



June 2020 | Jewish Healthcare Foundation news, events, milestones, & more

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A Message from President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein

June has been an unusual month for the nation, the region and the Foundation. While COVID-19 cases escalate in our county and our country, and while the economy ricochets, the region joins the nation in expressing collective anger about the killing of George Floyd and in speaking out against racism. Triple crises fray our safety nets and test our resilience.

As we began to comprehend the extent of the pandemic's disruption--medically, psychologically and financially, the staff at JHF were determined to stretch beyond allocations from our emergency fund to help a battered society. We believe that our skills in building effective networks; in education and coaching and in applying techniques from safety science and quality engineering; in planning and convening on a large scale; in compassionate senior care including end-of-life; in policy advocacy, particularly but not exclusively for maternal safety and racial equity; and in supporting rapid innovation could add value beyond our grants.

As you review our activities of the last month, I hope you will conclude that we lived up to our commitment. I look forward to your comments and suggestions.

Perinatal Sites Discuss Maternal Health Disparities and Racial Equity with Doulas Across Pennsylvania

On June 11, the Pennsylvania Perinatal Quality Collaborative (PA PQC), managed by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and [WHAMglobal](#), hosted its latest virtual statewide learning session with over 220 attendees. One of the key sessions focused on doulas' efforts to address perinatal mortality disparities, particularly for Black women and babies. This session continued the conversation about bringing racial and reproductive justice to perinatal health care, as Black mothers and babies in Pittsburgh experience higher mortality rates than in most similar cities. With 65 member birth sites and NICUs covering 87% of live births in Pennsylvania, the PA PQC is primed to address this disparity.



Ngozi Tibbs, MPH, LCCE, IBCLC of Healthy Start shared how doulas are bringing a human element to what can be an alienating experience for birthing families during the pandemic.

The spotlight on doulas emphasized a trauma-based, harm reduction approach to providing care, bridging the gap between birthing families and healthcare teams. In Allegheny County, [Healthy Start](#)'s doula program offers postpartum care for Black birthing persons, reducing risks while also supporting breastfeeding. As challenges continue to unfold from the COVID-19 pandemic, Healthy Start leveraged technology to virtually support birthing persons from the prenatal through postpartum stages, with a special focus on the Black community and persons already experiencing discrimination. In the first week of the program, doulas received 21 referrals and attended three births across 11 zip codes.

The Philadelphia-based [Maternity Care Coalition](#)'s Community Doula and Breastfeeding Program has trained over 160 community birth workers who provide culturally, ethnically, and linguistically informed care at no cost to childbearing families. At the [Philadelphia Department of Public Health](#), doulas are taking a similar approach, drawing on lived experiences to support birthing persons and families with a history of substance use disorders.

To continue promotion of racial equity in childbirth, the PA PQC worked with [AccessMatters](#) to offer three virtual training sessions for birth sites on "Cultivating Awareness of Racial Microaggressions." In these July trainings from AccessMatters, participants will learn about implicit bias and its impact on patient and staff health. By the end of the training, participants will have increased insight into the prevalence of racial microaggressions, understanding of how to reduce their frequency, and skills for implementing a reparative response.

PA PQC participants also highlighted the continued work of PA PQC hospital teams during the COVID-19 pandemic, while experts presented on Motivational Interviewing and the Eat, Sleep, Console care tool for opioid-exposed newborns. PA PQC teams shared projects funded by SUD/NAS Sub-Awards, in addition to their experience in the PA PQC Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) Pilot. Sixteen PA PQC hospitals received sub-awards to build the

infrastructure to collect and submit data for the PA PQC Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) or Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) quality measures. The hospitals will then implement a quality improvement project for NAS or maternal OUD. Three PA PQC sites are participating in the LARC pilot and will work from April 2020 to September 2020 to develop the supporting infrastructure, processes, and team roles to provide comprehensive contraceptive counseling and care, including immediate postpartum LARC. The PA PQC's work to improve care for pregnant/postpartum women and newborns exposed to opioids is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs.

COVID-19 Continues to Expose the Urgent Need for a National Patient Safety Authority

We knew before COVID-19 that the U.S. health system poorly protected patients and workers. The number of preventable errors leading to death and injury has been horrifyingly stagnant for decades, and previous efforts to build quality engineering into every aspect of health care and establish a culture of safety at the frontline have not been successful. Then COVID-19 entered this mess and the results have been devastating but not unpredictable. The experience of COVID-19 is a patient safety experience, and the results indicate that our system is clearly missing something. If the United States is to rebuild its reputation as having one of the best health systems in the world, a dramatic response is needed. More and more of our nation's experts are beginning to see that solution as the formation of a National Patient Safety Authority.



