

## Cordt Kassner

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## August 2nd, 2024

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## **Editor Picks**

### **Resources for people coping with Alzheimer's disease**

*Everyday Health; by Pamela Kaufman; updated 7/29/24*

No one should have to deal with Alzheimer's alone. The government agencies, nonprofit groups, and other resources listed here can help people with Alzheimer's and their caregivers cope with the disease through education, advocacy, support services, clinical trial opportunities, and blogs that share the wisdom of lived experience. [This list of resources includes:]

- Organizations That Educate and Support
- Financial Help for Managing the Cost of Treatment and Caregiving
- Coping, Advocacy and Assistance
- Facts and Statistics About Alzheimer's Disease
- Medication Used to Treat Alzheimer's
- Caregiver Assistance for People With Late-Stage Alzheimer's Disease

- Patient and Caregiver Blogs Voicing the Real Experience of Living with Alzheimer's
- Clinical Trials That Address Alzheimer's
- The Takeaway

*Editor's Note: This list of organizations, links and descriptions provides an essential resource for healthcare professionals who serve persons with Alzheimer's, across the continuum of care. Of note, resources regarding "Late-Stage Alzheimer's" include the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), Medicare.gov, Hospice Foundation of America (HFA), Home Care Association of America, ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center.*

## Hospice Provider News

### **Cove Couture raises \$11,000**

*Sand Mountain - The Reporter, Albertville, AL; by Mary Bailey; 7/31/24*

All in the name of fashion and fun, Shepherd's Cove Hospice was able to raise \$11,000 during their first ever "Cove Couture" event. Foundation Director Emily Sims said the idea behind the event was very simple. "We have a wonderful treasure trove at our Thrift Shoppe and wanted to do an event to feature all the awesome finds. Each 'celebrity model' was given the budget of \$25 or less for their outfit. They were allowed to wear additional clothing items or accessories of their own if they could not find it in the store," Sims said. "We hope to bring awareness to what our Thrift Shoppe has to offer and encourage that you can find great, stylish outfits for very reasonable prices." Runway models, awards and catered dinner made the evening an enchanting event for a great cause.

### **Mercy Health Home Care and Hospice programs rebranding under new partnership**

*The Paducah Sun, Paducah, KY; by Sun Staff; 7/30/24*

Mercy Health Home Care and Hospice programs in the Paducah area now have a new name: Mercy Health Home Care and Hospice by Compassus. Announcing the name change in a news release on Monday, Bon Secours Mercy Health said the change reflects a partnership between the Catholic health system and Compassus, which it said is a "leading national provider of innovative home-based health care services." Locations in Paducah and Metropolis, Illinois, formerly managed by Mercy Health will be managed by the partnership — which

was finalized earlier this year — and included in the name change, except the Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center at Mercy Health.



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## Clinical News

### **Amid trauma and burnout, it 'takes courage' to reflect on mental, emotional well-being**

*Healio; by Jennifer Byrne; 7/31/24*

... [William E. Rosa, PhD, MBE, MS] began to realize that in the stressful, devastating situations he and his colleagues faced daily, there was much to be learned from the principles of trauma-informed care. ... "This is the idea that cultivating an awareness can prevent us from re-traumatizing ourselves and others," he said. "I think it starts with reflecting on — and telling the truth about — our mental and emotional well-being. That takes courage." In acknowledging the emotional scars, brokenness and vulnerability that comes from tragedy and loss, individuals can begin to heal a lifetime of stored and unresolved trauma, Rosa said. "As a workforce, you and I see unacceptable rates of suicide, burnout, moral distress and attrition," he said. "It's time that we come to safe and supported terms with our trauma — not just as individuals, but as a collective, not only for the patients and families we serve, but for us to survive."

