



**May 2020 | Jewish Healthcare Foundation news, events, milestones, & more**

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## JHF is Moving to a New Office

After almost 30 years in Centre City Tower, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) is moving a few blocks around the corner to the EQT Plaza in downtown Pittsburgh. The planning for this transition had been in the works for some time, and then the pandemic presented a unique opportunity to rethink the Foundation's space and location and ultimately make the move.

Our home in Centre City Tower created countless memories and initiatives, the collaborative and multipurpose QIT Center, and a beautiful Japanese roof garden. Mountains of history occupy closets, desks, and display cases that are now in transition. The move has offered an incredible opportunity to reflect on all that has been accomplished over the past three decades. Centre City Tower has been our home since we began our work back in 1991, and it offered an adaptable space to convene leaders to influence healthcare visions and decisions in our region and beyond. But as we look to the future, in a healthcare world ravaged by COVID-19, we look forward to having a new vantage point to carry out our mission.



*(Top): Staff make their way to our new office in the EQT Plaza. (Bottom): Karen Feinstein packs up her office after almost 30 years in Centre City Tower.*

It is not yet clear when staff will begin to work out of the new space, but beginning in mid-June, JHF will begin to operate with the new office in the EQT Plaza as the home base.

Someday soon we hope to have you into our new office. In the meantime, we will share photos as the space is completed and staff begin to occupy the new offices.

## The First Regional Consortium for COVID-19 Contact Tracing Kicks Off in Southwestern PA

In collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH), the Jewish Healthcare Foundation mobilized a regional consortium to support and scale [contact tracing](#) efforts with 50 members in less than a week. These members represent diverse partners across the region, including public health agencies, universities and colleges, community health worker (CHW) programs, social service agencies, counties, foundations, community health centers, health systems, employers, and workforce development groups. The Southwest Contact Tracing Consortium is the first regional consortium to support contact tracing in the Commonwealth.



The Southwest PA COVID-19 Contact Tracing Consortium will establish and monitor the number of needed vs. available [contact tracers](#) in the region, recruit contact tracers, assure that specialized training is available for the contacts tracers, assure ongoing supervision and education, and disseminate resources. The members will also develop a long-term plan and pipeline for the contact tracing corps that could be re-deployed to respond to other public health priorities over time.

During the group's kick-off call on May 28, Lindsey Mauldin, Special Assistance to the Secretary of Health at DOH, and Jennifer Shirk, Assistant Director at DOH, reviewed the Commonwealth's Contact Tracing strategy, infrastructure, and guidelines (click [here](#) for the plan and [here](#) for information for individuals and groups interested in contact tracing). Dr. Deb Bogen, Director of the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD), and Meg Carr, MPH, Program Manager at ACHD, also provided an update on ACHD's contact tracing strategy. Following the overview, the group discussed the Consortium's scope of work to help scale the contact tracing infrastructure across the region. The Southwest PA Consortium will meet once a week for one hour to carry out this scope of work.

## Top National Researcher Sheds Light on COVID-19 Crisis in Skilled Nursing Facilities and Challenges Us to Envision New Solutions

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted grave challenges in the nation's nursing homes, and long-term care for seniors is facing a crisis. The infection and mortality rates in nursing homes are staggering, but [Dr. Vincent Mor](#), a Brown University School of Public Health professor and author of over 40 NIH-funded research papers on health services and aging, has both short-term recommendations and a long-term solution.