There are many roadblocks to improving patient safety: EHRs that underperform; conflicting assessments of safety and quality; a [“market-driven, efficiency-obsessed culture of hospital administration”](#); failures of leadership; inadequate training and coaching; gaming of performance measures; and a bias against whistleblowers that frustrates a rapid response to--and root cause analysis of--problems. But other flaws in our fabric create mayhem in a pandemic: the inflexibility of rigid bureaucratic boundaries that prevent crossing lines even in times of crisis; the hoarding of vaccine discovery exacerbated by our systems of academic promotion, status, recognition of expertise, and financial incentives; an inability to relax regulations and protocols when necessary; and the ability to “force” collaboration and sharing.

We could do so much better — not only in preparation for this novel crisis but for the ongoing crisis in healthcare safety. The United States has the talent, expertise, intellectual capital, advocacy organizations, data sources, and financial resources to surmount these. The [Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative](#), in partnership with the [Network for Excellence in Health Innovation](#), began the *SWERVE* initiative in early 2020 to bring together key experts and leaders representing these

perspectives to protect patients and healthcare workers by advancing new directions for patient safety reform. National academic, delivery system, policy, and advocacy leaders have headed the call, and a coalition is in the state of becoming to take a proposal for the National Patient and Provider Safety Authority (NPSA) to the doorsteps of the U.S. Presidential Candidates.

On June 23, the first of three strategic virtual summits took place to plan for the details and messaging of a NPSA proposal. The 40 participants included patient safety leaders, many of whom have been working on this problem for decades, including experts from business and employer groups, consumer groups, patient safety and monitoring groups, and quality and data reporting or monitoring groups. This first summit was co-hosted by Leah Binder, president and CEO of the [Leapfrog Group](#); Elizabeth Mitchell, president and CEO of the [Pacific Business Group on Health](#); Evan Benjamin, MD, MS, FACP, chief medical officer at [Ariadne Labs](#); Charlotte Yeh, MD, chief medical officer at [AARP Services, Inc.](#); and Amy Rosenthal, executive director at [Health Care For All](#). Many themes emerged from the rapid-fire conversation, including interoperability, eliminating waste, saving money, protecting the workforce, and reclaiming the U.S. reputation for the best health system. The resounding consensus on the call was for the urgent need for a NPSA and the growing momentum to push this into the national conversation.

Two additional summits are planned for July, as the *SWERVE* coalition builds consensus and gains input from leaders of hospitals and health systems, insurance payers, the American Medical Association, academic and professional institutions, foundations, technology companies, and activists from across the country.

National & Regional Experts Educate Patient Safety Fellows on COVID-19 Response

During the first four weeks of this summer's Patient Safety Fellowship, ten national and regional experts have already joined as speakers and panelists to build the dynamic picture of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Patient Safety Fellowship, one of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation's (JHF) Feinstein Fellowships, presents a crash course in the evolving response to COVID-19. The Fellowship provides skills and tools, interdisciplinary perspectives and discussion, and quality improvement and systems thinking to help prepare future healthcare leaders for another public health emergency.



This is our largest and most diverse Fellowship cohort yet.

"This summer as a first-time fellow, my experience in the JHF Patient Safety Fellowship has already been substantial," said Desanbra Franklin, a health services administration graduate

student at Robert Morris University. “This experience has given me the opportunity to broaden my perspectives and challenge my thinking. I am enlightened, empowered, and inspired.”

This summer’s cohort is the largest and most diverse in the Fellowship’s 15-year history. As this summer’s sessions are virtual, fellows hail from across the country, including Arizona, California, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania. The 67 fellows represent 34 different specialties and disciplines across the healthcare workforce, and include undergraduates, graduate students, PhD students, residents, and professionals in the field. The fellows also represent 17 different universities, including seven Pittsburgh universities.

The Fellowship kicked off with a presentation by JHF’s President and CEO, Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, who illustrated the history of patient safety advocacy in the U.S., including the numerous efforts of JHF, and Dr. Feinstein highlighted the critical role policy reform plays in improving the overall health system. During the second session, Arthur Levine, MD, executive director of the [University of Pittsburgh Brain Institute](#), emeritus senior vice chancellor for the Health Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh, and emeritus dean of the Pitt School of Medicine gave fellows a thorough overview of COVID-19 and his insight into vaccine efforts and necessities for reopening and recovery.

