, high-reward way that enables team members to work at the top of their license.

*Healthcare IT News* sat down with tech CEO Doze for a deep dive into these myths he describes and the realities, according to him and his experience with the technologies, that he would like more people to comprehend.

## General News

### **'Bridal bouquet turned retirement home decor': Virginia friends find ways to repurpose special event flowers**

*WFMZ-TV 69 News, Allentown, PA; by Karin Mallet; 7/10/24*

Flowers are just as nice the second time around ... where people are making sure your beautiful blooms don't end up in the trash once your event is over. It just takes a little bit of creativity. Laura Ruth and Rebecca Shelly ... were both navigating motherhood, COVID lockdowns and the loss of their fathers. Creating green spaces gave them both some much needed solace. They realized if flowers had that kind of power for them, they would likely have that kind of power for others so they created "Friendly City Florals." With their team of volunteers, they repurpose flowers from weddings, birthday parties, special events. ... They spruce them up a bit and then bring them to schools, retirement and nursing homes, hospice and social service centers. It's a great second life for these flowers. The green bridal guide estimates the average wedding produces a



staggering 400 pounds of trash.

*Editor's Note: An adaptation of this--used by several hospices--is to partner with a local florist for them to donate leftover/not-used flowers to the hospice for their inpatient units. A volunteer picks them up and arranges them for hospice rooms. Upon the death, family members are encouraged to take the flowers home with them.*

### **Rosewood nursing home staff demands experience pay, free coverage**

*Times Union, Rensselaer, NY; by Jim Franco; 7/11/24*

A group of Rosewood Rehabilitation and Nursing Center workers, represented by a national health care union, is demanding a new contract with higher wages for more experienced workers and a union-provided health insurance plan that would be fully paid by their employers. ... The workers, members of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, say a contract with the experience pay and no-cost health care coverage would help address staff shortages at the facility. The union, which has an office in East Greenbush, cites federal Department of Health and Human Services data showing total nursing staff turnover at the facility is 61.8 percent, higher than the national average of 52 percent and the New York average of 44.7 percent.

*Editor's Note: The reasons identified for this staff strike are consistent with other nursing/healthcare strikes across the nation: pay, benefits, staff shortages. Additionally, this facility's nursing staff turnover of 61.8 percent likely impacts--negatively--patient safety, another key factor for recent nursing strikes.*



## Other News

### Executive Personnel Changes - 7/12/24

- AccentCare names Chris Mayne as President, Home Health
- Lower Cape Fear LifeCare (LCFL) in Wilmington, NC named Deric Weiss, MD, ACP, as its new Chief Medical Officer and Clinical Director

### Other Business Headlines of Interest, updated 7/11/24 per nasdaq.com

- Adus HomeCare (ADUS: \$100.60)
- Amedisys (AMED: \$98.24)
  
- BrightSpring Health (BTSG: \$11.13)
- Encompass (EHC: \$84.76)
- Enhabit (EHAB: \$9.25)
- Ensign Group (ENSG: \$130.45)
- HCA Healthcare (HCA: \$317.51)
- Humana (HUM: \$371.00)
- Pennant Group (PNTG: \$27.06)

- [Vitas / Chemed Corp \(CHE: \\$534.73\)](#)

## Today's Encouragement

Well hello, Friday! It's great to see you again! ~ Anonymous



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