



**September 2021 | Jewish Healthcare Foundation news, events, milestones, & more**

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## National Coalition Launches Campaign to Improve Patient Safety

A national advocacy coalition, led by the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative (PRHI), has launched a campaign to push for a National Patient Safety Board (NPSB), to address the persistently high rates of medical error in the United States leading to more than 250,000 preventable deaths annually.

This campaign stems from months of collaboration with top leaders in patient safety to fashion a vigorous solution and gain consensus on the specifications, and strategy, for a new federal agency. The NPSB Advocacy Coalition, representing all key healthcare stakeholder groups, supports immediate legislative action. Leadership from more than [50 leading healthcare organizations, consumer groups, and businesses](#) are asking the White House and Congress to expeditiously form the NPSB.



*Robert L. Sumwalt, former Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board and Harry Litman, former U.S. Attorney and Deputy Assistant Attorney General and current host of the Talking Feds podcast.*



The NPSB would follow in part the operational model of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), which has significantly improved transportation safety in the U.S. for more than 50 years without regulations, penalties or public exposure. Coalition member and former Chairman of the NTSB Robert L. Sumwalt says, “I’ve seen the incredible influence of the National Transportation Safety Board to improve safety across transportation, and I believe there are aspects of the NTSB that can be translated to medicine, which can lead to profound effects on improving the safety of health care and consequently save lives.”

Sumwalt also pointed to the efforts of the airline industry, which is constantly monitoring operational metrics, rewarding employees for reporting adverse events and ‘near misses’, and openly sharing deidentified data among competitors. The credibility of this nonpunitive analysis and intensive interdisciplinary study produces solutions whose adoption is almost always assured.

“The missteps in managing the COVID-19 pandemic crisis mirror the problems our nation experiences in managing the annual death and disability toll from preventable harms,” said JHF and PRHI President and CEO Karen Feinstein. “Many thought leaders now agree that a National Patient Safety Board, patterned after the NTSB but uniquely structured for health care, could centralize and scale critical remedies for both.”

The public is also asked to get on board and sign up for campaign updates at [npsb.org](https://npsb.org). To hear directly from former NTSB Chairman Robert Sumwalt and PRHI President and CEO Karen Feinstein, visit [npsb.org](https://npsb.org) and tune into the inaugural edition of the NPSB’s podcast series, “Up Next

for Patient Safety.” This important discussion is moderated by Harry Litman, former U.S. District Attorney, law professor, and political commentator. Litman is also the producer and host of the popular podcast “Talking Feds.”

**Read more in Modern Healthcare:** [Pushing for a new government agency to curb patient harms](#)

**Read more in the Pittsburgh Business Times:** [Pittsburgh nonprofit takes key role in reducing medical errors](#)

**Read more in Healthcare Innovation:** [Coalition Urges Creation of National Patient Safety Board](#)

**Read more in Becker’s Hospital Review:** [Patient Safety Advocates Propose New Federal Agency](#)

## Wall Street Journal Features National Patient Safety Board Proposal

In a September 2 article, the *Wall Street Journal* published a feature on the National Patient Safety Board (NPSB) proposal spearheaded by the NPSB Advocacy Coalition. The article explores how the NPSB could model the National Transportation Safety Board’s (NTSB) ongoing success in addressing medical error in the United States. Read the article here: [Can Hospitals Learn About Safety From Airlines?](#) The author, Andy Pasztor, has spent many years studying the NTSB and brings fresh insights about how this successful model could bring improvements to another industry whose progress lags behind.



*Image credit: Alex Nabaum, WSJ*

## JHF CEO Karen Feinstein Speaks at Patient Safety Moonshot Panel for World Patient Safety Day

For World Patient Safety Day 2021 on September 17, Jewish Healthcare Foundation President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein spoke during a panel on the “Patient Safety Moonshot™,” a movement to cure medical harm by 2030. The Patient Safety Moonshot™ consists of three public policy initiatives that will push the movement to zero preventable harm and death forward: patient safety data transparency, alignment of payment incentives, and establishing region-appropriate regulatory oversight. Karen outlined the concept of a National

Patient Safety Board (NPSB) as part of the effort to address medical error in the United States using advanced analytics and technology. The panel was facilitated by David B. Mayer, Patient Safety Movement Foundation, MedStar Institute for Quality and Safety and also included Leah Binder, President and CEO, The Leapfrog Group, and Javier T. Davila, Regional Network Chair, Former Medical Director, Head of Medical Education, Patient Safety Movement Foundation in Mexico, Mexican Social Security Institute, Research and Health Public Policy.