Vincent Mor of Brown University  
PHOTO: Brown University

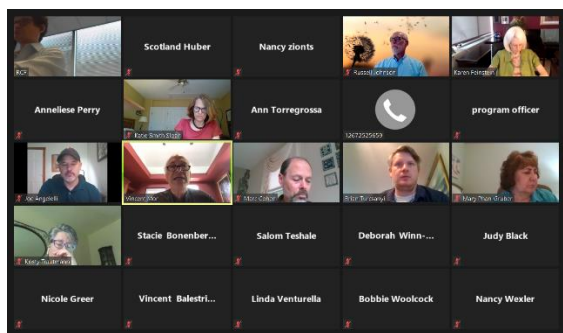


In two webinars hosted by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) in partnership with the Pennsylvania Health Funders Collaborative, Dr. Mor reported it wasn't the staffing levels or quality rankings that determined the number of COVID-19 cases in U.S. nursing homes. Rather, based on Dr. Mor's research, the spread is affected more by the facility size and community prevalence due to the virus' characteristics. Simply put, nursing facilities faced a perfect storm of an opportunistic virus, a vulnerable population base, resource shortages born of years of underfunding, and current policies that favored an acute care focus over all other settings. The results have been, and will continue to be, devastating to the residents of long-term care, their staffs, and the sector as a whole.

The webinar series, attended by leaders from skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and advocacy associations, allowed participants to collaborate on short-term and long-term responses to the current crisis.

In the first session, the group discussed the urgent need to implement strategies to protect Skilled Nursing Facilities and the frail seniors that they are caring for during this pandemic. SNFs and long-term care facilities were not adequately prioritized for PPE or testing, and the burden of paying for and acquiring those resources was overwhelming. In addition, policies that prioritized the needs of hospitals over SNFs were endangering seniors. Though the PA Department of Health recently [announced](#) testing for nursing home residents and staff, there is still room for improvement to make sure that the residents and workforce in long-term care are protected.

Providers called attention to their staff's need for increased and continued support as testing is implemented, especially given the broad marketplace of testing options. Nursing homes already experiencing staff shortages could face additional challenges, as testing may identify many asymptomatic staff cases and send more staff home temporarily. Residents, families, and staff need the assurance that patients must test negative before they are admitted from hospitals, and nursing home leaders need the assistance of infectious disease experts to manage the spread of COVID-19. Dr. Mor recommended that facilities' infection protocols be enhanced even as the pandemic plateaus.



*Some of the participants during the second webinar on May 28, 2020*

A May 22, 2020, [JAMA article](#) co-authored by Dr. Mor and David C. Grabowski, PhD, Department of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School, states that COVID-19 has exposed long-standing issues in how nursing home services are structured and financed.

That longer term challenge to long-term care was the focus of the second webinar on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Mor's comments focused on envisioning new long-term solutions to how and where seniors live and are cared for, and how those potential models could be financed. Those who participated recognized that COVID-19 exploited the weaknesses in

long-term care and exposed the imbalances of the current system that care for seniors.

Skilled nursing facilities are at a crucial juncture. Without a radical redesign of everything from their physical structures to staffing and payment models, more and more SNFs will be faced to make strategic decisions, including closing their doors. This will leave seniors and their families with few viable options for their care when they need it most.

Under the current scenario, the competition for resources at the state-level will only intensify and will pit the needs of seniors against the needs of the education system, maternal and childcare, prisons, etc. Absent new models of senior living and care, including new collaborations with health systems who could provide for the complex healthcare needs of frail seniors, long term care facilities will face an existential financial crisis going forward.

For over 25 years, JHF and its aging and long-term care team have been active in efforts to improve policy, care, payment and delivery systems for frail seniors. We have been engaged in efforts to reduce the comorbidity of hospitalizations, reduce readmissions, advance palliative and end of life planning and care, improve supports for persons with dementia and their caregivers, and test new workforce training models for long-term care settings, including SNFs, home and community based care, and LIFE (Living Independently for Elders). We have come to appreciate the challenges that families, seniors, providers and policymakers face in developing and scaling affordable models of quality housing, care and engagement for this growing segment of our population.

The webinars led us to ask the following questions: What could the future for long-term care for seniors look like if we thought beyond incremental change or a temporary financial boost to a broken system? How could we create and test a comprehensive model that integrated payment (federal, state and private) and quality of care, while assuring the availability of creative, complementary social and supportive care? How can we redefine the current model that separates the roles and payment of hospitals and SNFs, to create a new model that takes advantage of the strengths of each? Can we test a population health model to care for seniors in which traditional acute care systems assign medical teams to bring clinical and rehab care to long-term care operators who would provide the ongoing daily services and housing options? How do we create models of senior living that we would want to live in ourselves, and that we would be proud to fund with our private and public dollars?

