



October 2021 | Jewish Healthcare Foundation news, events, milestones, & more

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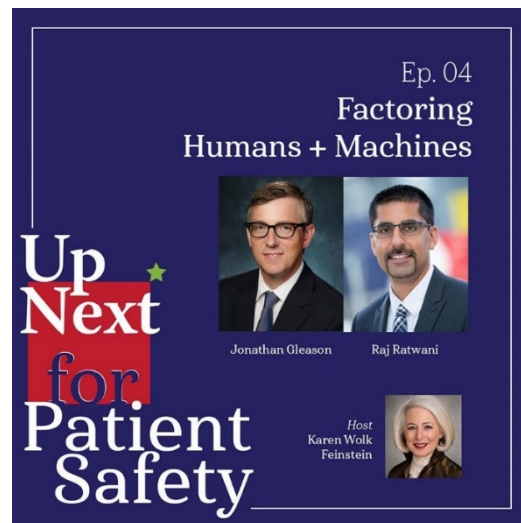
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New Episode in Up Next for Patient Safety Podcast

[New episode, Factoring Humans + Machines, available now!](#)

Why do we so often blame individuals for errors that are actually the result of flawed technology? How can we redesign health care to reduce the likelihood of human errors in the future? Join host Karen Wolk Feinstein and special guests Dr. Jonathan L. Gleason, executive vice president, chief clinical officer, and endowed James D and Mary Jo Danella chief quality officer at Jefferson Health, and Dr. Raj Ratwani, vice president of scientific affairs at the MedStar Health Research Institute, director of the MedStar Health National Center for Human Factors in Healthcare, and associate professor at the Georgetown University School of Medicine, as they explore how human factors engineering can be applied within health care to help humans and machines work better together.

Tune in to “Up Next for Patient Safety”, the podcast of the National Patient Safety Board, [here](#).



Full Court Press Team Examines Creative Design, Regulations, Ethics for Senior Care

On October 4, the Senior Living Full Court Press Team met to discuss regulatory, workforce, and ethical considerations in redesigning long-term care. The meeting built on previous discussions about new models for long-term care, considerations of barriers facing the senior care workforce, and the urgent need to revitalize careers in skilled nursing and long-term care.

The team viewed a presentation by [Diana Anderson, MD, M.Arch, ACHA](#), who is known as a “dochitect” (a physician and an architect). As a “dochitect,” Dr.

Anderson combines educational and professional experience in both medicine and architecture, to truly link medical planning and working within the healthcare environment. Dr. Anderson has worked on hospital design projects within the United States, Canada, and Australia, specializing in medical planning of inpatient units, specifically environments for geriatric patients and intensive care units. During the presentation, Anderson shared insights on how physical design of a space affects the health of the people occupying it, especially for older people. She explained how simple factors like the color and reflectiveness of floor tiles can encourage or inhibit older patients from walking in hallways. Senior care can use design more extensively to improve quality of care, Dr.



Anderson said. For example, senior villages with their own private grocery stores and businesses, can enable dementia patients to safely engage in autonomous activities.

After Dr. Anderson's presentation, Jewish Healthcare Foundation COO/Chief Program Officer Nancy D. Zionts, MBA introduced a panel of advocates and providers, who shared their reactions to Pennsylvania's newly proposed changes to nursing home regulations. Panelists included Ann Torregrossa, JD, Executive Director PA Health Funders Collaborative, Bobbie Gray, MPA, Vice President, Care Communities Presbyterian SeniorCare, Mary Anne Foley, RN, MSN, Chief Operating Officer, Jewish Association on Aging, and Mary "Molly" Langford, MSN, CRNP, Senior Director of Clinical Practice, Genesis Health Care.