Watch a recording of the panel [here](#).



*Karen Feinstein, Javier Davila, David Mayer, and Leah Binder speak during a patient safety panel*

## 2021 Salk Fellowship Kicks Off, to Focus on Re-envisioning U.S. Public Health

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed how years of underfunding and political interference have crippled progress in U.S. public health systems at every level—as they currently operate and as they could be upgraded with modern technology. With the 2021 Salk Health Activist Fellowship, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) is encouraging the next generation of health leaders and innovators to reimagine the U.S. public health system considering frontier data analytics, interoperable data systems, AI/ML advances, methods for accountability and empowered leadership. The 30 fellows will learn from inspirational thought leaders and collaborate with peers to develop updated solutions for population health problems and inequities within the purview of public health.

This year's cohort hails from seven universities, three states, and 25 academic and professional disciplines. Their diverse interests present a strength for innovative redesign and reconceptualization. The nine fellowship sessions will explore the challenges and opportunities within regional, state, and national public health systems, even borrowing from global best practices. Fellows will also add new skills to their activist toolkits as they consider the politics of institutionalizing change. For the finale event, small groups of fellows will each pitch their ideas for the systems of the future.

During the first session on September 21, JHF President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein set the stage for the fellowship, highlighting insights for beginning an activism journey. Dr. Feinstein overviewed the history of JHF and she gave a candid appraisal of the [Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative's](#) journey to address patient safety and reduce medical error in healthcare settings.

The Salk Fellowship's second session focused on taking note of the lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic. This session featured guest speaker Vincent Mor, PhD, MEd, Florence Pirce Grant university professor and professor of health services, policy and practice, from Brown University's School of Public Health. Additionally, Morgan Overton, MSW, JHF's community engagement and policy associate, presented and facilitated a discussion on the intersection of health equity and public health, highlighting Pittsburgh's "outsized" inequities for Black women. This prompted the fellows to discuss what a rebuilt equitable public health system should look like.

Future sessions extending through November will highlight how principles of behavioral science can help us effect behavior change, gain insight from effective advocacy strategies by and for people with autism, examine the ways that regional, statewide, and national public health should be reimagined, leverage lessons from the history of HIV/AIDS in public health, and explore the ways technology could disrupt health care and public health for the better.



*For introductions during the first session, the 2021 Salk Fellows each selected a public health innovator and shared why they admire these public health heroes (pictured here).*



## PA Perinatal Quality Collaborative Awards UPMC Hamot \$15,000 to Address Maternal Hypertension

The PA Perinatal Quality Collaborative (PA PQC) has awarded UPMC Hamot the \$15,000 PA AIM Innovation Award to develop solutions for maternal hypertension. This is part of the PA PQC's AIM Severe Hypertension and Disparities initiative to improve severe hypertension treatment and reduce racial/ethnic disparities in pregnancy.

As an action arm of the PA Maternal Mortality Review Committee, the PA PQC is [coordinating the rollout](#) of the PA [Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health](#)

[\(AIM\)](#) initiative, which launched in September 2020. The PA PQC recruited 19 PA PQC birth hospitals to participate in the PA AIM initiative and implement the PA AIM Planning Task Force's [PA AIM Bundle](#), which supports sites in providing effective, equitable, anti-racist, and respectful care.



With the PA AIM Innovation Award funding, UPMC Hamot will work with UPMC Magee to develop a data dashboard to reduce the time to severe hypertension treatment by race/ethnicity. UPMC Hamot will implement strategies to improve this measure, with an overall goal of reducing the rate of severe maternal morbidity among those with eclampsia/preeclampsia by 25% and reducing the racial/ethnic disparities for that measure by 25% by August 2022.

AIM is a national data-driven maternal safety and quality improvement initiative that is managed by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and funded by the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA).