Attendees affirmed the need to address reform and to do so quickly, as leaders echoed conversations they've had with other nursing home executives across the country about impending bankruptcy. In addition to creating the short-term crises that threatens the health of residents and staff, COVID-19 has highlighted the need to accelerate solutions for the broader planning and funding crisis facing many of the nation's nursing homes and the seniors and families they serve. Time is running out to save these critical organizations, and to commit to designing the senior living systems that can address the housing, health, social and supportive care our growing senior population deserve. The time is overdue to prioritize long-term care reform on both the state and the federal agendas.

## JHF Joins New Statewide Coalition to Engage Seniors with Virtual Gaming & Esports

Social isolation and loneliness among older adults are some of the most serious health issues facing our country today. To combat this problem, a new public-private partnership—the K.A.R.E.S. Community (Keystone Athletics, Recreation and Esports)—will use virtual technology to bring Pennsylvania seniors together for Esports and virtual games. The first program of its kind in the U.S., the Community will debut its activities at the next Keystone Games in October 2020 and launch an inaugural virtual Winter Games in 2021.



Historically the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) has always been committed to reducing social isolation, including exploring the application of technology to increase engagement among older adults in Western Pennsylvania. JHF has had success with its Virtual Senior Academy, and now it's joining forces with statewide partners [EnableHealth](#), the [PA Esports Coalition](#), [Geisinger Musculoskeletal Institute](#), [Athletes for Care](#), [RTI International](#), [the KNGDM Group](#), [the PA Office of Rural Health](#), and the [Keystone State Games](#) to launch the K.A.R.E.S. Community. JHF brings expertise in aging and social connectedness and engagement to the program and will serve as a lead partner in bringing this novel idea to life.

The non-profit Keystone State Games, Inc., founded in 1983, is a statewide public-private partnership that has attracted over 500,000 participants to their multi-sport program. By adding in the K.A.R.E.S. Community to their programming in October, Pennsylvania will become the first statewide senior games to incorporate Esports and virtual games. During a time when in-person games will be restricted and may be highly limited for some older adults, Esports offers an important way to connect seniors across the commonwealth.

“We have always been committed to keeping seniors safe and well,” said Mara Leff, Director of Innovation at JHF. “We think Esports is a fantastic outlet to foster this type of connection, and we are thrilled to be partnering to make it a reality.”

Read about this new initiative in the [Pittsburgh Business Times here](#).

## Largest Patient Safety Fellowship Yet Set to Examine the Response to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has wrought havoc on every area of the U.S. healthcare system. Its impact hasn't stopped cascading across healthcare specialties and regions, and leaders of the future will need to understand all the intricacies of the healthcare system's successes and failures and develop the tools to respond when the next major crisis hits. In its most unique iteration since it began in 2005, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation's Patient Safety Fellowship will examine both the COVID-19 pandemic and its role in exposing the gaps within the existing patient and provider safety systems.



Not only will the fellowship dive into the U.S. response to COVID-19, but it will be completely virtual – a first time for any Feinstein Fellowship. With the move to a virtual format, the fellowship also opened applications to participants beyond Pittsburgh and received a record number of applicants. Due to the demand and the unique capabilities of a virtual fellowship, 69 fellows will participate in this year's Patient Safety Fellowship. The cohort is comprised of fellows from 34 different disciplines including nursing, medicine, public health, health administration, business, law, healthcare ethics, social work, population health informatics, pharmacy, engineering, and more. The fellows represent 17 different universities, including A.T. Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona, Carlow University, Carnegie Mellon University, Chatham University, CUNY School of Public Health and Health Policy, Duquesne University, Elon University, Kent State University, Midwestern University, Penn State University, Robert Morris University, Slippery Rock University, George Washington University, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh, University of Virginia School of Medicine, and Washington Health System School of Nursing.

