



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

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JHF Awards \$398,000 in Teen Mental Health Grants to Local Organizations

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many teens and families in the community are experiencing a toxic mix of fear, stress, disappointment, isolation, and confusion. Some may be directly affected by COVID-19, reckoning with illness among their family and friends. Many adolescents are now attending school on a lopsided schedule, with some days at home interrupted by technological issues. They may even be asked to help care for younger siblings. Their extracurricular activities have been severely limited or cancelled indefinitely, altering or removing social circles of support. Loss of [safety and security](#) through economic instability, access to resources, or increased risk of [domestic violence and abuse](#) is an even greater concern.



In addition to threatening physical health, these issues present an increased risk for young people's mental health. Even before the pandemic hit, [one in ten](#) adolescents experienced anxiety or depression. This translates to over three million young people in the United States alone, who are now burdened with additional stressors that must be addressed. Schools cannot be expected to manage an increased need for mental health services, as students [may experience barriers](#) to accessing services through schools. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed the need to immediately draw on community resources and empower teens to support their mental wellness.

Recognizing these risks and concerns, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) awarded \$398,000 in grants to 14 organizations to support teen mental health programs during the COVID-19 pandemic. These grants will support community-oriented organizations that already serve teens and will continue to provide emotional support, interactive experiences, and connection during this difficult and uncertain time. The organizations will also form a new teen mental health agency network, convened by JHF, to share information and expertise and forge new collaborations from a grassroots perspective.

The funded programs will help further connect the organizations with teens amid changing circumstances of COVID-19 and engage with youth who may feel isolated and removed from their communities. This support is crucial for teens, says Judith Cohen, Medical Director of the AGH Center for Traumatic Stress in Children & Adolescents.

"Adolescence is typically a time when teens start to develop a stronger sense of their own unique identity. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted activities that contribute to these processes, requiring teens to remain at home with parents and younger siblings instead of attending in-person school, spending time with peers, or participating in extracurricular activities. Teens may experience a variety of negative mental health problems in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including increased risk for depressive, anxiety, and/or post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms.

Despite this, most teens are resilient, and coping skills can help them to maintain health and wellness throughout this challenging time.”

The youth-driven programs will provide supportive environments in which teens can build resiliency, leadership skills, autonomy, and relationships. The CHILL Project, a mindfulness program piloted at Baldwin High School by [Allegheny Health Network](#), will expand its programming to include expressive arts as a medium of communication during the pandemic and beyond. Curriculum enhancements will include puppetry, painting, sculpting, dance, and poetry. The project aims to reach all students and ensure the inclusion of students with learning disabilities, students in emotional support classes, and members of the refugee and immigrant population.

The KRUNK Movement is a student-led music and health initiative of the [Center of Life](#) that will continue to serve teens during this challenging time. KRUNK’s music engages listeners in social justice issues through the elements of hip-hop, and the program promotes positive physical and mental health by training teens in the practice of mindfulness, deep breathing, and other stress coping strategies.

[Steel Smiling](#) will provide space for Black, high school-aged young people to process and positively cope with both the disruptions in their lives caused by COVID-19 and continued incidents of police brutality and anti-Black racism against Black people. Their program will also educate teens about the triggers and symptoms of mental illnesses and engaging in emotional regulation and stress management skills development.

Teen Leadership Board members at [The Friendship Circle](#) will spearhead an innovative peer-support program called FC Crews. Along with a behavioral health education program, FC Crews will empower teens of all abilities to be active listeners, supportive friends, and better leaders.

These new JHF grants, along with grants to 9 other organizations in Allegheny County, extend the Foundation’s efforts around community-based teen mental health programming from an initial \$80,000 grant awarded to [Jewish Family and Community Services](#) in March 2020. Those funds were initially set to develop a teen mental health and wellness space called *UpStreet*, but now have also helped to expand virtual programming and text-based support designed in collaboration with a diverse youth advisory committee.

Grants are also awarded to [Alliance for Refugee Youth Support and Education](#), [Boys & Girls Clubs of Western PA](#), [UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh](#), [Gwen’s Girls](#), [Homewood Children’s Village](#), [The Neighborhood Academy](#), [A+ Schools](#), the [Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh](#), and [Repair the World Pittsburgh](#). All grant recipients will be invited to participate in a new teen mental health agency alliance in order to share program ideas and learning, technical expertise, challenges and opportunities, and forge new collaborations.