## Local Teen Mental Health Partners Amplify Youth Voice

*This is the second article in a series on the JHF Teen Mental Health Collaborative grantees and their work to provide mental wellness and peer supports to Allegheny County youth during the COVID-19 pandemic, aided by a total \$318,000 in emergency grants from JHF. Click [here](#) to read the first article in the series.*

Over the past year, member organizations of the Teen Mental Health Collaborative, convened by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, empowered Allegheny County youth to become advocates for teen mental health, and to communicate their experiences in creative ways. The organizations' programs ranged from youth voice projects to youth ambassador training programs, and they provided outlets of expression during the stressful pandemic.



*Gwen's Girls youth participants recorded a podcast episode on anxiety.*

[Steel Smiling's](#) Steel Thriving Youth Program provided a virtual space for Black, high school-aged young people to cope with the combined stressors of the COVID-19 pandemic, police brutality, and anti-Black racism. Throughout the program, youth engaged in reflective discussions, role-playing scenarios, and weekly journal prompts related to the following topics: relaxation, anger management, anxiety, conflict resolution, racial trauma, and assertive communication.

[Gwen's Girls](#) teen ambassadors created a podcast, [Keeping It Real While We Heal](#), on the meaning of mental wellness. The youth participants appreciated the space to share and educate their peers about mental health. Their lived experiences with mental health informed the content of the podcast episodes, which are centered around mental health topics relevant to teens, including depression and anxiety. The podcast helped to reduce isolation experienced by youth and promoted accessing mental health information using a peer-to-peer format.

The [Homewood Children's Village](#) (HCV) convened small group discussions among their Scholar Project high school students to understand how their mental health was affected throughout the pandemic. HCV staff addressed negative effects on academic success and offered support. HCV also held Youth Listening Sessions as part of out-of-school time programs for high school youth to understand these challenges. In addition, HCV engaged with youth during a Teen Mental Health Day organized by Dr. Khirsten Lanese Scott of the University of Pittsburgh and HYPE Media at the [Everyday Café](#) in Homewood in spring 2021. This served as a space for teens to connect with one another in person during the online school year. For post-secondary students, HCV held monthly meetings and discussed the challenges of attending college online, how the pandemic impacted youth not in school and youth's post-secondary planning goals. Additionally, this group met to share ways to reduce stress while preparing for final exams in April.

At the Jewish Community Center of Pittsburgh, the [JCC Second Floor program](#) organized a teen wellness committee that encourages teens to lead efforts to promote wellness in the JCC physical spaces and in the broader community. Teen committee members in 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades developed initiatives focused on wellness experiences that align with their interests. In 2020, the wellness committee led a virtual DIY Self-Care Night that included programming to promote wellness, connection, and fun, including mental health trivia, and making bath bombs and stress balls as craft activities. The 2021 Wellness Committee kicks off in October, and teens can register [here](#).

## JHF Sponsors Art Show Featuring Local Teens' Work on Pandemic, Mental Health

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation was pleased to support a teen art exhibition, hosted by local partners [The Second Floor at the JCC](#), the [Friendship Circle of Pittsburgh](#), the [Center of Life](#), and the [10.27 Healing Partnership](#). The exhibition, *Connected Through Covid: Our Experience*, features art that communicates the struggles, fears, anxieties, and even the bright spots teens experienced throughout this unprecedented time brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. *Connected Through Covid: Our Experience* draws inspiration from [#HeartsTogether: The Art of Rebuilding](#), a community beautification project surrounding Tree of Life Or L'Simcha.



Maggie Feinstein moderates a panel with youth artists Talia Rosenthal and Annie Yonas.

During summer 2021, the community organizations gathered with a group of teens and young adults on the rooftop of Friendship Circle for several print media art-making workshops, during which the 10.27 Healing Partnership led the teens in conversation on their experiences of navigating the pandemic and their mental health.

The organizations created the exhibition to showcase the artwork created during these workshops, to celebrate the teens' creativity and to share their perspectives with the broader community. The exhibition also featured films by teen filmmakers, created through a JHF-funded University of Pittsburgh [research project](#), which explored the teens' perspectives on stressors in their daily lives.





*The collaborative art piece organized by Kiyomi Knox of Center of Life*

The exhibition, hosted at the JCC Robinson Building, opened with a September 12 event and ran through September 30. The opening event included a panel with youth artists Talia Rosenthal and Annie Yonas, moderated by Maggie Feinstein, the director of the 10/27 Healing Partnership. Music artists Shoota Shak and Big Kat, who are teen participants of Center of Life's KRUNK Movement program, performed at the event.