In the third session, fellows heard from Donald Burke, MD, distinguished University of Pittsburgh professor of Health Science and Policy, Epidemiology, and co-founder and president of [Epistemix, Inc.](#) about predictive modeling and its role in responding to and preparing for public health emergencies. A panel of experts in contact tracing and HIV surveillance then examined the challenges of COVID-19 contact tracing and shared lessons from the HIV epidemic. The panel included Margaret Carr, MPH, CPH, program manager of Hep C Free Allegheny, [Allegheny County Health Department](#); Charles Christen, DrPH, Med, executive director of the [Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force](#); Stuart Fisk, CRNP, MSN, director of the [Center for Inclusion Health at Allegheny Health Network](#); and Ken Ho, MD, MPH, medical director of the [Pitt Men’s Study](#), [Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study](#), and [Project Silk](#).

The fourth session included rapid-fire presentations on the COVID-19 healthcare and public health response from LuAnn Brink, PhD, chief epidemiologist at the Allegheny County Health Department; David Saunders, MD, director of the [Office of Health Equity at the Pennsylvania Department of Health](#); Marcia Klein-Patel, MD, PhD, chair of the Women’s Institute at Allegheny Health Network; and Deborah Winn-Horvitz, MS, president and CEO of the [Jewish Association on Aging](#).

Throughout July, fellows will examine effective leadership, teamwork, and communication during a pandemic; how to use safety science and quality engineering to protect staff and patients and maintain a learning approach during an emergency; and creativity and innovation during a pandemic. During the finale, the fellows will share their interdisciplinary plans for a response to a simulated infectious disease outbreak/epidemic.

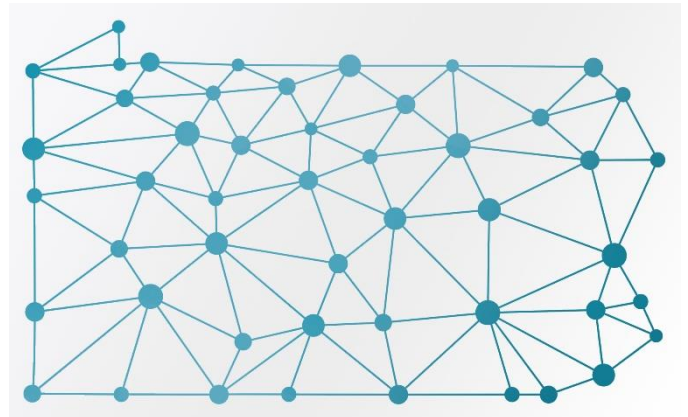
“This fellowship is an amazing platform where you can share ideas with professionals and academics with diverse backgrounds and where you are given great resources to learn,” said Katherine Yoon, PhD, MPP, a research fellow at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and

Health. “It covers a wide range of carefully chosen and very timely topics on COVID-19. I am very happy to be part of it and looking forward to Wednesdays every week.”

COVID-19 Contact Tracing Efforts Mobilize in Southwestern PA

Since the Southwest PA COVID-19 Contact Tracing Consortium kicked off last month, its members have organized resources and launched initial contact tracing efforts for the region. In partnership with the PA Department of Health, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) helps to coordinate the work of the Consortium.

JHF Chief Policy Officer Robert Ferguson led the Foundation’s efforts to mobilize the Consortium’s 80 members from 50 organizations, a critical contribution that pushed forward contact tracing plans for the region.



The PA Department of Health (DOH) is actively recruiting volunteer contact tracers through www.serv.pa.gov. More information can be found on the JHF [website](#) and the DOH [website](#). The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) is also training members of their Medical Reserve Corps as contact tracers.

The Consortium is building capacity to serve diverse communities and screen contacts for behavioral and social service needs. Members are sharing resources and expanding communication channels, and contact tracers will have access to continuing education and supplementary resources.

