

## Cordt Kassner

---

**From:** Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter  
<subscriptions@hospicepalliativecaretoday.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 18, 2024 4:00 AM  
**To:** Cordt Kassner  
**Subject:** Your Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter for 07/18/24



## HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE TODAY

### OUR SPONSORS

[Composing Life Out of Loss](#)

[Hospice Analytics](#)

## July 18th, 2024

### Contents

- [1. NAHC-NHPCO Alliance comments on Hospice CARE Act](#)
- [2. Heart to Heart Hospice House continues patient service despite power outages, adverse effects from Hurricane Beryl](#)
- [3. Woman radiates joy as she wears a wedding gown for the first time after 77 years of marriage](#)
- [4. Bereaved families face 'devastating' impacts of hospice fraud](#)
- [5. Palliative provider Thyme Care secures \\$95M in funding round](#)
- [6. County Commissioners question providing nonprofits with funding](#)
- [7. Alpharetta City Council considering fee for lifting assistance calls](#)
- [8. Pennant acquires Signature Healthcare at Home assets for \\$80M](#)
- [9. 7 hospitals closing departments or ending services](#)
- [10. A personal approach: Patient Care Coordination Inc. celebrates a decade of inclusive healthcare](#)
- [11. Private nursing services market hits USD 1179 billion by 2032](#)
- [12. Cedar Rapids nursing home worker needlessly exposed to infectious disease, judge rules \[Keep reading: the employee did not want to serve hospice patients\]](#)

13. [When you know you might forget everything: Living with the Alzheimer's gene](#)
14. [Emory receives \\$5 million grant to improve geriatric care and education](#)
15. [Today's Encouragement: Deep summer ...](#)

## Hospice Provider News

### [NAHC-NHPCO Alliance comments on Hospice CARE Act](#)

*HomeCare; 7/16/24*

The NAHC-NHPCO Alliance submitted a [comment letter](#) to the office of Rep. Earl Blumenauer (OR-3) on the discussion draft of the [Hospice Care Accountability, Reform, and Enforcement Act \(Hospice CARE Act\)](#), along with an overview and section-by-section summary. The Hospice CARE Act focuses on hospice payment reform and program integrity. The two trade organizations said they have worked closely with Blumenauer for years on these issues and are committed to continuing the dialogue to secure optimal outcomes for hospice providers and the continued delivery of quality care for patients and their families.

### [Heart to Heart Hospice House continues patient service despite power outages, adverse effects from Hurricane Beryl](#)

*Cision PRWeb; by Heart to Heart Hospice; 7/16/24*

Heart to Heart Hospice, which operates five locations in the Houston area, was among the many healthcare providers severely impacted when Hurricane Beryl made landfall along the Texas coast last week. All the Heart to Heart Hospice sites lost electrical power, as well as internet and cellular-based communications service. ... Immediately following the storm, the Heart to Heart and Proveer teams began working together to quickly restore emergency generator power, helping to ensure that patients and residents received care during the power outages and that all basic, needs-based functions continued uninterrupted. "It has been amazing to see the level of collaboration, compassion, and commitment from these teams that has allowed us to continue serving patients and families across the entire Houston area," said Nick Robinson, Heart to Heart Hospice's Regional Vice President of Operations.

### [Woman radiates joy as she wears a wedding gown for the first time after 77 years of marriage](#)

*Scoop; by Rima Biswas; 7/16/24*

When this 97-year-old got married, she didn't have a proper wedding gown. She got to live this dream after 77 years of marriage thanks to a hospice facility. ... On King and her husband's 77th wedding anniversary, her dream of wearing a wedding dress finally came true. The staff of St. Croix Hospice in Iowa helped the then-97-year-old King to get dressed in all white and a veil to walk down the grassy lawn to celebrate her wedding anniversary. The hospice facility made a small but special arrangement to help the veteran couple reenact their wedding memories, getting everyone emotional in the process.

