

## Cordt Kassner

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## August 27th, 2024

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## Breaking News

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Steve Landers, MD, MPH, Named Inaugural Chief Executive Officer of NAHC-NHPCO Alliance**

*NAHC-NHPCO Alliance Press Release, Alexandria, VA and Washington, DC; by Elyssa Katz and Thomas Threlkeld; 8/26/24*

Steven Landers, MD, MPH, has been named the inaugural Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the newly merged NAHC-NHPCO Alliance (The Alliance). A recognized national leader and innovator in home health, primary care and aging services, Dr. Landers brings almost two decades of experience as a physician, executive leader and health policy advocate to The Alliance, which represents care at home and community providers across the country. ... &ldquo o;The Alliance members provide a wide range of high-quality home- and community-based services that promote comfort, dignity and independence. I'm so proud to become a part of this organization, and am eager to serve," said Dr. Landers. "I've had the

opportunity in my career to see the health care industry from many vantage points, and in this new role with The Alliance, I will use all that I have learned to make a difference for our members as we continue to expand to meet the growing public needs for our care.”

Prior to joining The Alliance, Dr. Landers served in several executive leadership roles. He was the director of home care at the Cleveland Clinic, and for more than 11 years was the president and CEO of the Visiting Nurse Association Health Group, Inc. — one of the oldest, largest and highly respected home health, hospice and community health organizations in the country. During his most recent tenure as the president and CEO of Hebrew SeniorLife, he led an organization known for superior senior living, geriatric health care, research and teaching. [\[Click here to continue reading\]](#)

## Hospice Provider News

### **[NPHI congratulates Dr. Steven Landers on his appointment as CEO of the NAHC-NHPCO Alliance](#)**

*National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation (NPHI); by Tom Koutsoumpas and Carole Fisher; 8/26/24*

Senior leaders of the National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation, the national voice for nonprofit advanced illness care, shared the following statement regarding the appointment of Dr. Steven Landers as the inaugural CEO of the newly merged NAHC-NHPCO Alliance:

“On behalf of the National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation (NPHI), we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Steven Landers on being named the inaugural CEO of the newly merged NAHC-NHPCO Alliance. Dr. Landers is a distinguished leader whose dedication to advancing home health, primary care, and aging services has made a lasting impact nationwide. His nearly two decades of experience as a physician, executive leader, and health policy advocate uniquely position him to lead the new Alliance with vision and purpose. NPHI looks forward to continued opportunities for collaboration with The Alliance under Dr. Landers’ leadership, particularly in areas where our priorities align, and in ensuring patients throughout the nation have access to exceptional quality care.”

Tom Koutsoumpas, CEO  
Carole Fisher, President

## **Hospices facilities launch, renovate with growth in mind: Julia Hospice & Palliative refuels de novo plans**

*Hospice News; by Holly Vossel; 8/23/24*

Pennsylvania-based Julia Hospice & Palliative (JHPC) has reignited plans to launch a de novo after experiencing pandemic-related setbacks. Dubbed Julia House, the facility will provide inpatient hospice and serve as an outpatient palliative care clinic. It will be the first hospice center in Erie County, Pennsylvania, the provider indicated. The new location will allow for improved support for serious and terminally ill patients that lack caregiver support or need higher levels of care, said Dr. Christopher Strzalka, medical director at Julia Hospice & Palliative Care. “For people who don’t have a caregiver in their home, we can put them in our facility and they can live there until their natural death, and they’ll have access to specially trained caregivers in end-of-life care,” Strzalka told local news.



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## **A place for peace; After a year closed, Homestead Hospice House is working to reopen**

*[Southern MN] People's Press; by Annie Harman; 8/23/24*

The news came to a shock to the community when it was announced last summer the Homestead Hospice House atop the hill behind the Owatonna Hospital would be closing. But, as with most things, there is a silver lining, and the Hospice House Board asserted the closure of the facility would lead to a new opportunity. “When we got the news it was shocking, but we always hoped it would lead us to a better situation,” said Kasey Kamholz, president of the HHH Board, on the decision by Allina Health to discontinue services at the facility in 2023. “Now we have an opportunity with Seasons Hospice that feels like a perfect marriage. They will bring their experience a little further out, and in the end it will benefit everyone.” Seasons Hospice, a nonprofit hospice care organization based

out of Rochester, moved into Steele County to provide services in Owatonna and Blooming Prairie in April. With home-based services being their current program provided locally, including at a private residence or a senior living facility, Executive Director Kristina Wright-Peterson said they identified early on an interest to partner with the HHH Board, also a nonprofit, to reopen the Owatonna facility. Seasons Hospice has a 24-hour care facility in Rochester, Seasons Hospice House.