An onsite art-making collaboration, organized by Kiyomi Knox of Center of Life, accompanies the exhibition. During the grand opening, attendees were invited to contribute to the group art piece. Artists Avi Diamond, Savannah Graham, and Yafa Schnadower contributed creative guidance to the exhibition.

The art is digitized in an online gallery [here](#).

## Terry Fulmer: Pioneering Age-Friendly Care

An internationally recognized expert in geriatrics, Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN, has risen to prominence in the fields of nursing, academia, health care, and philanthropy. Having received widespread recognition for her research and clinical work, and as a thought leader in geriatric nursing, Fulmer's outspoken advocacy for older adults resulted in her positions as the first nurse on the board of the American Geriatrics Society, and the first nurse to serve as the president of the Gerontological Society of America. She has held numerous academic appointments, including deanships at New York University, Northeastern, and Columbia. Fulmer now serves as the president of [The John A. Hartford Foundation](#), based in New York City, where she leads national grantmaking and programs to improve the care of older adults and support for their caregivers, an opportunity she describes as "humbling, motivating, and gratifying." Her history with the foundation goes back to 1996, with a grant to NYU, to establish The John A. Hartford Foundation Institute for Geriatric Nursing, which Fulmer co-directed. Now in her sixth year as president of the foundation, Fulmer remains a staunch advocate for older adults and the advancements needed to provide them with age-friendly care.



*Dr. Terry Fulmer*

Fulmer's family includes an array of nurses – her mother, aunts, sisters, niece, and daughter. Her passion for helping older adults was not far behind her start in nursing. At her first job working in the general medical unit at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, she found herself drawn to older adult patients, many of whom had survived the ordeals of cardiac arrest or chemotherapy but were left with unchecked disability. She quickly found her calling in caring for older adults. Even after taking on new roles in academia and policy work, Fulmer remains a clinician, cherishing bedside interactions during her visits to Mt. Sinai in New York as an attending nurse, which continued up until the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. She says, "I always learn from my time with patients, and I wish I could be in two places at once."

Now a leader in the world of philanthropy, she is passionate about examining the multitude of challenges and opportunities in identifying and funding the best solutions for the care of older adults – including a notable partnership between The John A. Hartford Foundation, the Henry L. Hillman Foundation and the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF). Launched in July 2021, the [Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home Initiative](#) aims to reexamine a model originated by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the National Institute on Aging in the 1980s. The project has great potential to improve care outcomes and staff morale in nursing facilities while reducing care costs, Fulmer says, especially in today's era of new and improved technology.

The initiative will embed The John A. Hartford Foundation's Age-Friendly Health Systems approach, which Fulmer spearheaded and which was developed by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, into the teaching nursing homes framework. This combination, Fulmer says, will establish "a vehicle for change that is constant across all the locations of care in the project, and therefore we'll be able to measure and report what has improved." The goal is to test the model in Pennsylvania and determine how it might spread and scale in other states. Pennsylvania was selected for its top nursing schools, leadership capacity, and engaged foundations. In launching this project, Fulmer especially values the partnership of JHF President and CEO Karen Feinstein, and COO and Chief Program Officer Nancy Zionts – and she shares their Pittsburgh pride, as the city is her birthplace and the place she called home until the age of three.

In her career, Fulmer has tackled many issues facing older adults: lack of age-friendly care, elder abuse, and, most recently, COVID-19. She served on the independent Coronavirus Commission for Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes established to advise the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, helping to address the additional challenges of the pandemic and how it exacerbated other gaps within the long-term care system, with the long-term care workforce crisis most pressing among them. "We can't continue to pay nursing assistants and home care staff minimum wage and think that they're going to be able to choose this work. It's hard work...We have to do more to figure out how to bring joy to work and support these frontline workers."

Despite these challenges, Fulmer stays motivated by thinking of the older adults who benefit from her work. "It's very easy to be motivated in my field, but also in my work as the president of a foundation," Fulmer says. "Foundations have the incredible opportunity to help develop and implement pioneering ideas and to think about ways to positively influence the field."

## Pittsburgh Business Times Features Jewish Healthcare Foundation Grants

In a September 3 article, the Pittsburgh Business Times published an article on the Jewish Healthcare Foundation's grants, totaling \$517,000, for the UPMC Eye and Ear Institute Digital Twin Eye project, for a teen mental health drop-in space at Friendship Circle, and for teen mental health projects through the PA Youth Advocacy Network and Teen Mental Health Collaborative. Read more [here](#).