### **Bereaved families face 'devastating' impacts of hospice fraud**

*Hospice News; by Holly Vossel; 7/16/24*

Fraudulent activity in the hospice space may be leaving some families without sufficient bereavement support. Fraudulent hospice schemes can take a tremendous toll on families that have lost loved ones who received poor or negligent end-of-life care, according to Cheryl Kraus, director of government affairs and policy at the Hospice & Palliative Care Association of New York State (HPCANYS). ... "It's tragic if you're already grieving the loss of a loved one to have your suspicions confirmed that they did not receive the level of care that they were entitled to because of bad actors in the hospice space," Kraus said. "It just shocks the conscience what these fraudulent hospices are doing to people. It's going to take a long time to restore not just the individuals' trust who have experienced this firsthand, but also the public's."

## **Palliative Care Provider News**

### **Palliative provider Thyme Care secures \$95M in funding round**

*Hospice News; by Jim Parker; 7/17/24*

The oncology-focused value-based enabler Thyme Care has completed a \$95 million funding round that includes \$55 million in equity funding. The company offers palliative care in addition to other services. In May, Thyme Care launched a new palliative care telehealth offering, branded as Enhanced Supportive Care. Thyme Care will use the new infusion of investment dollars to expand to new geographies, build new partnerships with oncologists, primary care practices and health plans, according to a press release.

## Public Policy News

### **County Commissioners question providing nonprofits with funding**

*Times Union Online, Kosciusko County, IN; by David L. Slone; 7/16/24*

The future of Kosciusko County government providing funding to local nonprofit organizations is uncertain. Tuesday, after some discussion on the appropriateness of the county giving taxpayer dollars to nonprofits, the Kosciusko County Commissioners approved recommending to the County Council that seven nonprofits receive the same amount of funds in 2025 as they did in 2024. [Among the organizations listed is] Stillwater Hospice, \$50,000. ... [Commissioner Cary] Groninger said the county council it would have the final say on the nonprofit funding. ... [Commissioner Brad] Jackson said the decision was a tough one and they didn't just want to stop providing funding without giving the nonprofits notice.

### **Alpharetta City Council considering fee for lifting assistance calls**

*Appen Media, Alpharetta & Roswell, GA; by Jon Wilcox; 7/16/24*

The Alpharetta City Council is considering a fee for residents and assisted living homes who make multiple calls a month for emergency responders to help people who have fallen. Director of Public Safety John Robison told the council July 15 that calls for lifting assistance come at significant cost and tie up responders who may be needed for other emergencies. Last year, Robison said, 328 calls for lift assistance cost the city \$78,844, almost double the cost from the previous year, which saw 190 calls at a cost of \$32,275.30. ... A proposed ordinance suggests a schedule of fees for calls asking responders to assess people who have fallen and may be injured. ... Hospice patients would be exempt from the fees.

## Mergers & Acquisition News

### **Pennant acquires Signature Healthcare at Home assets for \$80M**

*McKnights Home Care; by Adam Healy; 7/11/24*

The Pennant Group, a provider of home health, personal care, hospice and senior living services, disclosed ... that it agreed to purchase assets of certain Signature Healthcare at Home affiliates for \$80 million. Signature provides home health and hospice services in Oregon, Washington and Idaho, and its 650 staff

members serve more than 12,000 patients annually, according to an 8-K filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Pennant's acquisition of Signature's Washington and Idaho assets is expected to close on Aug. 1, while its acquisition of Signature's Oregon assets is expected to close January 1, 2025.

## Post-Acute Care News

### 7 hospitals closing departments or ending services

*Becker's Healthcare; by Andrew Cass; 7/12/24*

A number of healthcare organizations have recently closed medical departments or ended services at facilities to shore up finances, focus on more in-demand services or address staffing shortages. Here are seven department closures or services that are ending or have been announced, advanced or finalized that *Becker's* reported since June 1:

1. Grove Hill (Ala.) Memorial Hospital ...
2. San Jose, Calif.-based Regional Medical Center ...
3. Robbinsdale, Minn.-based North Memorial Health ...
4. Tacoma, Wash.-based Virginia Mason Franciscan Health ...
5. Northwestern Medicine Palos Hospital in Palos Heights, Ill ...
6. Alameda (Calif.) Hospital ...
7. University of Missouri Health Care Women's Hospital in Columbia, Mo. ...