The panel discussed strategies for current challenges of providing long-term care, as well as opportunities for future improvements, such as revitalizing the long-term care workforce. This is an urgent concern, considering the increasing lifespan of Americans and the lack of stable career paths for long-term care workers. The panel expressed concern that the new proposed state regulations call for higher staffing ratios by shifting the burden to providers to recruit, retain, and pay for that workforce, which is experiencing dire shortages. Long-term care providers are already challenged to fill existing positions, and many facilities are choosing to exit the market for financial and operational reasons. This reduces the number of quality options for families and seniors and increases the urgency around resolving the long-term care workforce issue.

The team then discussed Pennsylvania's plans and their potential impact more broadly, as well as next steps for advocacy on the state and national levels. The Senior Living Full Court Press will next meet in November.

Independence Foundation Joins Teaching Nursing Home Project as Funder

[The Independence Foundation](#) has granted \$25,000 for the [Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home Initiative](#), which will support the pilot project to trial and validate a better model of residential care for the Commonwealth's frailest residents. The new funding will partially support the participation of the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing in the pilot. The Independence Foundation now joins The John A. Hartford Foundation, the Henry L. Hillman Foundation, and JHF as funders for the initiative.



Independence Foundation Executive Director Susan Sherman was a part of the original teaching nursing home initiative in the 1980s, on which the new pilot is built. Sherman is an active participant in the Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home Initiative and serves on the initiative's national and statewide advisory.

JHF Receives UPMC Senior Services Community Champion Award for Statewide COVID-19 Response

The UPMC Senior Services Community Champion Award, given annually to recognize exceptional organizational leadership to improve the lives of seniors, was awarded to the Regional Response Health Collaborative Program (RRHCP) of western Pennsylvania. JHF was a lead educator for the RRHCP, which guided skilled nursing and assisted living/personal care facilities in western Pennsylvania to keep seniors safe from COVID-19. JHF's work contributed to over 90 leadership meetings and led 40 educational webinars with 120 speakers for over 7,000 attendees. In addition, JHF curated over 1,500 online resources for facility leaders on the Tomorrow's HealthCare™ platform, which had over 3,500 logins.



From left: Dr. Emily Jaffe, Nancy Zionts, A.J. Harper, and April Kane

During the 13th Annual Celebrating Senior Champions Dinner and Auction on October 14, three partners of the program accepted the award on behalf of the group: Nancy Zionts, MBA, chief operating officer and chief program officer for the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, Emily Jaffe, MD, MBA, vice president and executive medical director of Home and Community Services for Allegheny Health Network and a JHF Board and FCP member, and A. J. Harper, a long-time PRHI Board member and president of the Healthcare Council of Western Pennsylvania.

For more than 30 years, JHF has championed quality aging and long-term care. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the JHF staff and Board aimed to accomplish as much as possible to support the community and promote health for seniors across Pennsylvania. After the PA Department of Human Services called on JHF to participate in the ESCCP (Educational Support and Clinical Coaching program), JHF again partnered with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other key healthcare organizations and health systems across the Commonwealth for RRHCP. JHF hosted educational webinars on 40 different topics for the program, engaging over 1,800 facilities. JHF also created online resources, educational toolkits, and real-time opportunities for RRHC field staff from across the Commonwealth to learn from each other. During its seven months of existence, the RRHCP implemented universal COVID-19 testing and on-site visits across 100% of facilities and completed 13,900 missions for providers to conduct assessment, testing, and consultation for COVID-19. A more limited version of RRHCP was then developed and named the Regional Congregate Care Assistance Teams (RCAT) program.

JHF is grateful for the partnership of UPMC, Allegheny Health Network, the Healthcare Council of Western Pennsylvania, the PA Departments of Health and Human Services, and the JHF Seniors and Aging Team for their ongoing dedication and support.

Foundations Present Teaching Nursing Home Initiative at Grantmakers in Aging

During a Grantmakers in Aging meeting on October 14, Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) COO and Chief Program Officer Nancy D. Zionts, MBA, presented on JHF's work to bolster nursing home care and confront challenges facing nursing home residents and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. The session highlighted three initiatives addressing nursing home quality that represent how different kinds of funders – local, regional, and national – can work together to address the critical policy challenges amplified during the pandemic.