As Dr. Steven Adelsheim, Squirrel Hill native and clinical professor at Stanford Hospital, wrote in a recent opinion [piece](#) on adolescent mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic, “Both the experiences our young people face now and the supports they receive from us in coping with and navigating these challenges will have profound impacts on their abilities to be successful adults,

parents, and citizens for years to come. By making the investment of support, commitment, and care for our youth right now, we will be building the foundation for a hopeful and viable future.”

If you need mental health assistance, please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255.

Eight-Year Nursing Facility Grant Initiative Comes to a Close

After eight years, the RAVEN (Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations using Evidence-based Interventions for Nursing Facility Residents) Initiative is ending. Funded by a grant from the [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#), RAVEN was led by [UPMC](#), with the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) as subgrantee and lead educator. [RAVEN](#) was designed to improve nursing facility resident outcomes, improve the transitions between hospitals and nursing facilities, and reduce overall health spending while ensuring access



to care and choice of providers among Pennsylvania nursing facility residents. The collaborations resulted in a wealth of partnerships that will be invaluable for future work in these areas.

RAVEN was initially designed as a four-year initiative (2012-2016) to implement evidence-based interventions of four components (clinical, pharmacy, telehealth, and education) in Western PA facilities. During this phase, JHF conducted site visits, developed individual education plans for facilities, and delivered frontline education. The JHF core RAVEN team brought an interdisciplinary approach and expertise on a variety of topics relevant to improving quality of skilled nursing care, especially dementia, end-of-life and palliative care, quality improvement, and nursing home administration and policy. Core team members included JHF COO and Chief Program Officer Nancy Zions, MBA; UPMC geriatrician Judy Black, MD; Senior Quality Improvement Specialist Stacie Bonenberger, MOT, OTR/L; Senior Quality Improvement Specialist Anneliese Perry, MS, NHA; and Quality Improvement Specialist Nicole Greer, RN, MPH, MPA.

In 2014, CMS recognized the potential for growth and renewed the RAVEN initiative for a second phase through 2020. JHF continued to serve as the education lead and remained as the only external partner in the second phase, which involved a new group of Eastern PA nursing facilities to examine the potential for a new incentive payment model.

For the JHF team, key takeaways included recognizing that skilled nursing facilities meet difficult and competing challenges each day, so a successful project requires customized education models to meet a team's needs and remove barriers to education. As an investment in sustainability and to assure the facilities' access to resources after the initiative's conclusion, the

JHF team created a RAVEN toolkit of educational resources, available here:

<https://www.jhf.org/raven/>

JHF expresses many thanks to contacts at UPMC, including Mary Ann Sander, Vice President, Aging and Disability Services, UPMC Community Provider Services, April Kane, Project Co-Director for RAVEN, and Deborah Brodine, President of UPMC Community Provider Services through May 2019, for their partnership.

As a result of the RAVEN initiative, JHF has developed a wealth of educational resources for facilities, as well as partnerships that have led to relationships with CMS and PA government departments, including JHF's involvement in the ESCCP (Educational Support and Clinical Coaching Program) and RRHCP (Regional Response Health Collaborative Program). These programs convened educational, academic, and government leaders to support personal care homes, assisted living facilities, and long-term care facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. With these resources and connections, JHF is well-positioned to continue addressing the needs of facility residents and staff into the future.

Salk Fellowship Kicks Off Aimed at Successful Maternity Policy Change

The Salk Health Activist Fellowship commenced on September 21st with 29 enthusiastic Fellows, ready to build their advocacy skills and tackle maternal health issues. As the United States heads toward a critical election, maternal health issues need to be front and center for voters and policymakers. Through this fall's Salk Fellowship, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) will support the activists as they forge ahead towards this goal. After the election and disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, the country will likely emerge into a period of unfreezing, when new ideas and policies can take hold. In a few weeks' time, the 2020 Salk Fellows will be prepared with the skills to effectively advocate for maternal health issues. The Salk Fellowship's focus plays into JHF's broader policy strategy, as the Foundation's Board members and many existing initiatives are shifting focus toward three policy objectives, one of which involves creating a comprehensive approach to pregnancy and postpartum care.