Over the course of the 9-week fellowship, the fellows will engage with a variety of experts in the fields of public health, infectious disease, safety science, emergency preparedness, as well as leaders of healthcare facilities and local innovators adapting to the crisis. Fellows will be challenged to analyze the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 and consider the many variables that have influenced the various outcomes. For the finale, fellows will design a response to address a case study of a healthcare emergency to synthesize and apply the lessons they have learned throughout the fellowship. They will draw on sessions highlighting the application of predictive analytics and contact tracing, learning about effective leadership and building resiliency in teams, developing a toolkit of safety science and quality improvement, and understanding how to foster creativity and innovation amid a pandemic.

The Patient Safety Fellowship kicks off with its first session on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and concludes on July 29<sup>th</sup>.

## Statewide Long-Term Care Network Provides Critical Support & Training During COVID-19 Crisis

In the beginning of April, the Educational Support and Clinical Coaching Program (ESCCP) was rapidly launched in Pennsylvania to address long-term care facilities' needs. A partnership between the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF), the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS), and seven Pennsylvania health

systems, the ESCCP has provided long-term care staff with training and support to advance care for seniors across the Commonwealth. Since the program's start, JHF has hosted 15 webinars and engaged over 2,000 participants in discussions about COVID-19 response, preparation, and planning for the new normal that congregate living facilities will be facing. JHF serves as the convener, facilitator and core faculty for ESCCP, supplemented by clinical and service provider partners.

As a result, long-term care leaders have gained access to best practice lessons and feedback from peers and partners across the commonwealth. Webinar discussions focused on COVID-19 related education, including infection control, advance care planning, and caring for persons living with dementia. Medical professionals provided guidance about new techniques and tools that can be used in residential care support, including implementation of large-scale use of telehealth for primary and palliative care.

Through the webinars, participants developed actionable strategies tailored to their population, resources, and workforce. Participants received access to over 200 COVID-19 related resources curated for personal care and assisted living facilities on the Tomorrow's Healthcare learning platform, as well as the opportunity to obtain Personal Care Home Administrator training hours.

Media attention to the ESCCP has also emerged across the commonwealth, with articles from [PublicSource](#) of Pittsburgh, [Chester County](#), [Altoona](#), [York](#), and [Harrisburg](#).

The ESCCP's efforts have jumpstarted an improved response to long-term care staff's needs, but there is much work yet to be done. Given that the challenges of COVID will persist within long term care, JHF will continue to offer ESCCP webinars, resources, and support to promote care of seniors in personal care and assisted living facilities.

### Altoona Mirror

Help slated for care, assisted living homes during COVID-19 pandemic

### PUBLICSOURCE

Stories for a better Pittsburgh.

Pennsylvania reports more than 70,000 cases since pandemic began; unemployment claims topped Great Recession in early weeks of shutdown

### FOX43

PA Department of Health says it is working to fix inaccuracies in COVID-19 nursing home data

### ChesCo

PA Human Services: Learning and Support Network Is Helping Long-Term Care Facilities During COVID-19

### 21

Department of Human Services discusses program assisting long-term care facilities in need



## Preparing for the Future of Maternity Care

To help innovate maternal health care systems change and respond to challenges that COVID-19 has uncovered, [WHAMglobal](#) has joined [Birth Place Lab's](#) Global Perinatal Task Force. WHAMglobal is excited to engage with this multi-disciplinary group of global experts and take part in shared learning and global maternal health preparedness. The Task Force aims to identify whether collective international wisdom, expertise, and lived experience can offer value as we navigate the reorganization and redistribution of maternal health care services and resources.



The Global Perinatal Task Force also serves to build a massive rapid-response network to prepare advocates for future crises like COVID-19, which has profoundly affected those connected to maternal health care. Since the early days of the pandemic, birthing families have braved unprecedented challenges as they navigate a chapter already filled with excitement and anxiety. Birth providers and advocates have worked tirelessly to ensure that people giving birth are supported both mentally and physically. Maternal health care systems have had to rapidly respond and change policies around birth worker licensure, [availability of telemedicine, and their models of delivering care](#). These seismic shifts happened out of necessity and we are now faced with critical questions about our future responses to birthing families' needs, as Dr. Mary-Ann Etiebet, Lead & Executive Director of *Merck for Mothers*, emphasized in an [op-ed](#) for *Scientific American*. Once the immediate threat of COVID-19 abates, we will be left with a choice: to return to previous models of care or to innovate with what we have learned.