With The John A. Hartford Foundation Senior Program Officer Amy Berman, RN, LHD, FAAN, Zionts presented on the [Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home Initiative](#), which launched in June 2021. The Jewish Healthcare Foundation, the John A. Hartford Foundation, the Henry L. Hillman Foundation, and new funder Independence Foundation are investing just under \$1 million to pilot a new program among skilled nursing facilities, local health systems, the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Pennsylvania, and Pennsylvania State University. Zionts then shared details of JHF's Senior Residential Living Full Court Press Team's work to explore creative new models and the most actionable solutions for seniors and the senior care workforce. Zionts also screened a clip from JHF's short documentary, *What COVID-19 Exposed in Long-Term Care*, which premiered in February 2021 and has been selected for five film festivals.

PA Geriatrics Society Fall Program Slated for November 10

In collaboration with the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, the PA Geriatrics Society – Western Division will hold their fall program, *The Problem of Alzheimer's: How It Became a Crisis & What We Need to Do*, on November 10. The program will feature Jason Karlawish, MD, co-director of the Penn Memory Center, physician, and author. To register, visit www.pagswd.org



Dr. Jason Karlawish

Aging Team Hosts Webinar on Infection Control in the Homecare Setting

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of infection control within health care. For most of the pandemic, virtual visits became commonplace, but with care delivery transitioning back to the home and community settings, it became apparent that refresher education on proper mitigation strategies was needed for practitioners in these areas. In Pennsylvania, the Department of Human Services' Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) has the responsibility to ensure that the staff who go into the homes of vulnerable persons living in the community with developmental disabilities have access to up-to-date training during this pandemic.



To achieve this, ODP reached out to the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) to partner in providing an educational webinar for support coordinators and in-home and community support providers. On October 28, JHF and ODP presented the webinar "Safety During In-Person Visits: Infection Mitigation Strategies for Support Coordinators and In-Home and Community Support Providers" to more than 800 participants from across the Commonwealth. JHF Chief Operating Officer and Chief Program Officer Nancy Zionts, MBA, and Senior Quality Improvement Specialist Stacie Bonenberger, MOT, OTR/L, coordinated the webinar. The webinar featured Project Manager and Nurse Senior Quality Improvement Specialist Maureen Saxon-Gioia, MSHSA, BSN, RN, whose presentation included practical tools for in-home workers, families, and clients of ODP. Saxon-Gioia recently rejoined the JHF staff after spending six years working in home care, the last of which was during the pandemic, where infection mitigation was a key focus of her work. JHF has hosted over 40 webinars during the past year for staff working in long-term care and skilled nursing.

Advanced Analytics Conference Convenes Patient Safety Leaders in Utah

In October, Jewish Healthcare Foundation President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD and Chief Policy Officer Robert Ferguson, MPH attended the *Improving Patient Safety with Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Analytics* invitation-only conference hosted by the University of Utah Division of Epidemiology and the VA Salt Lake City Informatics, Decision-Enhancement, and Analytic Sciences (IDEAS) Center and funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The conference brought together



Karen Wolk Feinstein presents on the NPSB.

leaders in health care, technology, health policy, and patient safety to create a critical mass of diverse stakeholders to advance leveraging health IT to significantly improve patient safety on a national level, develop a top ten opportunity list for action and build a national roadmap for future work in this area that includes paths for each group of stakeholders, and create a national roadmap for publication.

The conference included rapid presentations from funders, providers, payors/employers, developers, policymakers, and researchers, who leveraged their combined experience to identify new opportunities to improve patient safety with current and upcoming technologies.

Dr. Feinstein presented on the National Patient Safety Board (NPSB) proposal to conference attendees, including the ongoing NPSB media campaign, which received very positive feedback. The conference was a key opportunity for Dr. Feinstein to connect with other patient safety leaders as the NPSB Advocacy Coalition continues to grow.