Read more about the Consortium and contact tracing here:

[More Than 4,000 Close Contacts Of Coronavirus Exposure Identified Through Contact Tracing In Pennsylvania](#)

[Jewish Healthcare Foundation helps fight the spread of COVID-19 in Pennsylvania](#)

[Parts of Pa. reopened without robust coronavirus contact tracing to keep residents safe](#)

[Department of Health Holds First Regional Contact Tracing Meeting in Southwestern Pennsylvania](#)

Stakeholders Direct the PA Perinatal Quality Collaborative to Launch a Maternal Depression and Racial Equity Initiative

In response to guidance from stakeholders, the Pennsylvania Perinatal Quality Collaborative (PA PQC) is launching an initiative to improve maternal depression screening and follow-up rates and reduce racial disparities, with support from the [Henry L. Hillman Foundation](#).

Over the summer, the PA PQC will form a virtual statewide task force with co-chairs from the community, inviting a broad group of committed stakeholders representing diverse racial/ethnic backgrounds. The task force will meet regularly to develop protocols and quality measures for prenatal/postpartum depression screening and follow-up, with a focus on racial equity and disparities. The PA PQC will also survey all PA PQC birth hospitals to gain a clearer understanding of the current practices related to maternal depression screening and reducing health disparities.

The PA PQC will then recruit birth hospitals to implement the protocols for depression screening and follow-up. All PA PQC sites will have the opportunity to learn about best practices for depression screening and follow-up and health equity through the PA PQC's Virtual Quality Improvement Collaborative Meetings and Learning Sessions.

Over the fall and winter, the PA PQC will partner with community-based organizations to convene and facilitate listening and action planning meetings in communities that have gaps in maternal depression screening and follow-up and high rates of health disparities. These meetings will be designed to listen to the community's concerns about maternal depression and racial inequalities, develop a collective action plan to respond to the concerns, report any policy or structural barriers to the PA PQC Policy Group, and oversee the implementation of the collective action plan.



Who is an Entrepreneur? Liftoff PGH has 27 New Ideas

In preparation for the Ideathon pitch competition this December, [Liftoff PGH](#) launched a 10-week entrepreneurship bootcamp at the beginning of June. The micro-internship is a gateway into the startup world for 27 students who never identified as entrepreneurs and began their education in fields ranging from dentistry and occupational therapy to engineering, public health, and pharmacy. Participants hail from 6 different countries, speak more than 10 different languages, and have generated countless new ideas that change every single week.



So, how do you grow as an entrepreneur? Well, it turns out in as many ways as you can start a business. Each week the students are introduced to a part of startup infrastructure, beginning with defining the problem, articulating customer segments, researching competitors, and moving all the way through defining their market and potential product structure.

Class instruction kicks off the more formal business concepts and theory, which students then apply to their own idea in independent group discussions. The space to problem-solve and peer-critique critically informs the cohort, expanding the shared strategy and creativity essential to iterating startup ideas. The students must then add to and refine their own idea, captured in weekly video pitches and an updated business canvas. By the end, the students will be prepared to present a 5-minute pitch and submit their solution to the Liftoff PGH Ideathon.

More than describing the process, the bootcamp's success lies in the diversity of problems being tackled, and the number of possible solutions. To name a few, ZeroDK is developing progressive insurance for dental patients, Little Moochie has launched a game that teaches childhood nutrition, and DR Chain is creating a block chain system for patients to protect their individual health data. And these are just the teams that came in with a project underway. Students are exploring medical error, overlapping research protocols, AI for medical record coding, and much more. Stay tuned for their final pitches in August.

Minority AIDS Initiative Wraps Up Its Virtual Learning Session Series

As the Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) virtual learning session series ends, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) HIV/AIDS program team comes away inspired. 11 MAI partner agencies responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by quickly adapting their services and finding creative alternatives to in-person outreach. These actions furthered MAI's mission of eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in health and re-engaging people living with HIV who have been lost to care. Successful transition to virtual programming was crucial, as the population MAI serves is at high risk for COVID-19.

Starting in April, the biweekly learning session series offered 25-35 frontline workers the opportunity to share experiences of adapting service provision during the pandemic. Agencies reported decreased medical visit no-show rates and increased client attendance due to removed transportation barriers. This has been especially helpful to those living in isolation or rural Pennsylvania. Several agencies also identified an increase in client requests for overall mental health resources. In response, they incorporated conversations about managing COVID-19 stress and anxiety into their HIV care education – which one agency called “mental health hygiene.”

To support these continued efforts, learning series attendees accessed education and resources relevant to current agency needs, covering topics including transitioning to telehealth, data collection and analysis, mental health, strategies for prison linkages, and self-care and meditation. The MAI team worked with partner agencies individually to discuss data collection methods to understand how COVID-19 is affecting their organizations. One agency's preliminary findings showed that despite the shift to working remotely, they still offered over 9,000 wellness checks, completed 3,700 essential referrals to food, legal, housing resources and more, and continued to provide support for incarcerated clients.