## Clinical News

### **Avoid these mistakes in palliative care to enhance your loved one's well-being**

*Leesville Leader, Lake Charles, LA; by Evertise Digital; 8/26/24*

For people with life-threatening diseases, palliative care is crucial in providing comfort and improving quality of life. It's essential to focus on the details and avoid common mistakes in order to deliver good treatment. Mistakes in palliative care can inadvertently cause discomfort or diminish the quality of the support provided. It's critical to recognize and steer clear of certain mistakes to guarantee that your loved one receives the finest treatment possible. By focusing on these key areas, you can enhance their well-being and provide the compassionate, attentive care they need during this challenging time.

- Port Catheter Management ...
- Neglecting Pain Management Strategies ...
- Overlooking Emotional and Psychological Support ...

*Editor's Note: How well do these key areas match to challenges your interdisciplinary team experiences with the home/family caregivers who provide 24/7 care? Do any of these key areas warrant QAPI assessments and improvements?*

### **My dad had an Advance Directive. He still had to fight to die**

*Newsweek - My Turn; by Maggie Schneider Huston; 8/26/24*

My mom died peacefully. My dad died 72 days later, angry at the doctors for ignoring his wishes. ... Dad had heart surgery on December 20, 2023. An hour after the surgery ended, his vital systems started shutting down. A cascade of interventions, one after another, kept him alive. Four days later, he said: "Put me on hospice." The doctor dismissed this request, rolling his eyes and saying:

"Everyone on a ventilator says that." On Christmas Day, my father asked for hospice again. He was in pain. He knew his recovery would be long and ultimately futile. He would never have an acceptable quality of life again. ... Dad's care team insisted palliative care was the same as hospice care, but he knew the difference. He wanted hospice care. Finally, they reluctantly agreed and called for a social worker to make arrangements. It wasn't necessary. Once they removed his treatment and relieved his pain, he died five hours later. ...

*Editor's Note: This article is not about Medical Aid in Dying (MAiD). It is about honoring Advance Directives, person-centered care with communications and actions related to "palliative" vs. "hospice" care. Pair this with other posts in our newsletter today, namely ["Improving post-hospital care of older cancer patients."](#)*

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## **Doctors saved her life. She didn't want them to.**

*DNYUZ; by Kate Raphael; 8/26/24*

Marie Cooper led her life according to her Christian faith. ... [And, she] always said that at the end of her life, she did not want to be resuscitated. ... Last winter, doctors found cancer cells in her stomach. She'd had "do not resuscitate" and "do not intubate" orders on file for decades and had just filled out new copies, instructing medical staff to withhold measures to restart her heart if it stopped, and to never give her a breathing tube. In February, Ms. Cooper walked into the hospital for a routine stomach scope to determine the severity of the cancer. After the procedure, [Ms. Cooper's daughter] visited her mother in the recovery room and saw her in a panic. ... [The daughter] called for help and was

ushered to a waiting room while the medical team called an emergency code. Ms. Cooper grew even more distressed and “uncooperative,” according to medical records. Doctors restrained her and inserted a breathing tube down her throat, violating the wishes outlined in her medical chart. Ms. Uphold, livid, confronted the doctors, who could not explain why Ms. Cooper had been intubated. ...

*Editor's Note: Pair this with other posts in our newsletter today, namely "[Improving post-hospital care of older cancer patients.](#)"*

### **Hospice student volunteers gain insight into dementia**

*Ahwatukee Foothills News; by Lin Sue Flood; 8/23/24*

Once a week, graduate nursing student Merle Tamondong pauses her busy college life to visit Micheline Schulte. They color together, play Micheline’s favorite songs and chat in French, her native language. “When I come here, the only time I’m on my phone is when I’m playing some music, which Micheline likes when we are coloring,” Merle said. “I feel very lucky.” Merle is part of Hospice of the Valley’s College Partners Program, an innovative collaboration with Maricopa Community Colleges, Arizona State University and other schools to provide socialization to people living with dementia and a much-needed break to family caregivers. Hospice of the Valley’s dementia and volunteer departments spearheaded this intergenerational program to help inspire careers in dementia care. ... To date, 106 students have been trained and paired with 123 patients since College Partners launched in 2021 with a grant from Community Care Corps.