Pgh Biz Times Op-Ed by Karen Wolk Feinstein Features Center for Health Care Safety and Technology Proposal

On October 1, the Pittsburgh Business Times published an op-ed by Jewish Healthcare Foundation President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, calling for local leaders to combine Pittsburgh's resources in meds, eds, and tech to form an interdisciplinary, collaborative Center for Health Care Safety and Technology. This new organization would address medical error (rates of which are rising nationally) and create safer healthcare encounters for patients. Read the article [here](#).



HEALTH CARE

**Wolk Feinstein's Viewpoint:
Rallying the region to protect
patients from medical errors**

Teen Mental Health Collaborative Grantees Bolster Mental Health Services During COVID-19 Pandemic

This is the third 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 emergency grants from JHF. Click [here](#) to read the most recent articles in the series.

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) has convened local community-based organizations that interface with teens in a Teen Mental Health Collaborative, to explore ways they can promote teen mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. Several member organizations embedded mental wellness programming within their existing services, focused on peer support, and bolstered counseling services.



ARYSE students participate in an After School Club program

In the 2020-2021 school year, the After School Club at [ARYSE](#) (Alliance for Refugee Youth Support and Education) provided dozens of refugee youth living in Pittsburgh with virtual homework help, enrichment, and mentorship. Support from JHF provided ARYSE with the resources to have interpreters at every session, ensuring youth at all stages of English language development were fully able to engage, participate, and develop meaningful relationships. Even after a full school day online, ARYSE youth eagerly attended the After School Club 3-5 evenings per week, where they found a strong sense of community amid the isolation of the pandemic.

[Boys and Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania](#) (BGCWPA) focused on increasing social connection opportunities for teens, both in-person or virtual. BGCWPA reached over 200 teens through their virtual Teen Outreach Program (TOP), a social and emotional learning program that aims to build teens' skills, strengthen their relationships, and guide them in developing a positive sense of self. TOP is a unique combination of engaging curriculum and Community Service Learning (CSL), consisting of weekly meetings where the youth participate in youth-led, peer-to-peer discussions about a range of issues and topics. Their end-of-summer Teen Bash brought together over 50 teens for in-person social activities.

[The Friendship Circle](#) engaged teens on FC Crew meetups led by their Teen Leadership Board to promote connection and social support for teens of all abilities throughout the pandemic. The meetups were loosely structured, and groups would start off by sharing highs and lows, then carry on natural conversation as any friend group would. Every meetup was overseen by Friendship Circle staff, so that they were able to cultivate relationships with teen participants and offer resources. One participant shared, "Crew makes me feel happy and welcomed. I feel accepted and like I can share my struggles and challenges and good things. I wouldn't change a thing [about FC Crew]."

[The Neighborhood Academy](#) offers a holistic model to support over 140 students who otherwise would not be able to afford a college-preparatory education. To help these students achieve their academic goals, The Neighborhood Academy works to create a school community and culture that acts as a home away from home for students, helping them to see school as a welcoming place and encouraging collective responsibility for a positive school culture. A major part of supportive services offered is mental health counseling from their Counseling Department, comprised of two full-time staff. During the COVID-19 pandemic, these services were enhanced by offering in-home assessments and counseling supports, providing external resources when necessary, and launching a counseling group for middle school students.

[Repair the World](#) provided 35 teens in their PeerCorps program with resources, service and learning opportunities, and community-building grounded in Jewish values to support their mental and emotional wellness. By developing a learning curriculum around identity and cultural competency with an external educator, Repair the World provided a space for teens to better understand their identities, including their identities as Jews, and empowered them through their identity development and challenges.

UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh conducted outreach with youth involved in the juvenile court system without a mental health diagnosis to offer the *My Health and Wellness Plan* virtual needs assessment, connect teens with mental health resources, and teach skills that enhance resiliency through a yoga intervention. The assessment enabled the social work team to engage youth in a dialogue about their views of mental health, help them identify their own strengths and coping skills, and address stigma.