2020 Salk Health Activist Fellows

This Salk Fellowship also celebrates the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife through a targeted recruitment of nurses and midwives, who, fittingly, are often on the frontline of maternal health services and can play a critical role in advocacy. The 29 participating Fellows – ranging from graduate students to young professionals, including 12 nurses – will expand their activist and public speaking toolkit with case-making frameworks and skills around policy change. The Fellows hail from across Pennsylvania (Allegheny, Philadelphia, Warren, Williamsport, and York counties) and come from a dozen different universities representing 18 disciplines and specialties, including

medicine, healthcare administration, social work, nursing, midwifery, occupational therapy, healthcare ethics, public health, emergency medicine, professional counseling, education, and more.

Earlier this year, JHF released a new ROOTS publication, [*Beyond Medicalization: Midwives and Maternity Care in America*](#), that examines America's approach to pregnancy and delivery over the past century and expounds on opportunities for creating a more comprehensive approach to pregnancy and post-partum care. This material serves as a launch point for the Salk Fellowship curriculum and speakers that will join the Fellowship this fall. As they hone their skills and understanding of policy processes and effective advocacy, Fellows will hear from local and national maternal health advocates, elected officials, policy makers, and public speaking experts. For the finale, Fellows will be tasked with using their expanded toolkit to engage with PA legislators and staffers to advocate for a strategy on bills impacting nursing, midwifery, and women's maternal health issues.

On World Patient Safety Day, Case is Made for a National Patient Safety Authority

On this year's World Patient Safety Day (Sept. 17), Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD made the case for action on medical error in front of a global audience during the [Unite for Safe Care](#) virtual event (which involved 6,821 participants) and in [Modern Healthcare](#). Dr. Feinstein reminded audiences that the U.S. fails to use its extraordinary technology and information system capabilities to keep its patients and healthcare workers safe, as medical error leads to over 250,000 deaths and countless harms each year. For over two decades, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) and the [Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative](#) (PRHI) have worked to address this crisis, which has needed urgent attention for decades, now more than ever. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the many flaws in our health system, revealing that it is not fail safe for patient and worker safety.



Karen Feinstein presents at the Unite for Safe Care virtual event on September 17.

This knowledge should be a springboard for new, creative, powerful interventions, and we propose a National Patient Safety Authority (NPSA) as the solution. Now is the time for a united effort to address medical error. We already have the resources, expertise, and potential – we just need to leverage our connections and come together to address this national, ongoing crisis. To learn more about the proposed NPSA, read Karen's op-ed in *Modern Healthcare* [here](#) (subscription required) and view Karen's comments during the Unite for Safe Care virtual event [here](#).

Our commitment never ends with a single day's events. PRHI will continue pushing forward with efforts to establish the NPSA, and we call you to join us. Please consider joining the Health Activist Network here <https://www.healthactivistnetwork.org/> to become more involved with this effort.

Automating Patient Safety with Michael McShea

During a special Liffoff in Motion virtual event on September 1, Liffoff PGH and the Health Activist Network welcomed Michael McShea to discuss *Automating Patient Safety*. McShea, the health system innovation lead of the [Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory \(APL\)](#), strategic advisor for [Rose: Smarter Mental Health](#), and industry advisor for the [Digital Healthcare Collaborative](#), dove into the power of autonomous technologies (like artificial intelligence) to improve quality of care and reduce medical error. The event laid out the [Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative's](#) renewed call for creation of a National Patient and Provider Safety Authority (NPSA). The recording of the talk can be viewed here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uY-DIAAnBA_g



Michael McShea presented on automating patient safety during a Liffoff in Motion/Health Activist Network virtual event.

McShea illustrated the U.S.'s ability to leverage technology for patient safety, saying, "The goal needs to be to create a data-driven infrastructure to eliminate patient harms...The technology already exists to do this. What we need to do is take a more systematic approach to applying that technology to health care." He cited examples including the airline industry, financial technology, space exploration, and cybersecurity, all of which have used automated technology to prevent problems for decades.