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation's newest ROOTS publication, [Beyond Medicalization: Midwives and Maternity Care in America](#), raises critical considerations in creating alternative options for maternal health care. We may find that changes to maternal health care delivery during COVID-19 could translate to a developing, redesigned model that expands access for more birthing families in America. Maternity care will look very different after COVID-19, and the changes we observe today could inform proactive movements and decisions for future support of birthing families.

## Summer 2020 Intern Cohort Brings Multiplicity of Skills to Liftoff PGH

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF)'s summer 2020 intern class drums to a different beat. Every year since the program started, JHF has hosted a strong cohort of students interested in healthcare innovation and public health. Due to COVID-19, JHF is piloting a remote internship this year. In the spirit of Liftoff PGH, the team will leverage innovative technologies to enable interns to collaborate with one another, despite the physical distance.

Six interns will join the Liftoff PGH team, working on anything from research and marketing to partnership building, design, and community engagement. This year's interns come from a diverse range of academic backgrounds, and each bring a unique set of skills.



*The 2020 JHF Summer Interns (L to R): Kaitlin Roderick, Rongjia Li, Natalie Pyle, Khulood al Ali, Feiyan Zhang, and Ashley Liang.*

Originally from Saudi Arabia, **Khulood al Ali** is a second-year master's student at Carnegie Mellon, with a dual degree in Biomedical Engineering and Engineering & Technology Innovation Management. Khulood spent the summer of 2019 in Rwanda focusing on healthcare technology repairs in low-resource settings. **Natalie Pyle** is completing her BS in Industrial Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh with a certificate in Supply Chain Management. In the past, Natalie has worked with industrial engineering consulting firms to help provide optimal store-specific solutions to retailers.

**Rongjia Li** is a back-end developer from Shanghai completing his master's degree at CMU's Entertainment Technology Center (ETC). Rongjia spent last semester building a mobile app for Liftoff PGH 2020 with **Ashley Liang**, a multidisciplinary designer and developer. Liang recently obtained her master's from CMU's ETC, and her interests lie at the intersection of art and technology. **Feiyan Zhang**, a CMU ETC master's candidate, has worked with Allegheny Health Network's patient experience team to build empathetic care in VR. Another CMU student, **Kaitlin Roderick** is pursuing a Master of Health Care Policy and Management degree. Kaitlin is currently president of the Heinz Health Care Club and a Global Links volunteer.

## JHF Talks Issues Facing Seniors & COVID-19 Response with PGH Tech Council

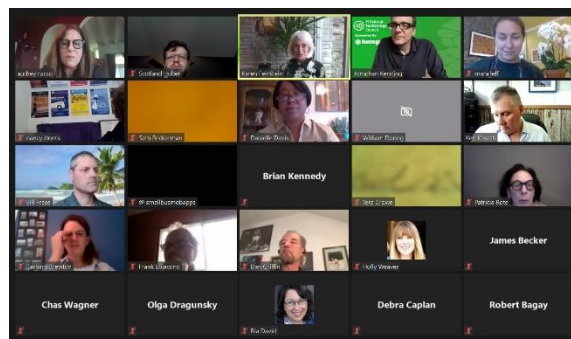
On May 19<sup>th</sup>, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) joined the daily noontime program, *Business As Usual*, to discuss the pressing needs of older adults during COVID-19 and some of the foundation's initiatives to support them and respond to the pandemic. The Pittsburgh Technology Council launched the daily zoom interview series *Business As Usual* to create direct access for the business community to influential leaders during the crisis.