[UpStreet](#)'s peer mentoring program paired similarly aged students in a text-based supportive relationship. Mentors are vetted and trained before they are matched with their mentee. Text-based peer mentoring normalizes receiving support for difficult experiences, helping youth develop resilience, and reducing the stigma of seeking mental health support. It is also a developmentally appropriate and easily accessible way for teens and adolescents to connect. UpStreet is always looking for more people to join the program, and youth seeking a mentor can find the application [here](#).

PA Youth Advocacy Presents During Community Outreach Events

Members of the PA Youth Advocacy Network were busy conducting outreach events across Pennsylvania in October. This comes as the Network develops an agenda of teen mental health policy priorities, spearheaded by youth advocates and the Jewish Healthcare Foundation's (JHF) Adolescent Behavioral Health Team staff, and aims to engage more youth advocates.

For World Mental Health Day on October 10, Jewish Healthcare Foundation Policy Assistant Sarah Pesi, MSPPM and youth advocate Connor Dalgaard (senior, West Allegheny High School) presented on Network opportunities during a Friendship Circle Pittsburgh teen gathering.



Sarah Pesi presents at the PA Career Tech Administrators School Counselor Conference.

On October 21, Pesi presented on the PA Youth Advocacy Network for the PA Career Tech Administrators School Counselor Conference in State College, PA. Pesi conducted a listening session on the attendees' perspectives on teen mental health priorities, especially increasing the number of school counselors in schools. These discussions will help to inform a more comprehensive policy agenda that represents the views of stakeholders across the Commonwealth.

Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative Practice Transformation Specialist Carol Frazer, LPC and JHF Program Manager Deborah Murdoch, MPH also joined Network member Beaver County Youth Advocates Program's After Dark event on October 19th event to encourage youth to complete a survey of the PA Youth Advocacy Network's priorities. Initial responses indicate that the priorities align with Beaver County youth's perspectives on teen mental health.

WHAMglobal Partners with Local Breweries for Fundraisers

Mindful Brewing Company, a Pittsburgh brewery, is participating in the [She Knows Beer collaboration campaign](#) and has selected the Women's Health Activist Movement Global (WHAMglobal) as their nonprofit partner. They are brewing a unique beer – a **Pomegranate Sour, named Persephone's Prevail** – that has been curated by the women who work at Mindful and will help raise awareness of and funds for WHAMglobal. Mindful hosted an October 17 release party to celebrate the campaign at their Castle Shannon location. Jewish Healthcare Foundation and WHAMglobal staff and community members enjoyed a time of fellowship together and entertainment by local musician Chandra Rhyme and DJ Femi.



WHAMglobal Community Engagement and Policy Associate Morgan Overton speaks during the Mindful Brewing event.



JHF staff and friends gathered during the October 17 Mindful Brewing release party in Castle Shannon.

10% of all **Persephone's Prevail** beer sales will be donated to WHAMglobal. This includes cans, draft pours, outside sales, and merchandise sales. Mindful are the 3rd local Pittsburgh Brewery to launch a She Knows Beer collaboration, and WHAMglobal is honored to be selected by their team.

There will be a second event, a dine-in fundraiser night, on **Thursday, November 4 from 5:00 – 10:00 pm** also at Mindful Brewing Company in Castle Shannon. There is no formal entertainment or agenda, but 10% of any food & beer sales will benefit WHAMglobal that evening.

Representative Austin Davis Supports Mon Valley and Pennsylvania Through Pandemic

During a crisis like a pandemic, communities need leaders who are engaged, compassionate, and collaborative – and Pennsylvania Representative Austin Davis is one of Pittsburgh’s best examples. The current chair of the Allegheny County House Democratic Delegation, Rep. Davis is a lifelong resident of McKeesport and a long-time public servant, having spent six years working for the county executive’s office before being elected as a state representative. He is invested in the health and wellbeing of his community in the Mon Valley and has been a key partner of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) in advocating for public health. His work, especially to support women and children, has uplifted many across the Pittsburgh region and Pennsylvania through this difficult and unprecedented time.