McShea introduced current programs using automation to collect and use powerful data for harm prevention at multiple levels. The eICU, a remote system that allows one clinician to manage 150 patients without sacrificing quality, already monitors 1 in 8 adult ICU patients nationally and uses patient data analytics to notify clinicians when patients need attention. At Johns Hopkins and other facilities, remote Command Centers increase telehealth capabilities and smooth patient transitions. The APL ESSENCE (Electronic Surveillance System for Early Notification of Community Based Epidemics) allows the CDC to collect data from 47 states, search for patterns, and predict problems. And we already have a wealth of data collected and shared through health information exchanges, CMS reporting infrastructure, and the FDA's medical device surveillance system. This data will be key in finding a national patient safety solution, McShea emphasized, noting that we are already using data collection technology systems that could support an NPSA. "I view the NPSA's efforts as really driving the next ten years of what we're going to do with this data," he said.

McShea and attendees noted that technologies still require advancement to develop unbiased AI and assure accessible medical data systems at the clinical level. However, the potential of the resources available creates an excellent opportunity to solve the medical error issue.

An Opportunity Unlike Any Other for a *Full Court Press*

During September's three Board meetings, Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) staff outlined a new focus on three critical policy goals for the next calendar year. This renewed concentration comes as JHF recognizes the opportunity, in an election year, to push for necessary changes the COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed. This is a crucial time for progress, and JHF will call on the experts among our staff, board members, and even friends and partners from across the country. Through this new approach, called JHF's Full Court Press, we will advance action and prioritize our nation's most significant and concerning health issues.



JHF Trustees and the [Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative](#) (PRHI) and [Health Careers Futures](#) (HCF) Board members were invited to join one of three new committees focused on the following policy objectives:

- **A National Patient and Provider Safety Authority (NPSA)**, approved by a new Federal Administration and enacted by Congress, builds on the model of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). A NPSA, like the NTSB, will propose innovative, data-driven solutions, policies, and autonomous systems (including artificial intelligence and other technologies) that prevent harm to patients and the healthcare workforce.
- **A New Model for Senior Residential Living** is under consideration by a new [National Academy of Medicine](#) study committee (with a small grant from JHF). This is the time to present our own policy priorities to examine the untenable future of our current skilled nursing models. We will promote revised regulations and payment schemes that enhance the staffing, skill level, and safety for residents in long term care.
- **A Comprehensive Approach to Pregnancy and Post-partum Care** can be furthered by policies that consider the scope of work for midwives and perinatal community health workers (doulas), the financing of maternity care, and the future of the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program.

These new Committees build on and direct many of the existing projects at JHF toward specific policy transformation objectives. During the PRHI Board Meeting on September 15, staff outlined how the [SWERVE](#) and [Liftoff PGH](#) projects will fuse efforts to establish a National Patient and Provider Safety Authority, in conjunction with members of the PRHI board. At the September 15 HCF Board Meeting, staff introduced the focus areas on senior residential living and a comprehensive approach to pregnancy and post-partum care, which are fueled by JHF's decades-long history in aging services advocacy and the [Women's Health Activist Movement Global's](#)

programs. JHF Trustees were presented with the entire scope of the Full Court Press Committees on September 16 and will serve across the various areas.

In addition to these three focus areas, JHF will continue its projects in other areas, and Board members will establish a special Adolescent Behavioral Health subgroup to continue to build on the work of recent Teen Mental Health grants, the local UpStreet initiative, and JHF's Youth Advocacy Network.

International Women's Forum Convenes Women Leaders Globally on COVID-19

The International Women's Forum ([IWF](#)) Pittsburgh held a virtual Global Panel on September 24 to facilitate discussion of the global response to COVID-19. An inspiring group of international women healthcare leaders joined the call to reconnect via this network. Jewish Healthcare Foundation President and CEO Karen Feinstein, PhD moderated the panel, which the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and [Women's Health Activist Movement Global \(WHAMglobal\)](#) conceived.