*Editor's Note: In this article, Dr. Rosa identified "the emotional impact of taking yet another patient off the ventilator at the end of life." Recent articles we've posted in this newsletter about trauma-informed care been in our "Top Reads." While those articles focused on trauma-informed care of the persons you serve, this focuses on the persons who serve, your all-important direct patient care clinicians.*

## **Signs that cognitive changes are worrisome —and what you can do about it**

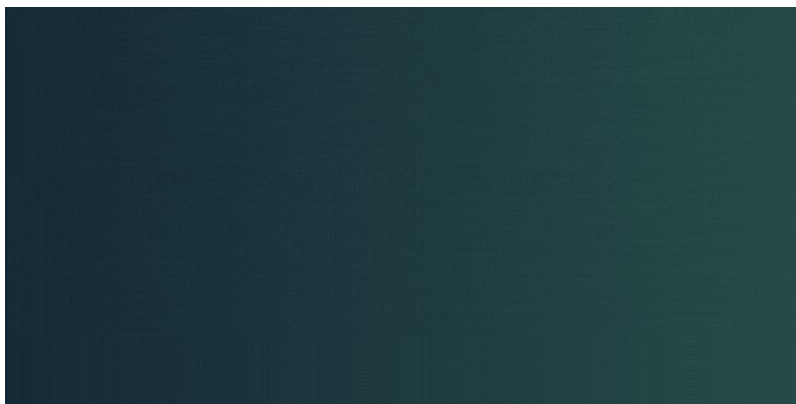
*CU Anschutz (Colorado University) Department of Medicine; by Tayler Shaw; 7/26/24*

... As a geriatrician and palliative medicine physician, Hillary Lum, MD, PhD, has spent her career working to better the lives of older adults and their families, often raising awareness about what cognitive decline can look like and when it is concerning. She is currently involved in the Colorado Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias State Plan, a state initiative to improve awareness and actions to address dementia in Colorado, specifically looking at how to build a competent workforce related to Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. We recently sat down with Lum ... to talk about what cognitive decline is, symptoms to look out for, and how people can best protect their brain health.

## **Veteran in hospice care completes bucket list with tattoos designed by family**

*WNEM/Gray News, Saginaw, MI; by WNEM Digital and Gray News Staff; 7/28/24*

A Michigan veteran with ALS crossed off the final item on her bucket list by getting tattoos designed by family members, including her teenage daughter. Beth Bedore, a 47-year-old veteran, served in Iraq and Kuwait before retiring after 23 years. Last year, she was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. She is currently receiving care while on hospice at the Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center in Saginaw, WNEM reports. Bedore's recreational therapist, Heidi Nadobny, says the last wish on the veteran's bucket list was crossed off Friday. She received two tattoos, one designed by her 14-year-old daughter and the other designed by her daughter's father.



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## **Regulatory News**

## **Help improve the PEPPER Program**

PEPPER email; 7/30/24

There is a temporary pause in distributing Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Reports (PEPPERS) as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) work to improve and update the program and reporting system. This pause will remain in effect through the fall of 2024. We recognize the importance of these reports to your practice. Therefore, during this time, CMS will be working diligently to enhance the quality and accessibility of the reports. In fulfilling this commitment, CMS seeks responses to a series of questions listed in the Request for Information (RFI). These questions will provide CMS with information that may be used to reevaluate PEPPERS and improve the effectiveness and accessibility of the program. The [RFI \(PDF\) is available here](#). Responses are due on or before 08/19/2024 and must be provided via online submission at the following address: [CBRPEPPERInquiries@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:CBRPEPPERInquiries@cms.hhs.gov).

## **Mergers & Acquisition News**

### **Hospice of the Western Reserve Acquires Hospice of North Central Ohio**

*Longview News-Journal, Cleveland, OH; by Hospice of the Western Reserve; 8/1/24*

Hospice of the Western Reserve (HWR), a premier provider of hospice and palliative care services in Northern Ohio, has completed its acquisition of Hospice of North Central Ohio (HNCO) effective today. This strategic alliance aims to expand access to high-quality, comprehensive end-of-life care across a broader region. The news follows a February 2024 announcement that the two community-based, nonprofit agencies had entered a management services agreement, allowing HWR to begin a due diligence process in preparation for the full transition. The acquisition comes because of increased competition within the HNCO service area, economic challenges, and a need to stabilize and ultimately grow the organization.