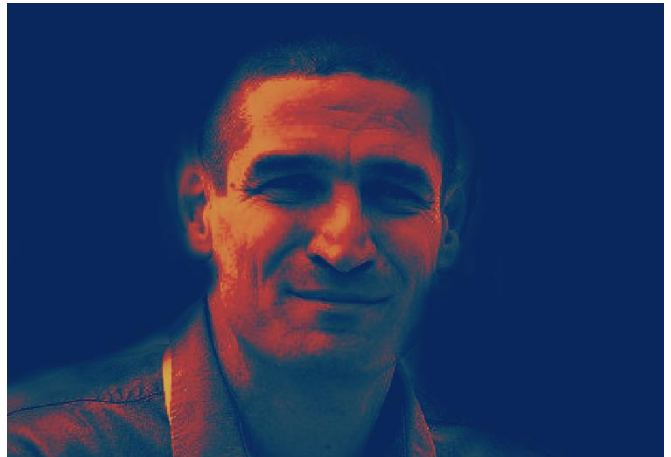
As JHF rounds out the 2019 grant year, data collected from the MAI partner agencies show that over 6,000 hours of outreach services were provided to 1,039 minority and 293 White/Caucasian clients, and 411 minority and 190 White/Caucasian clients received nearly 1,600 hours of health education and risk reduction services. JHF will continue to monitor data and support grantees through virtual learning platforms as everyone navigates the COVID-19 pandemic.



Michael Latady, Linkage to Care Coordinator at Allies for Health + Wellbeing, a MAI partner agency.

Liftoff PGH is Charting a New Map for Innovation, and It Starts in Pittsburgh

Liftoff PGH in Motion is, well, in motion. [The series builds](#) on the diversity of voices in response to critical innovations in health care, and the June 17th session was no exception. More than 125 participants joined from across Pittsburgh for an in-depth discussion with Dr. Don Burke, founder of [Epistemix](#) and former Dean of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Public Health. His insights should be broadcast for the community to hear, but we'll just share a quick peek for your reading pleasure.



Gal Inbar

Dr. Burke and Epistemix CEO John Cordier demonstrated how the company is modeling the pandemic and building tools for policymakers to test an infinite number of hypotheticals, such as school closures, work sick days, vaccine deployment, or contact tracing strategies. As Cordier explains, “Austin is different than Dallas, which is different than El Paso. Each of these places, whether they’re urban, suburban, or rural, they have different places and frequencies where people gather.”

Their platform FRED is an agent-based model that remixes real data to simulate a disease’s spread through a synthetic population. Each “person” has distinct motivations and capacity for decisions and is mapped based on their demographics and daily behaviors. The geographically grounded tool has modeled measles, alcohol abuse, and opioid addiction, and now is at the epicenter of COVID-19 modeling. Epistemix is coming of age at a time when their product could mean life or death, and that pressure is equal parts overwhelming and exhilarating. “It’s a very important moment in history to enable policy makers to make decisions, and there’s this unprecedented urgency to provide a solution,” add Cordier.

Dr. Burke is just the beginning of the Pittsburgh chain of innovators responding to the crisis. On June 30th, Liftoff in Motion hosted Gal Inbar, Israeli tech entrepreneur and founder of 412x972, [an innovation connector](#), and on July 14th, Dr. Poh Shen Loh of Carnegie Mellon University’s Mathematics department will discuss his ground-breaking NOVID app, which uses ultrasonic waves in an easy to use contact tracing app. He might just treat audiences to one of his [interactive pandemic math lessons](#), broadcast live on YouTube. To register for upcoming speakers, please check out liftoffpgh.org/liftoffinmotion. You can also watch full recordings of the sessions on [our YouTube channel](#).

Jewish Community Center Reopens with Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative Guidance

The Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative (PRHI) was proud to partner with the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh (JCC) to safely reopen the JCC's on-site programming during the COVID-19 pandemic. The JCC reopened their early childhood development centers, day camps, and fitness and indoor aquatic centers in mid-June, with guidance, coaching, and resources from PRHI.