Representative Austin Davis

Rep. Davis’ experience growing up and working in McKeesport has shown him both the challenges and opportunities that accompany the work of revitalizing a community, especially with improving the health of women and children living in the region. To promote maternal health, Rep. Davis wants to address high maternal death rates, particularly among Black women, as well as remove barriers to healthcare access and support culturally competent, nondiscriminatory practices within the healthcare system. “Partnering with the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, our healthcare providers, our hospitals, our doctors, as well as elected officials, we can come together and find some policy solutions around these issues,” Rep. Davis said.

He points to the critical role of Pennsylvania’s Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and how he, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, and regional leaders across PA have been working to increase enrollment in WIC and connections to wraparound supports for families. WIC is “an incredibly important program to low-income people in our region,” says Rep. Davis. “Particularly here in the Mon Valley, we have a high number of families that are eligible for WIC.”

“Dr. Deborah Bogen has articulated a wonderful vision, as the new Allegheny County Health Department Director, for where she’d like to take WIC,” Rep. Davis said. We need to ensure WIC’s presence in communities of eligible families and educate the public about the WIC Program, he says.

Rep. Davis is also committed to supporting the next generation of health activists. During JHF’s 2020 Salk Health Activist Fellowship, he spoke with recent graduates and young professionals about maternal health issues. “It was wonderful to see so many young people taking up public health as their career. It really made me hopeful for the future, in terms of healthcare policy and in terms of actual health care. I learned a lot about what some of these young people are doing. It was really an opportunity for me to hear from them, what they needed from government, how we could be more responsive partners,” he said.

Rep. Davis' most immediate plans are to help his region recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. He has already helped to organize vaccine clinics and access to COVID-19 testing, and to ensure Mon Valley residents had equitable access to these services. As COVID-19 vaccination rates in the Mon Valley remain relatively low, Rep. Davis is encouraging the public to get vaccinated. "From a government standpoint, we're doing everything we can to convince people, we just need people to be open to [the vaccine] now."

JHF is pleased to have worked alongside Rep. Davis to promote health across the region and the Commonwealth. On his connection to the Foundation, Rep. Davis said, "The Jewish Healthcare Foundation is a phenomenal partner here in our community... They've been critical partners in terms of my advocacy and my work, but they've just done phenomenal things in our region to improve health outcomes, particularly among low-income families."

Jewish Healthcare Foundation Welcomes New Staff Member Emma Seagle

In October, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation welcomed Emma Seagle, MPH, the new program officer working with the HIV/AIDS team to support JHF's Ryan White Part B contract, the statewide Minority AIDS Initiative, and AIDS Free Pittsburgh. Through this role, she assists in providing programmatic and technical support to grantees, as well as assists in research, planning, and evaluation for these initiatives. Emma has previously worked in multiple public health capacities at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Georgia Department of Public Health, focusing her work on vaccines, refugee health, and infectious diseases. Emma also served as an AmeriCorps member in the Pittsburgh community working to combat food insecurity and implement school-based health initiatives. She earned her bachelor's degree in geography and biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her MPH in epidemiology from Emory University.



*Emma Seagle, MPH, HIV/AIDS
program officer*

Eradicate Hate Global Summit Convenes Leaders to Explore Tangible Solutions

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation was a proud sponsor of the inaugural [Eradicate Hate Global Summit](#), which gathered hundreds of attendees from all over the world both at the Pittsburgh Convention Center and virtually on October 18-20, 2021. The event was born out of the Tree of Life massacre that took place in Pittsburgh in October 2018, motivated by anti-Semitic and anti-immigrant hatred resulting in the largest loss of life in an anti-Semitic event in U.S. history. Each year, around the time of the anniversary of the Tree of Life massacre, the summit will reconvene.