## **Regulatory News**

### **Leverage CAHPS Hospice changes for higher response rates, boosted scores**

*Home Health Line; by MaryKent Wolff; 8/22/24*

Emphasize the importance of upcoming changes to the CAHPS Hospice Survey and distribution process when educating staff, as hospice agencies will be required to implement assessment modifications finalized for implementation with April 2025 decedents. Providers could see significant improvements to response rates once these changes are in place. [Subscription required]





## Post-Acute Care News

### **Improving post-hospital care of older cancer patients**

*Cancer Health; by University of Colorado Cancer Center and Greg Glasgow; 8/26/24*

A few years ago, University of Colorado Cancer Center member and hospitalist Sarguni Singh, MD, began to notice a troubling trend: Older adults with cancer who were leaving the hospital for skilled nursing facilities after treatment were being readmitted to the hospital or having worse outcomes while in rehabilitation. ... Singh knew of an intervention called Assessing and Listening to Individual Goals and Needs (ALIGN) — a palliative care social worker-led protocol aimed at improving quality of life, aligning goals of care, and providing support to patients and caregivers — and she began using it for cancer care. ... The results were overwhelmingly positive, and patients and caregivers told us, ‘This was so helpful,’” says Singh, associate professor of hospital medicine in the CU School of Medicine.

*Editor's Note: Pair this article with other posts in our newsletter today ...*

- [Avoid these mistakes in palliative care to enhance your loved one's well-being](#)
- [My dad had an Advance Directive. He still had to fight to die](#)
- [Doctors saved her life. She didn't want them to.](#)

### **Couple marry in ICU an hour before bride's father takes his last breath**

*Our Community Now, North Providence, RI; by OCN staff; 8/22/24*

A Rhode Island hospital held an emergency wedding that had to be performed before the bride's father died from muscular dystrophy. Sabrina Silveira-DaCosta says her father, 58-year-old Frank Silveira, was Portuguese-born and raised, a serious chef and a five-star dad. ... With Silveira's health rapidly declining, his family realized he wasn't going to make it his daughter's wedding on Sep. 7, so plans changed. “Everyone was able to bring the wedding to him in the hospital, and he got to walk me down the aisle,” Silveira-DaCosta said. From his intensive care unit bed, Silveira escorted his daughter down the hospital hallway Monday



into the hands of her fiancé, Sam DaCosta. ... Silveira-DaCosta's father died about an hour after he walked her down the aisle. "It's very complex. It's a lot of emotion. Our community hospitals don't get enough credit because any big hospital couldn't have done this for us," she said.

### **Between the hospital and the street: Addressing a crucial gap in care**

*healthleaders.com; by Eric Wisklund; 8/23/24*

A unique program in Salt Lake City is managing care for underserved patients who live on the street or in an unsafe location, and helping hospitals reduce ED crowding, improve care coordination and reduce costs in the process. The INN Between is a nine-year-old program that began as a 16-bed Catholic convent and is now an 80-bed "assisted living facility" of sorts, offering everything from hospice care to rehabilitation and care management services. The organization addresses a significant care gap for health systems and hospitals who see these patients in their Emergency Departments and ICUs—and who often discharge them to an uncertain care landscape. ... The INN Between, which operates year-to-year on a budget of \$1.6 million (recently cut down from \$2 million), exists on a mishmash of charitable donations, grants, and the occasional federal or state subsidy.

*Editor's Note: Pair this compassionate solution with the scathing article about hospice fraud and abuse of homeless persons, [Fraudulent hospices reportedly target homeless people, methadone patients to pad census](#), by Jim Parker at Hospice News.*



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## **General News**

### **TN church helps pay off \$8M in medical debt**

*WKRN.com, Johnson City, TN; by Kenzie Hagood and Jayonna Scurry; 8/22/24*

A Tennessee church paid off around \$8 million in community members' medical debt in partnership with a national program. The Altar Fellowship Church is changing many lives across the Tri-Cities by helping people relieve medical debt. ... Senior Pastor Mattie Montgomery cast the vision to his church years after losing his father. "The story meant so much like to our senior pastor, Pastor Matty, because [he lost] his father to cancer at the young age of eight," Morrison

[another pastor] said. "And while he was on hospice care at home, a businessman from their town bought Christmas gifts for their entire family. And so that was an inspiration for him ..." The church raised about \$50,000 in one day, unknowingly helping to pay off the debts of some of its own congregation.

## Other News

### **Amedisys CIO Michael North exits with \$3m severance package**

*TipRanks; announcement provided by Amedisys; 8/22/24*

Amedisys, Inc. is seeing the departure of its Chief Information Officer, Michael P. North, at the end of August 2024. He will be leaving with a substantial severance package worth over \$3 million, provided he adheres to the terms of the mutual separation agreement. This agreement is still subject to a revocation period and will be detailed further in the company's upcoming quarterly report.

*Editor's Note: [Click here for a related article in Investing.com, 8/22/24](#), with additional information about Amedisys.*

## Today's Encouragement

**Rarely are opportunities presented to you in the perfect way, in a nice little box with a yellow bow on top. ... Opportunities, the good ones, they're messy and confusing and hard to recognize. They're risky. They challenge you. ~ Susan Wojcicki** [*Click here to read Susan's role in creating Google in 1998, and her more recent role as YouTube's CEO, 2014-2023.*]





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