This project leveraged PRHI's decades of quality improvement experience and built on years of collaboration with the JCC to create comfort and communication between staff and the community during the reopening process. With the encouragement of PRHI and leadership of JCC Chief Program Officer Jason Kunzman, JCC department directors generated reopening protocols and policies. PRHI facilitated walkthroughs of reopening scenarios, such as camper drop off, from key stakeholder perspectives.



From left Director of Early Childhood Development of JCC of Greater Pittsburgh Liz Baron, Assistant Director Squirrel Hill Kelly Gumina, Education Program Coordinator Sarah Grimm, Education Program Coordinator Katie Plofker. Photo courtesy of JCC

JCC staff were pleased with the outcomes of this collaboration. Rachael Speck, Division Director, Children, Youth & Family and JCC Day Camps Director, J&R Day Camp, said, "I really enjoyed the process...[PRHI staff] were really able to lend some good advice and tactics on ensuring customer service. It was really helpful."

Other directors echoed these sentiments. Liza Baron, Director of Early Childhood Development said that children, parents, and educators of the early childhood development centers are all doing well because of JCC and PRHI's "terrific" preparations. Sherree Hall, Senior Director of Facility, Security & Wellness, mentioned that the reopened pools are very popular and said, "I'm amazed at this, truly amazed, at how well it's gone."

Read more about the reopening here:

[Jewish Community Center to reopen early childhood development centers](#) (TribLive)

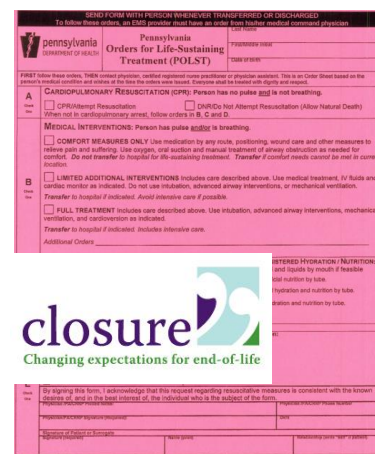
[JCC announces reopening of fitness and indoor aquatic facilities](#) (Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle)

End of Life Coalition Convenes Amid Pandemic

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) is the statewide coordinator for PA Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST), an important component and communication tool to assure that a persons' goals of life and goals of care are respected during critical illnesses in their lives and at end of life. A long-time issue on JHF's *Closure* agenda, the discussion of end of life communication has now become spotlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On June 24th, JHF convened over 60 end of life experts and POLST champions for the Coalition for Quality at End of Life (CQEL). The meeting yielded its highest attendance in over 5 years and has expanded its members by increasing outreach to additional POLST supporters and encouraging enhanced participation from other regions. New partners include University of Pennsylvania, the Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education, WellSpan Health, POLST coalitions in the counties of Adams, Lebanon and York, and others. Chaired by Robert Arnold, MD, chief of palliative care and medical ethics at the University of Pittsburgh and medical director of the UPMC Palliative and Supportive Institute, the meeting served as an annual update for members regarding statewide and national POLST efforts.

Amy Vandenbroucke, JD, executive director of National POLST, discussed changes related to whom POLST is intended and described the need for a standardized, national POLST form. POLST utilization and EMS best practices were discussed by PA State EMS Medical Director Dr. Doug Kupas, and Nancy Zionts, MBA, COO & chief program officer of JHF, facilitated discussion about how organizations have adapted advance care planning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Judith Black, MD, JHF medical advisor, provided a summary of 2019 POLST accomplishments in Pennsylvania, which included the receipt of funding from Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield and UPMC Charitable Giving. Additionally, Alexander Nesbitt, MD, medical director of UPMC Susquehanna Supportive and Palliative Care, discussed current state legislation for POLST use and defined the differences between Pennsylvania Senate Bill, SB 142 and House Bill, HB 987. Pennsylvania State Senator Gene Yaw and Pennsylvania State Representative Paul Schemel were in attendance to comment on the legislation. Further discussions with legislators and POLST stakeholders are being planned and JHF is hopeful that this upcoming legislative session will bring a long-awaited resolution to POLST in Pennsylvania.



POLST form

Doulas are a Critical Addition to Maternal Care Model

On June 9, Women's Health Activist Movement Global (WHAMglobal) and the Pennsylvania Perinatal Quality Collaborative (PA PQC) staff met virtually with doulas, health plan representatives, national experts, and representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of Health to identify opportunities for collaboration and to discuss supporting doula reimbursement and maternity value-based payment models. Since the last meeting in March, COVID-19 has had a tremendous impact on doulas and how they provide services. Doulas have been critical support partners through this especially stressful time for families and have been incredibly innovative in how they deliver services.