The summit was formed to counter hate globally and bring together people and organizations who are working towards deliverable solutions to combat hate, prevent hate crimes, and provide justice for the victims of such crimes. To foster these solutions, the summit will launch an ongoing project based in Pittsburgh to generate solutions for countering hate. The multi-disciplinary Collaboratory Against Hate – Research and Action Center, a collaboration between Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh, will drive this effort. At each annual summit, working groups of this project will present the results of their year-long work and will plot the specific ongoing work for the year to come.

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation is proud to be a sponsor of this initiative and congratulates the summit organizers, especially Laura Ellsworth, Partner-in-Charge of Global Community Service Initiatives at Jones Day, for their commitment to eradicating hate.

A [commemoration](#) organized by the 10.27 Healing Partnership took place on Wednesday, Oct. 27, at the trees planted at the intersection of Hobart Street and Prospect Drive in Schenley Park in memory of the 11 victims of the Tree of Life massacre.



Maggie Feinstein, director of the 10.27 Healing Partnership, joined a panel on Trauma Informed Care for Survivors of Extremism during the Eradicate Hate Summit.

JHF and WHAMglobal Partner with Rep. Morgan Cephas' Office for Birthing a Movement Event November 4

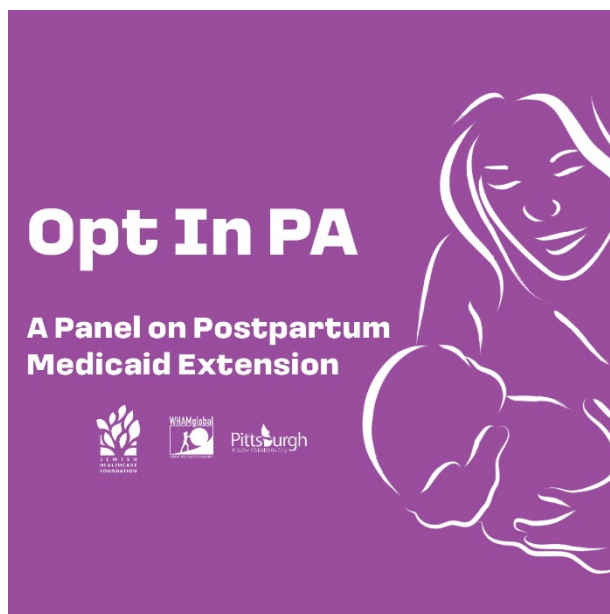
The Jewish Healthcare Foundation and Women's Health Activist Movement Global (WHAMglobal) are partnering with State Representative Morgan Cephas' office for the annual Birthing a Movement event series. This year's event, **Opt in PA: A Panel on Postpartum Medicaid Extension**, will focus on Pennsylvania opting in to extend postpartum Medicaid. The event will be held virtually on Thursday, November 4th from 12 - 1:30pm.

President Biden's American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 included a provision that gives states a new option to extend Medicaid coverage from 60 days to 1 year postpartum. The new option can take effect beginning April 1, 2022 and would be available for five years.

Medicaid covers almost half of births nationally, and 35% of births in Pennsylvania as of 2019. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, pregnancy-related mortality and morbidity is more prevalent during the postpartum period, and impacts Black and Native American women three times higher. Conditions that contribute to maternal mortality and morbidity – such as hypertension, depression, and cardiovascular disease require longer-term care. Medicaid coverage up to a year postpartum would provide access to preventative services, and a continuity of care.

The event will feature opening remarks from **Pennsylvania State Representative Morgan Cephas**, 192nd Legislative District (Philadelphia), with panelists **Iyanna Bridges**, Founder & Owner of The Birthing Hut, **Ashley Buefort**, Community Health Advocate at Healthy Start, **Jessica Coles**, Community Health Advocate at Healthy Start, and **Rochelle Jackson**, Founder & Director of the Black Women's Policy Agenda.