Karen Feinstein and Debra Caplan, MPA, President of IWF Pittsburgh and Chair of WHAMglobal opened the meeting, followed by an introductory

From Left: IWF Panelists Ivy Ng, Helena Orfanos-Boeckel, and Lucy Clare Hone

panel of experts on COVID-19, featuring Professor Ivy Ng, Group CEO of Singapore Health Services Pte Ltd. and IWF Singapore Member; Dr. Helena Orfanos-Boeckel, Internist/Nephrologist, Functional and Preventive Medicine, of Praxis Fur Ganzheitliche Innere Medizin and IWF Germany Member; and Dr. Lucy Clare Hone, Director, New Zealand Institute Of Wellbeing & Resilience and IWF New Zealand Member. Panelists shared challenges and successes of their countries' responses to the pandemic at various stages, highlighting strengths including robust contact tracing, isolation, lockdown procedures, personal protective equipment for healthcare workers, resource conservation, and high-quality, regular communication with the public.

Breakout sessions followed, moderated by IWF Healthcare Leaders Laura Berger, Debra Caplan, Karen Feinstein, Teri Fontenot, Diane Holder, Usha Raj, MD, Fleur Sack, and Dolores Sukhdeo, to facilitate reflection, connection, and learning among the global attendees and leaders.

PA PQC Announces Awards and Advances Maternal Health Quality Improvement

The Pennsylvania Perinatal Quality Collaborative (PA PQC) awarded \$75,000 across 5 PA PQC birth hospitals and NICUs in recognition of the quality improvement milestones they completed to improve care for pregnant and postpartum women with opioid use disorder (OUD) and newborns with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS). The PA PQC also awarded \$45,000 across 5 PA PQC birth hospitals to increase access to long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) during the immediate postpartum period. These five hospitals will join the initial group of PA PQC birth hospitals—[UPMC Horizon](#), [SLUHN Anderson](#) and [Allentown](#), and [Geisinger Medical Center](#)—who have been implementing the infrastructure to provide access to immediate postpartum LARC.



In September, Pennsylvania also became an AIM State. The PA Department of Health and the PA PQC submitted the application, with a focus on adopting [AIM's Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy Bundle](#) and reducing racial disparities. The Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) is a national data-driven maternal safety and quality improvement initiative that is funded by the [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA) and operated by the [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#) (ACOG). AIM provides implementation support and data tracking assistance to participating states to support the adoption of AIM's patient safety bundles. AIM also enables states to track their success on improving maternal outcomes through AIM's national data center. Pennsylvania has created the Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) and the PA PQC. Becoming an AIM state is a third structural milestone that states put in place to address maternal mortality and morbidity.

On September 3, the PA PQC held a quarterly learning session via Zoom with over 200 attendees. During the session, the PA PQC Moving on Maternal Depression (MOMD) co-chairs, Saleemah McNeil and Chaunda Cunningham, announced the kickoff of the MOMD initiative through the PA PQC. PA PQC teams will adopt the MOMD Change Package starting in October, which the Task Force finalized during a Task Force Call on 9/30. During the 9/3 Learning Session, the PA PQC teams also learned how to implement maternal depression screening and follow-up processes into their daily work, address challenges to offering immediate postpartum LARC, improve screening processes for maternal SUD/OUD and NAS, and use quality improvement principles related to root causes analyses and standard work principles.

To increase access to effective treatment for maternal OUD, the PA PQC hosted two waiver trainings with ACOG and the [American Society of Addiction Medicine](#) on how to prescribe

buprenorphine, a form of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for OUD. The PA PQC also held a third implicit bias training with AccessMatters for PA PQC teams on September 15.

The PA PQC looks forward to working with birth hospitals, NICUs, prenatal/postpartum offices, and health plans to improve care for maternal OUD, NAS, maternal depression, and severe hypertension in pregnancy, while focusing on reducing racial disparities across these areas.

Students Spend Safe Days at the JCC with PRHI-Supported Program

On September 1, the [Jewish Community Center of Pittsburgh](#) launched their new program, [All Day at the J](#), to support students and families during the COVID-19 pandemic. The full-day program is an extension of their childcare programs and will provide students in grades K-6 an opportunity to complete their online learning requirements with additional support. The program ensures that children are able to engage in a full slate of activities to ensure that their mental, emotional and physical health are all being attended to in accordance with CDC and state guidelines, while parents return to work. The program is currently set to run through October 30 at JCC Squirrel Hill and South Hills.

The [Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative](#) (PRHI) is supporting the JCC by providing guidance in process design for safe, reliable and efficient drop-off and pick-up practices, as the JCC welcomes about 120 students in addition to their about 187 Early Childhood Development enrollees to ensure the safety of all families and staff.