The call welcomed national experts Jennifer Moore, WHAMglobal Board Member, and Chloe Bakst from the Institute for Medicaid Innovation to offer insights learned through their recent report: [Community-Based Maternal Support Services: The Role of Doulas and Community Health Workers in Medicaid](#). From a nationwide environmental scan of doulas and community health workers, the experts found that states, health plans, provider groups are expanding their maternal model to include these critical maternal health providers.

The group plans to continue discussions about reimbursement options that will maintain doulas' independence and autonomy while adding value to the maternal care model.

Youth Advocates Ramp Up Action as Summer Begins

The school year may be ending, but the Jewish Healthcare Foundation's (JHF) Youth Advocacy Network members aren't slowing down anytime soon. In June, youth connected with Pennsylvania Representative Sara Innamorato to discuss mental health in schools, strategies to combat stigma, and mental health resources in the context of racial inequality. The call brought together youth from Fox Chapel, Shaler, Frasier, Winchester Thurston, North Allegheny, and Shadyside, continuing their advocacy campaign to share messages about mental health awareness with legislators.



PA State Representative Sara Innamorato

Youth and community members then joined a webinar on suicide prevention, awareness and youth advocacy led by Katrice Stallworth, youth advocate and 2020 graduate of Penn Hills Senior High School. Katrice engaged call participants with polls to discuss their perceptions and mental health experiences considering recent events relating to the coronavirus and racial injustice protests. The presentation also sparked further discussion about developing a central mental health advocacy platform. When asked what the Youth Advocacy Network means to her, Katrice said, "It's been amazing for me to connect with other people who are passionate about mental health," calling the platform "a great outlet for me to learn and share new information."

In addition to the Youth Advocacy Network, JHF continues to support youth organizations, including partners of the *UpStreet* neighborhood-based teen mental health initiative in Squirrel Hill. As part of *UpStreet*, students at the Yeshiva Girls School used their training from Stand Together to brainstorm support strategies for peers experiencing depression or anxiety during the pandemic. The students created and sent a video to their entire high school, offering support, encouragement, and ideas for coping through this crisis. Here is the link to view the video:

<https://youtu.be/WC0vYSaEA7A>

Later this summer, JHF is offering part-time virtual work opportunities through [Partner4Work's](#) Summer Learn & Earn Program to youth interested in mental health advocacy. For their final project, teams of youth will design strategies for incorporating teen mental health and wellness into school systems, community centers, or out-of-school activities. Youth will then present their projects to school administrators and community members.

Welcoming New Staff Member Morgan Overton

On July 6, Morgan Overton joins the Jewish Healthcare Foundation as a community engagement and policy associate on the WHAMglobal team. A proud Pittsburgh native, she earned her master's in social work from the University of Pittsburgh with a focus in community organization and social action, and a certificate in Human Services Management. Morgan also earned a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in studio arts from the University of Pittsburgh. She has held numerous positions in public affairs at local, state, and federal levels, notably as an organizing fellow for Barack Obama's 2012 presidential campaign. She also managed GirlGov, a renowned youth civic engagement program at the Women and Girls Foundation. Her civic experience is partnered with an extensive background in the sciences, having conducted autism clinical research at Harvard Medical School/Boston Children's Hospital. Morgan is also a visual artist who uses the arts to uplift the humanity of silenced voices in society. Her work has been exhibited across Pittsburgh, Boston, California, and St. Paul de Vence, France. Morgan was inducted in the Pittsburgh Business Times' 2019 30 Under 30 Awards, and she won the University of Pittsburgh's Iris Marion Young Award for Social Justice and Political Engagement. Whether on the ground, with paint, or through policy, Morgan is invested in Pittsburgh actualizing its livability for each of its community members, through unapologetic justice, collaboration, and intersectionality.



Move Reminder



Contact Tracing Recruitment

Contact tracing is one of the most important roles in the Commonwealth's efforts to reopen Pennsylvania. The PA Department of Health is now seeking contact tracers, particularly individuals who speak additional languages and who may have experience in working within local communities or with specialized/targeted populations such as faith leaders, service providers within the homeless community, providers who work with individuals living with disabilities, and individuals from other vulnerable communities. Individuals can register as volunteer contact tracers through www.serv.pa.gov