Philanthropy & Nonprofits

**Jewish Healthcare Foundation grants benefit vision, teen programs**

## Morgan Overton Testifies at PGH City Council for Pregnancy Loss Leave

Pittsburgh City Councilman Bobby Wilson has introduced an ordinance to extend paid bereavement leave in the event of pregnancy loss up to three days, which the Pittsburgh City Council passed. The City of Pittsburgh is the first government in the U.S. to offer such paid leave. Women's Health Activist Movement Global Community Engagement and Policy Associate Morgan Overton, MSW, testified in support of the legislation during the Pittsburgh City Council Meeting on September 8. Watch Overton's testimony [here](#).



*Morgan Overton*

## Local Breweries Host Fundraiser for Women's Health Activist Movement Global

Pittsburgh-based [Mindful Brewing Company](#) and the Pittsburgh Brewery Diversity Council are hosting a fundraiser event to support the [Women's Health Activist Movement Global](#) (WHAMglobal), with proceeds from sales of a new entry in the She Knows Beer campaign. She Knows Beer was created as a collaborative series of beers that celebrate women and female-presenting people in the beer industry. Mindful Brewing Company will host the launch party at their brewery in Castle Shannon on October 17 from 2:00-6:00pm. For more information, click [here](#).



## Mental Health and Birth Trauma Training October 27<sup>th</sup>

Funded by a 2020 year-end grant from the Jewish Healthcare Foundation via the [Women's Health Activist Movement Global](#), Forward Allies will host Saleemah McNeil of the Oshun Family Center for a training for birth workers on the Intersection of Mental Health and Birth Trauma on October 27th, from 11am-1 pm. The event will be held on Zoom. Please see the link for details on registration as well as more information about the event: [Eventbrite registration link](#)





## JHF Long-term Care COVID-19 Documentary Selected for FlickFair

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation is pleased to announce that our short documentary, *What COVID-19 Exposed in Long-Term Care*, has been selected for the October [FlickFair](#) online film festival. This is the fifth film festival selection for the documentary, after screenings by WQED and at nationwide senior health and aging organizations.

The 20-minute documentary explores the causes behind the COVID-19 crisis in long-term care facilities across the United States, weaving the stories of long-term care experts, journalists, employees and family members to present a comprehensive perspective. JHF hopes the documentary continues to resonate with audiences across the country to inspire positive change and action for long-term care.



## AIDS Free Pittsburgh Shared Community Resources at PGH Black Pride

[AIDS Free Pittsburgh](#) (AFP) joined the Pittsburgh Black Pride event in August to share information on HIV/AIDS resources. AFP has sponsored and participated in Pittsburgh Black Pride events every year since 2015. This year's event combined a Health Fair and Community BBQ for a one-day event in Schenley Park. Allies for Health + Wellbeing provided HIV/STD testing, and UPMC provided COVID-19 vaccines.



*The AIDS Free Pittsburgh table at PGH Black Pride*

## AIDS Free Pittsburgh to Sponsor Mon Valley HIV/AIDS Virtual Walk

AIDS Free Pittsburgh (AFP) is pleased to sponsor the upcoming 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Mon Valley HIV/AIDS Awareness Walk, to be held virtually on Saturday, October 2. For more information, click [here](#).



## Youth Advocate Authors PublicSource Activism Essay

Youth Advocate Connor Dalgaard, a senior at West Allegheny High School and a member of the PA Youth Advocacy Network, authored a first-person essay on his teen mental health activism journey and experiences with the PA Youth Advocacy Network. Read the essay in PublicSource here:

[Activism beyond trends: How I went from a teenage reposter to a real world advocate](#)



Connor Dalgaard  
Image credit: PublicSource

## Carole Bailey Named Outstanding CEO

Congratulations to Jewish Healthcare Foundation Board member Carole Bailey, CPA, who is the winner of a 2021 Fox Rothschild Outstanding CEOs and Top Executives award, [announced in the Pittsburgh Business Times](#), for her work as CEO at [East End Cooperative Ministry](#). Read more [here](#).



*Carole Bailey*  
*Image credit: Pittsburgh Business Times*