A young student smiles behind her mask at the JCC

PRHI Lean Healthcare Strategy and Implementation Manager Jennifer Condel, SCT(ASCP)MT observed the child drop-off process in the early days of the program. During the observation, Jennifer and the JCC staff were able to identify and discuss in real-time improvement opportunities; including enhanced directional signage and staff processes to support efficient and effective protocols to receive children. Jennifer said, “The programs teams have developed and operationalized quality procedures, demonstrating a true member-focused approach, to ensure the safety and well-being of the children and families. They held open houses to educate and visually prepare families for the new experience and structured the physical locations to not only comply with regulatory coronavirus mitigations guidelines but provide a welcoming environment for the students. There was also ongoing collaboration between the leaders of the childcare programs, Rachael Speck, Division Director, Children, Youth & Family and JCC Day Camps Director, J&R Day Camp, and Liza Baron, Director of Early Childhood Development, along with senior staff and security personnel, to work through the needs and workflow processes. The culture of quality improvement and collaboration is clearly evident across the JCC staff and programming.”

A few weeks into the program, Rachael said, “So far it’s going really well, we’re very pleased,” noting that with PRHI’s assistance they have successfully jumped hurdles of changes to school district plans and scheduling. “It was really helpful to have [Jen] help figure out this process and have someone who wasn’t on the inside look at it from a different perspective....We are thrilled that we are able to do this and provide this program to kids and to parents who need to go to work.”

Grantmakers in Aging Summit on HIV and Aging

On September 14-15th, [Grantmakers in Aging](#) convened the *Moving Ahead Together Working Summit*, a first of its kind national event to connect the HIV/AIDS and Aging Services Communities. Nancy D. Zions, JHF COO/Chief Program Officer, has served



as a member of the Steering Committee for that event for the past year, helping to draft the Framework for the Future that was the subject of the Summit. Nancy served as one of the facilitators for both the *Complexities and Considerations* and *Integrating and Improving Care and Services* sections of the report. With over 50% of those with HIV/AIDS now over the age of 50, the top priority for the two-day event was mapping a way forward to improve the quality of life for people aging with HIV. Aging with HIV is still a relatively new phenomenon, which creates both considerable challenges and an important opportunity to support this evolving field and improve the care, wellbeing, and quality of life of older people living with HIV. JHF has always had strong foci on HIV/AIDS and Aging, but like the services networks that serve those populations, this work has been largely siloed. Richard Smith, HIV/AIDS Project Director, and Nancy are excited to use this framework as an opportunity for their teams to learn from each other, recognizing that a closer connection between them would benefit older people living with HIV in many respects.

Death and Dying Fellowship Model Shared as Continuing Education for Funeral Directors

On September 23rd, JHF COO/Chief Program Officer Nancy Zions presented a two-hour continuing education session entitled “Grief in an Era of COVID-19” for over 200 funeral directors gathered in Cleveland, Ohio. While the funeral directors gathered in person, Nancy conducted the session via Zoom. The program initially was conceived after a member of the Ohio Embalmers Association read the 2018 [Post-Gazette article](#) regarding the JHF Feinstein Fellowship on Death and Dying. The funeral directors recognized that they, like health professionals, could use a deeper dive into how to have

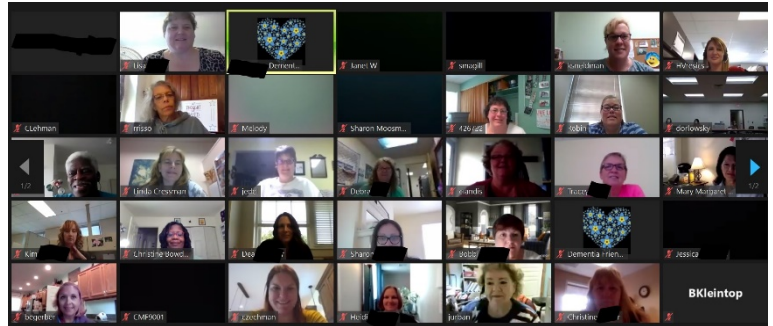


conversations with customers and families around the issues of legacy, celebration of life, mourning and death. Originally scheduled for March, the event was postponed when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and in the past seven months, the funeral industry has had to completely redesign their work and services. In addition to sharing the components of JHF’s *Closure* initiative and the D&D Fellowship, Nancy focused her presentation on how COVID-19 has changed the

process of death and dying, the access of families to their ill loved ones, communal grief, grief interrupted or postponed, and the importance of self-care for professionals.