*Karen Wolk Feinstein presenting on Business as Usual on May 19, 2020.*

Every day, President and CEO of the Tech Council Audrey Russo interviews prominent government officials, business executives, and members of the nonprofit and foundation community. JHF was invited as a subject matter expert in health and senior care, and to discuss ways that the broader community can advocate for stronger and safer facilities for the region's most vulnerable.

Karen Feinstein, president and CEO of JHF, was joined by Nancy Zions, COO and chief program officer, and Mara Leff, director of innovation, to present an overview of JHF and discuss the foundation's various ongoing programs to respond to COVID-19. The group provided an inside look at the dangerous conditions and training deficiencies facing long-term care and congregate living facilities and updated more than 100 listeners with some of the astounding evidence surrounding Skilled Nursing Facilities funding statewide. Zions explained JHF's ongoing SNF advocacy and the statewide effort to provide training and resources to long-term care facilities. Leff discussed senior isolation and the role of JHF's Virtual Senior Academy to provide connection for older adults throughout the region. Dr. Feinstein outlined the Swerve initiative, encouraging the audience to consider a National Patient & Provider Safety Authority to protect patients and workers better during a pandemic and from medical error when the virus diminishes.



*Some of the 100+ attendees during the Business as Usual program with the Jewish Healthcare Foundation.*

A recording of the conversation is available on [YouTube](#) and the [PGH Tech Council Website](#).

## Youth Advocates Expand Activities for Mental Health Awareness Month

Students from the JHF's Youth Advocacy Network joined their voices to advocate for improved teen mental health resources as part of Pennsylvania's Mental Health Awareness Month. In addition to sharing messages about mental wellness – particularly while experiencing the uncertainties of COVID-19, with their peers on social media – students met with state policymakers via Zoom to share their concerns.

Twelve youth advocates, attending Fox Chapel, North Allegheny, Shaler, Winchester Thurston, and Shadyside, met with Pennsylvania State Senator Lindsey Williams on May 29 to discuss mental health issues facing students. Students emphasized the importance of incorporating mental health education into school curricula not as one-off events but ongoing education, especially as schools balance recovering from the problems that COVID-19 has exacerbated. Increased opportunities for students and school leaders to learn about the issue would promote a better response. Youth also advocated for more directed funding for mental health that could be used to improve counselor to student ratios.



*Abby Rickin-Marks facilitating the conversation with State Senator Lindsey Williams from her home.*

When asked about ways for youth to become more engaged with advocacy, Senator Williams recommended that youth connect with elected officials at every level, from school boards to the Commonwealth policymakers, and that youth can contribute by volunteering, backing individuals they wish to see in office, and voting as they are able.

JHF youth advocate Abby Rickin-Marks, who facilitated much of the conversation, reflected, "It's always nice to have a Senator, or any elected official, that's really invested with students and is willing to listen and answer questions." Rickin-Marks has loved being involved with the Youth Advocacy Network because it enables her to serve the community. "For me personally, what I've always wanted to do is help other people. I really do believe that is my purpose in life."

Youth from the advocacy network also participated in a virtual dialogue with Representative Michael Schlossberg, chair of the bi-partisan Mental Health Caucus, on May 18<sup>th</sup>. This conversation was part of Virtual Mental Health Awareness Week 2020, presented by the PA Care Partnership, Youth MOVE PA, and the PA Department of Human Services. Rep. Schlossberg encouraged youth to advocate for mental health awareness by sharing their personal stories, as he has used his to advocate for change, and by reaching out to elected officials.

To empower youth advocates' voices online and create a space for conversation during Mental Health Awareness Month in May, the PA Youth Advocacy Program started a mental health awareness digital campaign. Youth advocates are creating content for the program's Instagram [page](#) and gathering quotes, photos, and videos from individuals who want to share their mental health advocacy stories. Anyone interested in sharing their advocacy story for the mental health awareness campaign can contact Alyce Palko at [palko@jhf.org](mailto:palko@jhf.org).