### **UnitedHealth and Amedisys reach divestiture agreement in effort to complete merger**

*Open Minds - Industry Bulletins; 7/29/24*

UnitedHealth Group and home health and hospice provider Amedisys entered an agreement to sell certain assets to a subsidiary of VitalCaring Group (VCG) as part of an effort to obtain regulatory approval for a merger first announced in

June 2023. The deal, valued at \$3.3 billion, has been held up due to concerns from the Department of Justice. UnitedHealth and Amedisys declined to provide more information on the divestiture. According to an SEC filing, the deal with VCG Luna would only go through if UnitedHealth and Amedisys complete their merger. Earlier in 2024, Amedisys agreed to divest upwards.



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## Technology / Innovations News

### **No one is ready for digital immortality: Do you want to live forever as a chatbot?**

*The Atlantic; by Kate Lindsay; 7/31/24*

Every few years, Hany Farid and his wife have the grim but necessary conversation about their end-of-life plans. ... In addition to discussing burial requests and financial decisions, Farid has recently broached an eerier topic: If he dies first, would his wife want to digitally resurrect him as an AI clone? ...

*Editor's Note: Click on the title's link to continue reading this fascinating and disturbing article about potential, new uses for AI. Calling all bereavement counselors--who are truly trained in con temporary grief theories, research, and clinical best practices--please learn about this trend and prepare to examine its use and misuse from your expertise, for now and through years ahead.*

## General News

### **Becoming time rich with physician moms: Sarah Wittry and Nicole Perrotte**

*MarketScale - Ripple of Change; by Todd Otten; 7/30/24*

In today's high-stress healthcare environment, physician mothers face the formidable challenge of balancing demanding careers with their personal lives. The conversation on work-life balance is more relevant than ever, with more women in medicine seeking ways to manage these dual responsibilities effectively. How can physician moms navigate this landscape to reclaim time for themselves without guilt? What strategies can physician moms employ to

achieve a healthier work-life balance? This pressing question lies at the heart of today's discussion on the Ripple of Change podcast. ... Key points of discussion:

- Boundary Setting ...
- Microhabit Management ...
- Support Networks ...

## Education

### **The most urgent needs in medical education**

*Becker's Hospital Review; by Mariah Taylor; 7/30/24*

Healthcare is rapidly changing, presenting challenges to new physicians and the organizations that train them. The rise of AI, new technologies, patient demands and increased awareness in social determinants of health and equity have pushed leaders and organizations to change how they evaluate healthcare workers' preparedness as they enter the field. ...

- Aurora-based University of Colorado School of Medicine is the first in the nation to **adopt** a strategy in which students concurrently train in multiple specialties rather than separate stints in each specialty — the common practice in the U.S.
- New York City-based Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, meanwhile, has **reimagined** its curriculum to focus on early research involvement, long-lasting mentorship and on topics such as leadership and social justice.
- Change is coming, but here are a few more urgent needs for medical education that deserve focus, according to five leaders who connected with *Becker's*: ... *[Click on the title's link to continue reading.]*

*Editor's Note: These changes reflect trends we're seeing across the scope of end-of-life care. Examine insights from these assessed educational needs and changes for their longer term implications about changes--challenges and improvements--in the medical care your organization provides to persons who need hospice and palliative care.*



## Other News

### Executive Personnel Changes - 8/2/24

- Big Bend Hospice announced
  - Amanda Gustafson as Executive Director of Big Bend Hospice
  - Nicole Holm as Chief Compliance Officer of Seven Oaks Health
- Hospice of Acadiana, LA, named Stacy Mistric as Interim CEO, replacing Keith Everett
- Hospice of Ukia in Ukia, CA has named Carole Brodsky as its Executive Director
- Interim HealthCare promoted
  - Crystal Adams to Vice President of Human Resources
  - Kiersten Colovin to Vice President of Experience, Insights, and Innovation
- Rainbow Community Care, WI, named Carol Brown as President & CEO in April 2024, replacing Karen Carrig

### Executive Opportunities - 8/2/24

- NWKareS, KS, seeking CEO, per Teleios Collaborative Network posting.

*Publisher Comment: We are piloting C-Suite position openings. Please contact us with feedback or questions.*

## Today's Encouragement

**If you want to be the best you have to do things that other people aren't willing to do. ~ Michael Phelps**, Olympic swimmer 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, the most decorated Olympian of all time with a total of 28 medals. [Click here](#) for his post-Olympic Foundation, with its vision "to save lives and help build healthier families."



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