Dementia Friends Raises Awareness Among Providers

On September 2, [Dementia Friends Pennsylvania](#) sponsored a session for the [National Pioneer Network](#) Conference, Envisioning the Future. The session, Turning Dementia from Stigma into Esteem, was led by JHF Senior Quality Improvement Specialist Anneliese Perry, who provided an overview of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, its aging initiatives, and introduced the session and speakers. This session aligned with the goal of Dementia Friends Pennsylvania to reduce stigma associated with dementia.



Dementia Friends Pennsylvania presents during the Pioneer Network session.

On September 15, Dementia Friends Pennsylvania Statewide Coordinators Anneliese Perry and Stacie Bonenberger held the first Dementia Friends Pennsylvania virtual session for the [Pennsylvania Department of Aging](#), provided as part of a grant from the PA Department of Aging to improve and expand access to ongoing programs that will raise awareness about dementia and decrease stigma surrounding dementia. Attendees included administration, senior center staff, and aging providers across Pennsylvania. This session was the first in a series of five to be held through November 18, and the PA Department of Aging grant will support Dementia Friends Pennsylvania with up to \$90,000 through June 2021.

Skilled Nursing Facilities and COVID-19 Documentary

Please give us 6 minutes of your time to view a trailer for a forthcoming mini-documentary about the COVID-19 crisis in long-term care facilities. The COVID-19 crisis has devastated many Long-Term Care (LTC) facilities across the country, regardless of quality and safety records. Prior to the pandemic, the majority of LTC providers, nonprofit providers in particular, faced a daily challenge to secure the staff and resources necessary to deliver quality care that is often part of their mission. Our society has continued to neglect appropriate funding for frail seniors, and now all our LTC facilities are at risk. We as a nation are responsible for the failure to prepare LTC facilities for the onslaught of COVID-19. Even worse, we did not respond with alacrity when it was clear that all LTC facilities faced incredible risk. It is time to look at long-term solutions to what COVID-19 has exposed: our society



Jamie Worthy-Smith, sister of a COVID-19 victim, speaks about her experience in the documentary.

has turned its back on our frailest citizens and refused to acknowledge that our LTC facilities overall are weakened by neglect. We're intently focused on this issue and invite you to join us as an ally, to create a better system for our frail seniors. The full story is coming this fall. In the meantime, watch the trailer here: <https://youtu.be/nUz11rlgm94>. We look forward to hearing your responses – please email comments to Jewish Healthcare Foundation President and CEO Karen Feinstein at feinstein@JHF.org.

Hidden Brain Episode

Don't miss this excellent Hidden Brain episode, where upcoming Lifford PGH Keynote Speaker Shankar Vedantam talks with another upcoming Lifford PGH Speaker Vivian Lee, MD, PhD, MBA, who serves as President of Health Platforms at Verily Life Sciences (an Alphabet company), a Senior Lecturer at Harvard Medical School, and a member of [Women of Impact](#). Shankar and Dr. Lee explored ideas for a better American health care model. Listen here:

<https://www.npr.org/2020/09/02/908728981/slaying-the-fee-for-service-monster-of-american-healthcare>

To hear more from Vivian's perspective on critical topics at the intersection of patient safety, innovation, and social equity, read her recent book, [The Long Fix](#).

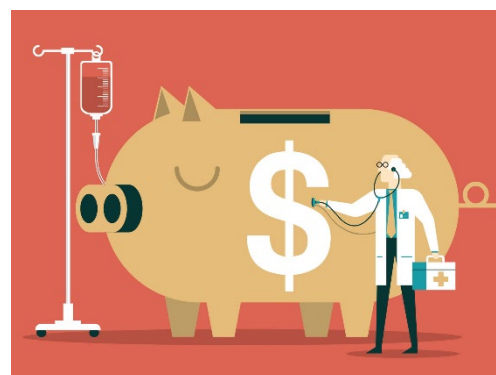


Image credit: NPR/Getty Images