## Statewide Learning Networks Focus on Social Determinants of Health, Contraceptive Care, and SUD Screening & Treatment During COVID-19

On May 5, the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative (PRHI) facilitated a regional learning network session with the Patient-Centered Medical Homes and Medicaid Managed Care Organizations in the Northeast region. The learning session focused on how to use motivational interviewing skills to screen for social determinants of health and how to connect patients to social services in the community.



On May 13, the PA Perinatal Quality Collaborative (PA PQC) hosted a virtual quality improvement collaborative meeting with perinatal care teams from the PA PQC hospitals that focused on best practices for screening for substance misuse and engagement women in medication-assisted treatment during COVID-19.

The PA PQC also kicked-off a pilot with three birth hospitals to develop the supporting structure, processes, team roles, and skills to offer comprehensive contraceptive counseling, including immediate postpartum long-acting reversible contraception.

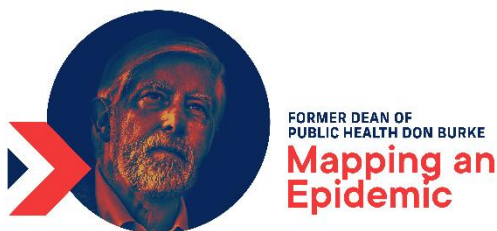
On May 14 and 28, the Centers of Excellence (COE) Learning Network hosted webinars with the Opioid Use Disorder COEs in Pennsylvania. The COEs reviewed their regional and statewide data trends, gained tactics for continuously improving their team roles, and heard from the Managed Care Organizations' Special Needs Units about how their care managers can partner with the COE teams to engage patients in comprehensive services.

## Liftoff PGH Begins Announcing Guests for Summer Speakers Series

As we build a movement for change, JHF is launching the Liftoff PGH in Motion Speakers Series, featuring a lineup of entrepreneurs and innovators from across the Pittsburgh region. The initiative serves to spotlight the depth and breadth of ingenuity thriving throughout the pandemic, providing an inside look into the world of rapid research and commercialization.



The series kicks off by celebrating two long-term partners, Pittsburgh Biomedical Breakfast and Women in Bio. The audience of life science experts were treated to a lecture by Israeli entrepreneur Gal Inbar, who discussed the secret ingredients that make up Israel's Start up Nation. Meanwhile, on June 9<sup>th</sup> the Pittsburgh chapter of Women in Bio will delve into the challenges of maternal health during a pandemic. The virtual happy hour features Liz Kaselitz of GlobalREACH and Amy Hartman, professor at University of Pittsburgh's Center for Vaccine Research.



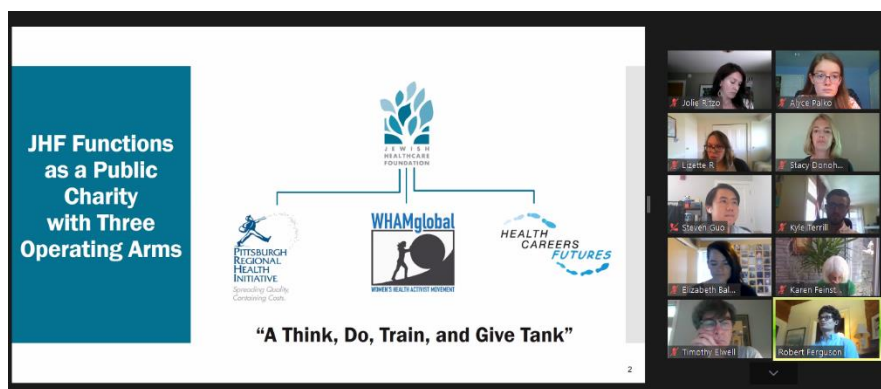
We are also pleased to partner with JHF's Patient Safety Fellowship to bring former Dean of Pitt's School of Public Health Don Burke to speak on June 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. An expert in tropical and infectious diseases, Dr. Burke has spun his career in epidemiological mapping into a new company, Epistemix. He'll explore the ways we can predict varying outcomes of policies, behavioral changes, and

economic inputs during a pandemic, in addition to opening a window into their current effort to model COVID-19 nationwide.