### A personal approach: Patient Care Coordination Inc. celebrates a decade of inclusive healthcare

*Classic 96.7 FM BWZ, Philadelphia, PA; 7/17/24*

Philadelphia-based Patient Care Coordination Inc. (PCC), led by Founder and Executive Director Paul S. Rimar, proudly commemorates its 10th anniversary. With a steadfast commitment to inclusivity, particularly within the LGBTQ community, PCC has grown to serve over 6,500 participants across 21 counties in Pennsylvania, delivering high-quality, value-based healthcare services. ... A cornerstone of PCC's mission is its dedication to the LGBTQ community. Rimar's personal experiences with LGBTQ-specific challenges have profoundly influenced PCC's inclusive policies and practices. ... [Rimar's] comprehensive background, including roles in long-term care, hospice, managed care, and transplantation, has been instrumental in PCC's evolution and success.

## **Private nursing services market hits USD 1179 billion by 2032**

*Market.US; by Trishita Deb; 7/17/24*

The Global Private Nursing Services Market, valued at USD 609.7 billion in 2022, is poised for substantial growth. It is projected to reach USD 1179 billion by 2032, expanding at a consistent annual growth rate of 7%. This growth is primarily driven by several critical factors. Firstly, the increasing aging population worldwide necessitates more personalized and attentive healthcare services, which private nursing can provide. Secondly, the rise in chronic diseases, which require long-term care, significantly contributes to the demand for private nursing services. Technological advancements and increased healthcare expenditures also play vital roles in enhancing the service quality and accessibility in this sector.

## **Ethics**

### **Cedar Rapids nursing home worker needlessly exposed to infectious disease, judge rules [Keep reading: the employee did not want to serve hospice patients]**

*The Gazette; by Clark Kauffman, Iowa Capital Dispatch; 7/16/24*

A social worker for an Iowa nursing home was justified in quitting after the facility failed to inform her and others of residents who had serious, contagious diseases, according to a judge's ruling. State records indicate Mary Lovejoy Castaneda was employed by the nursing home chain Care Initiatives as a full-time social worker at Cedar Rapids' Heritage Specialty Care from March through May of this year. She resigned after citing "stress and anxiety" related to the job, which entailed working with hospice patients. ... [Additionally,] when Care Initiatives hired Castaneda the company assured her it would refrain from assigning her hospice patients, only to later begin doing so.

*Editor's Note: Yes, lack of information about patients with "serious, contagious diseases" with the need to wear PPE is a significant offense and must be fixed.*

*However, the social worker employee requesting [refusing?] to serve hospice patients within a nursing home facility raises significant ethical concerns about care for patients and their families. The staff/patient ratio for social workers in a nursing facilities requires extensive, broad coverage of its aged population and long term prognoses. Though without contextual, background information, this editor/hospice professional states that the Job Description should have included and required the*

*responsibility from the social worker for patients in its facility who do or might receive hospice care. Click on the title's link to continue reading.*

## General News

### **When you know you might forget everything: Living with the Alzheimer's gene**

*Intelligencer; by Amelia Schonbek; 7/16/24*

In 2017, 23andMe began offering tests for the genetic risk of developing certain health conditions like celiac disease, Parkinson's, and late-onset [Alzheimer's](#). The Alzheimer's test will tell you if you have the gene variant APOE4, which means you have an increased likelihood of developing the disease. One in four people carry a single copy of the gene, but 2 to 3 percent of the population have two copies — one from each parent — and have a much higher probability. As with all of 23andMe's upcharged "Health Predisposition Reports," the sell on it was self-empowerment: Once you know, you can plan, allowing you to take charge of your well-being.

## Education

### **Emory receives \$5 million grant to improve geriatric care and education**

*Saporta Report; by Emory University, Atlanta, GA; 7/16/24*

Emory University has been awarded a \$5 million cooperative agreement by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to enhance geriatric care and education for health care workers in Georgia's urban and rural areas. This five-year funding will support Georgia Gear (Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program), operated through the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine. ... The Georgia Gear program will partner with organizations including Georgia Memory Net, the Georgia Department of Public Health, Georgia Area Health Education Center, the Technical College System of Georgia, Emory Healthcare, the Atlanta VA Health Care System, and the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM).

## Today's Encouragement

**Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability. ~ Sam Keen**





***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.