Click [here](#) to register and enter a t-shirt raffle!



JHF Supports Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh Free Clinic

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation is privileged to support the [Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh Free Dental Clinic](#), an incredible display of generosity and commitment on the part of Pittsburgh's dental and vision medical communities held at the David L Lawrence Convention Center. JHF was most impressed with the team's commitment to assuring that those in need of vital dental and vision services were able to receive them from such qualified professionals, at no cost – even during this time of a pandemic. We commend the entire team and its clinical leaders including Daniel Pituch, DMD, MD.

Other sponsors include TeleTracking, The Oakledge Foundation, UPMC Health Plan, the Highmark Foundation, PNC, and the Mylan Foundation.



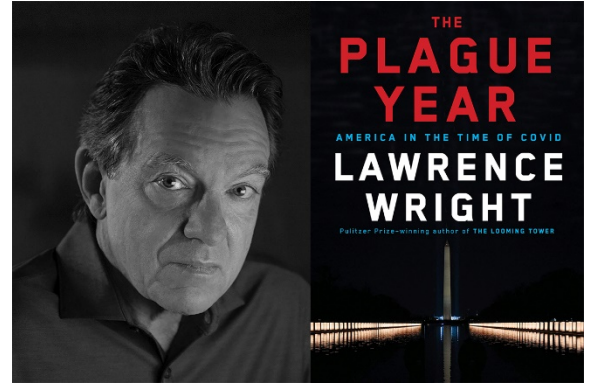
Patients wait to be seen at the dental clinic.



From left: Bill Strickland, Dr. Daniel Pituch, Karen Wolk Feinstein, Lawney Snyder and Chris Johnson

Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures Presents Lawrence Wright November 8

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation is excited to sponsor Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Lawrence Wright** for a lecture about his newest book, *The Plague Year: America in the Time of COVID* as part of the [Pittsburgh Arts & Lecture series](#). The *Plague Year* tells the story of COVID-19 in authoritative, galvanizing detail with the full drama of events on both a global and intimate scale, illuminating the medical, economic, political, and social ramifications of the pandemic. Excerpts of his book are available to read in *The New Yorker* [here](#). Get your tickets to the lecture releasing on **Monday, November 8th** [here](#).



More information about Lawrence Wright can be found here at his website (<https://www.lawrencewright.com/>).

Allegheny County Health Department Receives \$7.5M in CDC Funds

Jewish Healthcare Foundation Chief Policy Officer Robert Ferguson, MPH was interviewed for a KDKA Pittsburgh story on a \$7.5 million Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant to the Allegheny County Health Department over three years to boost their community health work and public health work. View the story here: [Community Health Workers In Allegheny County Bridge Gap Between Doctors And Patients](#)



Learn more here: [CDC awards \\$7.5 million grant to Allegheny County health department](#)

JHF Staff Member Advocates for Clean Air in Schools

Jewish Healthcare Foundation Communications Associate Alyce Palko volunteers with the Cambria-Somerset COVID-19 Task Force, a volunteer group of vaccine providers, healthcare providers, government officials, community- and faith-based organizations, and community members in southwestern PA, to promote COVID-19 mitigation strategies for local communities. As part of outreach to rural PA K-12 schools, Palko and the Task Force promoted strategies to improve air filtration in classrooms with [Corsi-Rosenthal box fan filters](#), a cost-effective device to filter COVID-19 virus from indoor air. One Cambria County school district took on the project, organizing their shop class students to build 100 of the units for each of their classrooms and offices.

Read more in Johnstown paper the Tribune-Democrat [here](#).



Portage School District students build Corsi-Rosenthal filters in shop class (Photo credit: 1889 Jefferson Center for Population Health)

Utah's October Snowfall

Karen Feinstein and Robert Ferguson encountered an unexpected two feet of snow while attending the *Improving Patient Safety with Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Analytics* conference in Utah.