The series will continue throughout the summer with interactive lectures ranging from digital design and Virtual Reality to vaccine development and population health. We're thrilled to partner with the Pittsburgh Innovation District, UPMC, AHN, PNC and many more Pittsburgh organizations to highlight brilliant minds at work. Please join one of our invigorating talks by [registering online](#).

## PRHI Shares its Approach to Policy with the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement

On May 26, Robert Ferguson, Chief Policy Office, and Karen Wolk Feinstein, President and CEO, presented Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative's (PRHI) policy tactics with other regional health improvement collaboratives in the Network for Regional Health Initiative (NRHI). They described how PRHI uses a "home run" analogy to guide its operations, where the "home run" is a policy change that leads to widespread adoption of a best practice. Ferguson noted the importance of building relationships and trust with policy makers and analyzing the politics, people, policies, and procures to find an opening to impact policy at the right time. They described how PRHI applied these tactics to response to COVID-19 policy priorities around contact tracing and long-term care, and Dr. Feinstein updated NRHI on the opportunities to engage in PRHI's SWERVE initiative to create a National Patient & Provider Safety Authority (NPSA).

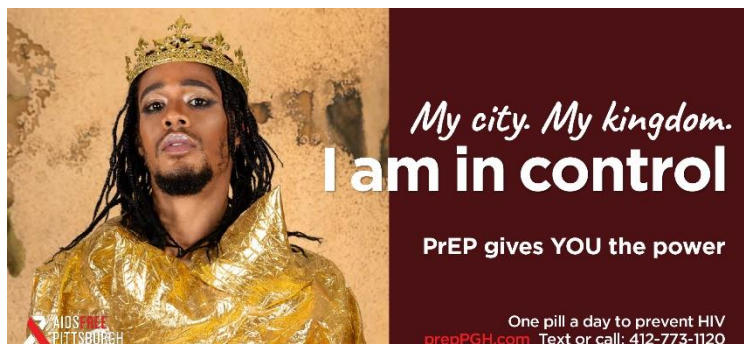


Some of the participants on the policy call with NRHI.

## Fighting Another Epidemic in Allegheny County

Since 2015, [AIDS Free Pittsburgh](#) has worked to eliminate the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Allegheny County. As the initiative prepares to enter a second phase, AIDS Free Pittsburgh is launching a city-wide awareness campaign about PrEP, and they're asking the community for input about how to end the epidemic.

Partnering with The Andy Warhol Museum and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, AIDS Free Pittsburgh launched a city-wide ad campaign on buses and digital outlets. The beautiful array of ads features some of The Andy Warhol Museum's artwork, and it celebrates the freedom that comes with taking PrEP and reinforces the importance of HIV testing and effective HIV treatment. [PrEP](#), short for "Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis," is a daily medication that can prevent HIV transmission by over 90%, when used properly. PrEP is prescribed to individuals who are HIV-negative, but who may be at risk for contracting the virus.



*PrEP Billboard ad. Artwork used with permission of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. and The Andy Warhol Museum.  
Andy Warhol, Oxidation, 1978  
The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh; Founding Collection, Contribution The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc.  
1998.1.213*

In addition to the public awareness campaign, AIDS Free Pittsburgh is currently seeking community input about how the community can work together to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Allegheny County. The information collected in this anonymous online survey will be used to inform the project's strategic direction over the next five years (2021-2025). All Allegheny County residents are encouraged to participate. **The survey can be taken at:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AFP2020survey>.

In order to make this survey accessible to more community members, additional versions of the survey are available in the following languages: [Spanish](#), [Arabic](#), [Nepali](#), and [Simplified Chinese](#).

AIDS Free Pittsburgh is also looking for partner organizations to share the survey with populations that they serve. If you represent a local organization that is interested in helping with this effort, or would like to recommend an organization, please contact Julia Och at [och@jhf.org](mailto:och@jhf.org) or 412-586-6706. AIDS Free Pittsburgh is financially supported by the Allegheny Singer Research Institute (AHN) and UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside and is managed by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation.