



## March 2022 | Jewish Healthcare Foundation news, events, milestones, & more

### Contents

Many of JHF's 2022 Priorities Highlighted in President Biden's State of the Union .....	2
Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home Advisory Group Examines Initiative Progress .....	4
2022 Teen Mental Health Advocacy Series Culminates in Action Plan Presentations .....	5
Pittsburgh: A Safer Childbirth City Partners Organize Maternal Health Training and Education Programs .....	7
Patient Safety Full Court Press Team Explores Global Healthcare Safety Models, Commercial Aviation Solutions .....	9
Health Careers Futures Board Discusses Community Health Worker Progress .....	10
Death and Dying Fellowship Concludes .....	11
JHF Responds to Ukraine Conflict .....	12
International Women's Forum Special Interest Group for Health Examines Global Approaches to Human Trafficking .....	13
International Women's Forum Pittsburgh Celebrates 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary .....	13
Karen Wolk Feinstein Joins PBT "Mentoring Monday" Event .....	13
Healthy Simulation Symposium to Welcome Karen Wolk Feinstein .....	14
JHF Hosts Donna Cooper, Health Systems and Community Stakeholders for Children's Advocacy Session .....	14
Patient Safety Fellowship Applications Open Now .....	15
JHF Celebrates St. Patrick's Day .....	16
Congratulations to Morgan Overton .....	17
Jason Kunzman Serves Pittsburgh and Jewish Community with Commitment to Innovation and Excellence .....	17

## Many of JHF's 2022 Priorities Highlighted in President Biden's State of the Union

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) Board and staff were pleased to see so many of our key focus areas mentioned in President Biden's 2022 State of the Union address. We are looking forward to many opportunities this year to advance policy priorities towards improving health outcomes.

### Skilled Nursing Facility Reform

*"...And as Wall Street firms take over more nursing homes, quality in those homes has gone down and costs have gone up. That ends on my watch. Medicare is going to set higher standards for nursing homes and make sure your loved ones get the care they deserve and expect..."*



Photo Credit: The Executive Office of the President of the United States / Wikimedia Commons / Public Domain

"The mention of skilled nursing facilities in a State of the Union address was historic. Though he only spoke a few words, President Biden sent a message that that his administration would do its part to boost nursing home quality, specifically calling out private equity-owned facilities, and calling on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to heighten its nursing home standards," says JHF COO and Chief Program Officer Nancy Zionts. "The verbal proclamation was backed up with a four-page fact sheet that went even further and focused on such critical root case issues for skilled nursing challenges: the failure to respect, reward and support the workforce. There is a caution though: we cannot regulate or punish our way out of the long-term care crisis. We must make thoughtful and long-term investments in the workforce and support the reliable providers of skilled nursing. The planting of a flag by this administration will hopefully engender serious efforts and much-needed funding to right this ship for the long haul."

### Maternal Health

*"...Preserve a woman's right to choose. And let's continue to advance maternal health care in America..."*

Program Associate Hanifa Nakiryowa, MA, MID says, "Here at the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, we are amplifying maternal health rights through our nonprofit operating arm, the Women's Health Activist Movement Global by ensuring that voices are heard to address disparities in care. We work to promote the perinatal health workforce to ensure that women get the care they need, how they need it, by facilitating collaboration between health systems and community health workers. Our goal is to amplify the importance of service coordination and collaboration to ensure that mothers and their families have access to comprehensive wrap-around services to get the best maternal health outcomes."

## Teen Mental Health

*“...Let’s take on mental health. Especially among our children, whose lives and education have been turned upside down...”*

“President Biden’s [strategy for addressing our national mental health crisis](#), including the particular focus on youth mental health, highlights opportunities to not only strengthen the capacity of an under-resourced mental health system but to promote improved pathways to care and address the determinants of mental health by extending these investments into communities,” says JHF Adolescent Behavioral Health Initiative Program Manager Deborah Murdoch, MPH. “JHF’s work aims to support improved mental health infrastructure outlined in the State of the Union in Pennsylvania through partnerships with health systems, community-based organizations, school-based programs, advocacy groups, and youth advocates.”

## Opioid Crisis

*“...Beat the opioid epidemic. There is so much we can do. Increase funding for prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery...”*

JHF Chief Policy Officer Robert Ferguson, MPH says, “As part of President Biden’s Unity Agenda, he said, ‘First, beat the opioid epidemic.’ The top priority of the PA Perinatal Quality Collaborative has been to improve the identification of and care for maternal Opioid Use Disorder and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome since it was launched in 2019 in response to accidental poisonings, including drug-related overdoses, being the top cause of maternal deaths in Pennsylvania in 2018. There’s been a 55% increase in the percentage of birth hospitals using validated screening tools for substance use and a 30% increase in the percentage of birth hospitals with clinical pathways in place for maternal OUD.”

## Pandemic Preparedness

*“...I know some are talking about “living with COVID-19”. Tonight – I say that we will never just accept living with COVID-19. We will continue to combat the virus as we do other diseases. And because this is a virus that mutates and spreads, we will stay on guard...”*

“The Biden Administration’s COVID-19 Preparedness Plan includes an enhanced data collection and analysis system to identify new and emerging variants,” says Ferguson. “Through JHF’s national effort to create a National Patient Safety Board (NPSB), we have learned how data can be autonomously collected and visualized in health systems’ Command Centers to deploy preventive resources. This type of infrastructure could be used to identify and respond to a range of public health priorities, including patient safety.”

## Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home Advisory Group Examines Initiative Progress

The Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home (RTNH) National and Statewide Advisory Group convened on March 9 for their first meeting of the year, to discuss the activities of initiative partners, recent policy announcements, and Age-Friendly Health Systems Nursing Home Prototyping.

Alice Bonner, PhD, RN, FAAN, chair of the National and Statewide Advisory, welcomed the group. Nancy D. Zionts, MBA, COO and chief program officer of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and primary investigator of the initiative, provided an overview on the progress made within the initiative since the last National and Statewide Advisory Board meeting.

JoAnne Reifsnyder, PhD, MSN, MBA, professor of health services leadership and management at the University of Maryland School of Nursing, and Ann Kolanowski, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor emerita of nursing and professor emerita of psychiatry at the Penn State Hershey College of Medicine, chaired the Measurement Taskforce, which established last year the measures that the initiative participants began to track. Howard Degenholtz, PhD, professor of health policy and management and faculty affiliate of the Center for Bioethics and Health Law at the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health, is the lead evaluator for this initiative and has created methods to collect data from students and a plan to begin clinical data collection later this year.

The Central Regional Team, which is comprised of Centre Care Rehabilitation and Wellness and The Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing at Pennsylvania State University, described their relationship and progress. Andrew Naugle, BBA, NHA, administrator at Centre Care, and Marie Boltz, PhD, GNP-BC, FGSA, FAAN, Elouise Ross Eberly and Robert Eberly endowed chair and professor at The Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing at Pennsylvania State University, shared insights into the reasons why the RTNH initiative was a promising opportunity for both Centre Care and Penn State to deepen their relationship and improve care for older adults. They also discussed how the two organizations are building a collaborative environment between staff and students, by providing opportunities for staff to meet students off the floor and complete training together. This work continues.

There are a number of key policy efforts in the country that may directly intersect to advance the efforts of the RTNH initiative: It was announced that Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN, president of The John A. Hartford Foundation, has been appointed to the long-term care coalition for New York State. In addition, Amy Berman, RN, FAAN, senior program officer at The John A. Hartford Foundation, noted several publications and opportunities to align efforts with others looking to reimagine care of older adults, including the Convergence work at the Brookings Institute and the



*Members of the Advisory Group discuss the initiative's progress. Clockwise from upper left: Dr. JoAnne Reifsnyder, Ann Torregrossa, Dr. Alice Bonner, and Dr. Joan Weiss.*

Reframing Initiative which aims to address stereotypes and ageism. Dr. Bonner and the group examined key takeaways from the recently announced White House Fact Sheet and state of the union which addressed the importance of nursing home care and the work to which this group is dedicated. Ann Torregrossa, JD, executive director of the PA Health Funders Collaborative, focused on the importance of addressing the pay, working conditions, and significant vacancies in the long-term care workforce.

Dr. Bonner reviewed the progress made with the Nursing Home Prototyping of Age-Friendly Health Systems. The Institute for Healthcare Improvement worked across the country to refine the guide to be focused on nursing homes. The participating nursing homes created a workbook that would present a practical application for nursing homes to use with staff. The workbook is now being tested in 8-9 nursing homes, and feedback, including from partners in RTNH, is providing insights into how to streamline the workflow for nursing homes to implement Age-Friendly Health Systems. In April, the nursing home partners in RTNH will complete the Age-Friendly Health Systems Action Community, each achieving Level I or Level II accreditation.

The next meeting of the National and Statewide Advisory Group will be June 15, at which time there will be an in-depth discussion on the report of Improving the Quality of Nursing Homes being released by the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine, funded in part by both the John A. Hartford and Jewish Healthcare Foundations.

## 2022 Teen Mental Health Advocacy Series Culminates in Action Plan Presentations

On March 23, the inaugural Teen Mental Health Advocacy Series hosted by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) and the [PA Youth Advocacy Network](#) held its finale session. The series connected twenty-four high-school students across Pennsylvania to explore advocacy opportunities and how they can call for better teen mental health resources in their schools and communities. Participants joined from 10 Pennsylvania counties, with representation in both urban and rural areas. Clusters of participants hailed from eastern and western Pennsylvania, in York, Lancaster, and Allegheny Counties, and the series also welcomed students from several rural areas. These new connections further strengthened the statewide alliances of the PA Youth Advocacy Network.



*Youth from across Pennsylvania joined in the advocacy series sessions.*

The March advocacy series sessions introduced participants to key advocacy skills, including storytelling as an advocacy tool. The sessions also provided participants with opportunities to learn from one another and from community leaders. Guest speakers included Ayala Rosenthal, teen engagement and outreach coordinator at Friendship Circle, Danyelle Borish, project coordinator at

Stand Together, Susan Smith, M.Ed., youth services program specialist with the BCRC in Beaver County, Sophia Duck, training and engagement manager at The Mentoring Partnership SWPA, Jamal Ford, youth resources coordinator with the Pennsylvania Care Partnership, and Abby Rickin-Marks, youth mental health advocate and first-year student at Oberlin College.

The series also provided peer leadership opportunities for two youth advocates, Connor Dalgaard, senior at West Allegheny High School, and Luna Plaza, senior at Pittsburgh CAPA. Throughout the series, Dalgaard and Plaza acted as youth facilitators and provided guidance and peer mentorship. For the final session, teams of students developed and presented advocacy project plans based on five youth-identified, key teen mental health priorities: mental health curriculum development, mental health day policy for excused absences from school, prioritizing substance use prevention efforts, raising awareness, and everyday activism.

Three teams proposed website designs: one to support teachers as they create mental health curriculums; one to provide teen-focused mental health resources about substance use; and one to encourage teen mental health everyday activism, with the goal of using these tools to build public will and form coalitions around these causes. Another team created plans for organizing a statewide legislative advocacy campaign, to form relationships with policymakers and raise awareness of teen perspectives. The fifth team aims to call for mental health day excused absence legislation across Pennsylvania, using a teen-created public opinion survey that has received nearly 200 responses.

Participants completed the series with greater understanding and confidence in their abilities to promote positive change in their communities and to collaborate with others. The PA Youth Advocacy Network will provide ongoing opportunities for youth to share their perspectives and shape the Network's advocacy initiatives.

Advocacy Series participant Elwin from eastern Pennsylvania said, "As someone who comes from a school where I feel mental health is not talked about enough, meeting people from across the state who shared my interest gave me hope that there are other people who recognize the need for advocacy. Now more than ever, I feel like I can make a difference."

## Pittsburgh: A Safer Childbirth City Partners Organize Maternal Health Training and Education Programs

*This is the first article in a series featuring the Pittsburgh: A Safer Childbirth City partners.*

As part of Merck for Mothers' network of 20 Safer Childbirth Cities across the U.S., Pittsburgh: A Safer Childbirth City aims to reduce racial/ethnic disparities in maternal mortality and morbidity rates across the city. Safer Childbirth Cities grantees work to engage communities in maternal health improvements and address the social determinants of health, and work with doulas and perinatal support workers to bolster the care support system around women and families during pregnancy, childbirth, and the months after.



MAYA Organization staff with their families and clients. Photo credit: MAYA Organization

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) and Women's Health Activist Movement Global (WHAMglobal) facilitate the Pittsburgh: A Safer Childbirth City initiative with seven partner organizations across the region, whose programs fill gaps and provide crucial services to the community. Many of these organizations are birthing-focused and prioritize Black birthing people and their support systems across the Pittsburgh region. Several partners offer training courses and skills-building opportunities, bolstering the maternal health workforce and assisting parents-to-be.



Iyanna Bridges, birth doula and founder of The Birthing Hut

[Healthy Start, Inc. Pittsburgh](#) leads the Community Advisory, which convenes community health advocates and provides training and leadership opportunities. Healthy Start identified a new cohort of community health advocates and completed their orientation on January 21, 2021. This is a key milestone of the Safer Childbirth Cities initiative. Healthy Start also held a virtual Safer Childbirth Cities Advisory Committee Retreat in December 2021 to offer training and team-building activities, and the community health advocates held their quarterly meeting on November 8. The Community Advisory is currently focused on communications/marketing and on improving connections to the overall Safer Childbirth Cities project. They are in the process of developing a detailed plan with Kimberly Sears Allers, the creator of the Irth App, to get more community members to utilize the app in order to share their experience with birth in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. The community health advocates will serve an integral part in planning, creating, and disseminating marketing materials for this initiative.

[The Birthing Hut](#) offers educational courses, both for families and for the maternal health workforce. Their programs prioritize serving Black birthing people and addressing maternal health disparities. Four students are participating in The Birthing Hut's student

doula program, with more students to join in spring 2022. The Birthing Hut holds doula courses covering family planning, cultural postpartum care, Black birth history, and community engagement. The Birthing Hut also holds bi-monthly check-ins to help their student doulas stay on track with training. During the last fall and winter, one of The Birthing Hut's student doulas began working with her first client.

[\*\*MAYA Organization\*\*](#) holds prenatal classes, and last fall and winter 12 people completed eight prenatal classes. 202 people used MAYA's services during October through December. In a feedback survey, participating parents said that classes/education, support, and supplies were important offerings of MAYA's services. Their full-service Spanish-speaking program includes childbirth and lactation educators, and doulas. One expectant mother enrolled in MAYA in November and took a series of childbirth classes. She had a MAYA doula at her birth and reported feeling happy with how her birth went and grateful for the support. When she needed additional postpartum support with breastfeeding and mental health, a MAYA doula and a MAYA therapist provided immediate services.

MAYA Organization is developing a new support/education structure, Gestational-Age-Based groups, rather than having one prenatal series and one postpartum series. Their goal is for parents at similar stages to progress through the program together. MAYA Organization hopes that this will further strengthen their sense of community with other parents and increase and extend engagement over the childbearing year. MAYA also held "free store days" around the winter holiday season, during which parents could come and pick up diapers, donated items, and new, wrapped gifts for moms. MAYA Organization birth doula Amber Edmunds has joined a pilot program at Duquesne University to train nurses in culturally competent and antiracist care, and MAYA Organization is collaborating with several community partners to teach Circle of Security in community spaces.

WHAMglobal and JHF are grateful for the opportunity to work with these partner organizations and look forward to continuing to learn from them in the future. Stay tuned for the next installment of this series, which will highlight additional Pittsburgh: A Safer Childbirth City partners.

## Patient Safety Full Court Press Team Explores Global Healthcare Safety Models, Commercial Aviation Solutions

On Wednesday, March 2, the National Patient Safety Board (NPSB) Full Court Press Team met to learn about healthcare safety boards in England and Norway, and to hear from the Commercial Aviation Safety Team.

Mark DeRubeis, MBA, chair of the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative (PRHI) Board and the NPSB Full Court Press Team provided an update on the NPSB Policy and Advocacy Coalition, which has grown to include over 60 organizations.

Guest speakers Carl Macrae, PhD, professor of organisational behaviour and psychology at the Centre for Health Innovation, Leadership and Learning at Nottingham University Business School in England, and Siri Wiig, PhD, director of the SHARE Center for Resilience in Healthcare and professor of quality and safety in healthcare systems at the University of Stavanger in Norway, then presented on healthcare safety boards in England and Norway. Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) and PRHI President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD moderated a discussion with the guest speakers. The group had an inside look into the forces that caused both England and Norway to recently establish national agencies solely focused on addressing safety problems in health care and learned what inspired action on patient safety and the tactics that helped to build broad support for the endeavors. For a deeper dive into this conversation, listen to the latest episode of *Up Next for Patient Safety* [here](#).

Additional guest speakers from the Commercial Aviation Safety Team (CAST), Capt. Craig Hoskins, CAST co-chair, and Capt. Steve Jangelis, aviation safety chair of the Air Line Pilots Association, then shared insights on the CAST model. The NPSB has been modeled on the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) to prevent medical errors. At its core, the NTSB is an independent federal agency that investigates accidents and issues recommendations to prevent future accidents. The aviation industry also has an industry-government partnership team called CAST, which proactively identifies emerging safety risks based on shared data and gains consensus on safety enhancements to voluntarily implement before the safety event occurs. A hybrid model of the NTSB+CAST can be used to further improve the NPSB's functions and features to identify and anticipate harm and adopt fail-safe solutions to prevent medical errors.

Dr. Feinstein then moderated a discussion with the NPSB Full Court Press Team on how the NPSB could convene similar public-private teams to study the causes of errors, to develop fail-safe solutions, or to voluntarily adopt the recommendations.



*Clockwise from upper left: Dr. Carl Macrae, Dr. Siri Wiig, Capt. Craig Hoskins, Capt. Steve Jangelis.*

## Health Careers Futures Board Discusses Community Health Worker Progress

On March 1, the Health Careers Futures (HCF) Board met to discuss progress in supporting community health workers, especially those in maternal health work. In 2022, the HCF Board will devote much attention to the frontline workforce and the roles and opportunities to build, train, and support community health workers in a range of settings, serving a variety of types of clients or patients.

Co-Chairs Pat Siger and Eric Rodriguez, MD gave the welcome along with Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD. Dr. Feinstein and JHF staff members HIV/AIDS Project Director Richard Smith, MSW, COO and Chief Program Officer Nancy Zionts, MBA, and Chief Policy Officer Robert Ferguson, MPH then shared an overview of JHF's and HCF's years-long history with community health workers for seniors, people living with HIV/AIDS, and other populations.



*The 2020 Class of JHF's Community Health Worker Apprenticeship program with JHF staff*

Dr. Feinstein was inspired by the efforts of community health workers during a study tour in Africa and resolved to advance the model in the United States. In 2014, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) supported [the Network for Excellence in Health Innovation](#) (NEHI) in convening a national Community Health Worker Summit to explore quality improvement and cost reduction with an expanded CHW workforce. This led to a JHF-NEHI collaboration on a 2015 issue brief, "[Community Health Workers: Getting the Job Done in Healthcare Delivery](#)," highlighting community health worker best practices. Robert Ferguson has been a major leader and contributor to achieving JHF's successes in advancing community health worker discussion and policy at the state level, especially getting community health workers certified and reimbursed. With Ferguson in the lead, JHF organized a 2015 Community Health Worker Statewide Summit in Harrisburg, which led to the creation and ongoing work of the PA Community Health Worker Steering Group and Task Forces on Policy, Training, and Employment. Through programmatic work, JHF demonstrates the benefit of community health workers through the Minority AIDS Initiative, a [doula community health worker program](#) of the Women's Health Activist Movement Global (WHAMglobal) and the Allegheny Health Network Center for Inclusion Health, and the Community Health Worker Champions Program to support seniors. JHF also included community health workers in the Community HealthChoices education program. These successes inspired the move towards training and accreditation for community health workers, and JHF piloted Pennsylvania's first Certified Community Health Worker Apprenticeship Program and graduated the first cohort in 2020.

Robert Ferguson then presented the 2022 PA doula workforce goals. These include getting doula certification and reimbursement fast tracked and getting the PA Midwifery Modernization Bill passed. Certified midwife Emily McGahey, DM, MSN, CNM, state legislative committee co-chair of

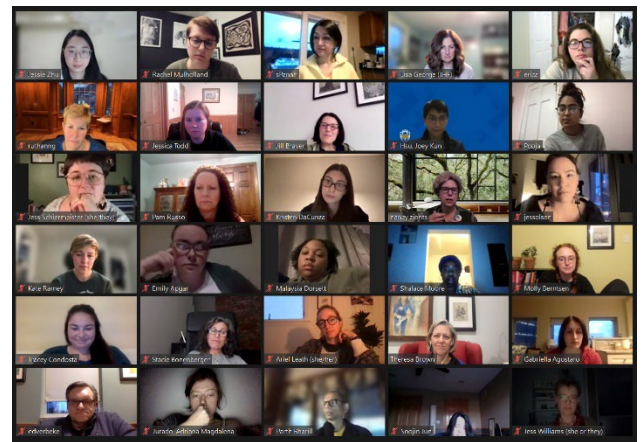
the PA Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives, then shared information on the Midwifery Modernization Act.

To end the meeting, Dr. Feinstein shared updates and announcements of JHF Fellowships and internships for 2022.

In reflecting on global community health efforts, JHF pays tribute to Paul Farmer, MD, PhD, who unexpectedly passed away on February 21 in Rwanda. In addition to being a world-renowned infectious disease doctor, anthropologist, global health advocate, and author, Dr. Farmer was the founder of Partners in Health, a global health and social justice organization focused on providing care and strengthening public health systems around the world.

## Death and Dying Fellowship Concludes

The 2022 Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) Death and Dying Fellowship completed its nine-session run on March 28. This year's program equipped 34 fellows from a broad range of disciplines with the skills to confront and discuss the legal, medical, social, cultural, familial, and spiritual aspects of death and dying. The fellowship provided an opportunity for participants to learn from and engage with expert speakers and each other in a virtual setting. Most importantly, they learned how to have conversations around serious illness, death, and grief with patients, families, and staff in various settings from the community to long-term care and hospice.



*Fellows and speakers attend the Death and Dying Fellowship finale*

During the finale, Dr. Robert Arnold, distinguished service professor of medicine, chief of the Section of Palliative Care and Medical Ethics, and director of the Institute for Doctor-Patient Communication at the University of Pittsburgh and medical director at UPMC Palliative and Supportive Institute, provided an overview of how practitioners can have more meaningful conversations about end of life. He discussed the importance of improving skills through practice, expert guidance, and developing an understanding of yourself as a provider.

Following Dr. Arnold's presentation, fellows gathered in small breakout groups to role-play end-of-life conversations using case studies. This offered a low-pressure environment to practice how to have challenging conversations and receive feedback from expert facilitators and peers. The experts who served as breakout group facilitators included Judith Black, MD, medical advisor for JHF, Theresa Brown, PhD, BSN, RN, writer, nurse, and patient, Kalpana Char, MD, associate vice president of Special Needs Program Medical Services at UPMC Health Plan, Jeffrey Gordon, MD, hospice and palliative care physician at Allegheny Health Network, Ruth Ann Guilinger, MD, hospitalist at Allegheny Health Network, Carol May, RN, MSN, MBA, CHPPN, manager of Supportive Care at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Libby Moore, LSW, DHCE, director of Federated Guardians, and Susan Panah, DO, FACP, medical director of LIFE Pittsburgh.

As the session concluded, the fellows, staff, and guest faculty reflected on their experience with the fellowship and how the learnings will impact their work.

## JHF Responds to Ukraine Conflict

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) stands with Ukraine and the individuals and families affected by the war. Among the many very challenging aspects of this crisis, the increased risk of human trafficking facing women and children leaving Ukraine without the men in their family is one issue that must be addressed. In solidarity with the Ukrainian people, JHF contributed donations to the following organizations providing a variety of services and aid to Ukrainian refugees: Brother's Brother Foundation, Joint Distribution Committee, Clalit Health Services, Direct Relief, HIAS, World Central Kitchen, and Doctors Without Borders.



*Photo Credit: Government of Ukraine /  
Wikimedia Commons / Public Domain*

JHF also extends support and solidarity to those living in the United States with friends and family still in Ukraine, including some close members of the JHF family and network.

“Since the war began, I’ve been so grateful for the kindness and support of those around me. Every day we’re seeing the horror of what is happening, but we must not miss the human kindness that has emerged in the face of this crisis,” said Maria Kalevitch, PhD, Chief Innovation Officer & Dean, School of Engineering, Mathematics and Science at Robert Morris University and JHF Board Trustee. Dr. Kalevitch was born in Moscow, but she identifies with her mother's Ukrainian heritage and still has family members living in Ukraine who are affected by the war. “My students, my colleagues, everyone at JHF, they have all been so supportive. I am truly grateful how we Americans are standing up for Ukraine - that enhanced my faith in humanity.”

“I made the tough decision to leave what is now Ukraine 33 years ago with my two young daughters and make the trek for a better opportunity in the United States,” says Marsha Shisman, a native of Ukraine who was an employee of JHF for 18 years. “I have watched the country flourish and it is terrible to see the destruction that the war has left on my homeland... We can help Ukrainian people by continuing to share the stories and discussions of how civilians are being killed... Thank you to everyone who has reached out during this extremely difficult time.” Read Shisman’s full statement [here](#).

Read about Shisman’s daughter’s story in the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette here](#).

## International Women's Forum Special Interest Group for Health Examines Global Approaches to Human Trafficking

On March 29, the International Women's Forum (IWF) Special Interest Group for Health heard presentations from professionals around the world working to address human trafficking. Speakers included Sue Matthews, RN, MHScN, DPH, WHAMglobal Board member and CEO at [The Royal Women's Hospital](#) in Melbourne, Australia, Hanni Stoklosa, MD, MPH, CEO and co-founder of [HEAL Trafficking](#) and an emergency physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, and Iris Stern Levi, an Israeli social activist focused on issues of women's and human rights and co-founder of the non-profit organization [Her Academy](#). Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD and JHF Board Chair Debra L. Caplan, MPA formed the IWF Special Interest Group for Health in 2019, and the group has met several times a year since.



*Debra Caplan and Karen Feinstein speak during the IWF Special Interest Group for Health event*

## International Women's Forum Pittsburgh Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The IWF Pittsburgh chapter, led by IWF Pittsburgh and Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) Board Chair Debra L. Caplan, MPA, celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. JHF congratulates the chapter, which began with JHF President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD as its first chair. From holding the Fellows Program to hosting the World Leadership Conference in Pittsburgh, to delivering outstanding local programs year after year, IWF Pittsburgh has been influential in creating spaces for women leaders to collaborate, convene, and mentor the next generation.



## Karen Wolk Feinstein Joins PBT “Mentoring Monday” Event

On February 28, Jewish Healthcare Foundation President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, joined the annual Pittsburgh Business Times' Mentoring Monday event, during which she and some of the most influential businesswomen in the Pittsburgh region led small-group mentoring sessions. This event is one of 40 held by Business Journals all over the country involving about 8,600 women who were mentored and another 1,700 women mentors. Read more about the event [here](#).



## Healthy Simulation Symposium to Welcome Karen Wolk Feinstein

Register today for the April 13<sup>th</sup> Healthy Simulation Virtual Symposium, which will include a presentation from Jewish Healthcare Foundation President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, and other patient safety leaders titled **Is It Time for the Healthcare Simulation Industry to Call for a [National Patient Safety Board](#)?** Learn more and register [here](#).



## JHF Hosts Donna Cooper, Health Systems and Community Stakeholders for Children's Advocacy Session

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) was pleased to host Donna Cooper, former secretary of policy for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania during the Ed Rendell administration, for a meeting with health system representatives and community stakeholders on opportunities to advocate for children's health. Cooper now runs [Children First](#), a child advocacy organization based in southeastern PA. Cooper works closely with local Pittsburgh partners – including Allies for Children and Trying Together – in impressive statewide campaigns focused on early learning, education, and health care for children. Recently, Cooper, along with Health Careers Futures Board Member Bill Isler, formed the [Children Matter Action Fund](#) to increase the political muscle of the most promising statewide child advocacy and policy coalitions.



During the meeting, Cooper and Isler presented background on Pennsylvania-based advocacy around the CHIP program, as well as the Fund's strategies for 2022, which focus on advocacy for child behavioral health resources and early intervention services. JHF engaged a group of health system representatives and community stakeholders in a conversation about opportunities to improve health resources, infrastructure, and capacity across Pennsylvania. There is a need for a shared vision and collective action to improve behavioral health service access in Pennsylvania, and JHF hopes to continue collaborations and discussion around these issues that relate to the Foundation's maternal health and adolescent behavioral health initiatives.

## Patient Safety Fellowship Applications Open Now

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation's 2022 Patient Safety Fellowship will address a critical problem that has only worsened as a result of the pandemic: the safety of America's patients and healthcare workforce due to medical errors. Even after the threat of the pandemic wanes, approximately 250,000 or more Americans will die or become permanently disabled from medical error each year. Medical error is a pervasive and serious killer that does not respect geographic or demographic boundaries. Three decades after the extent of harm from medical error was credibly disclosed, progress has been limp and stalled. But that is not a reason to surrender; medical error is not an inevitable part of health care.



This year's Patient Safety Fellowship will take a fresh look at promising solutions from some of the best thought leaders in health care and weigh their merits. Over the course of the summer, fellows will have the opportunity to speak directly with regional and national experts, apply critical thinking to build a safety agenda for the future, and develop practical skills to promote change.

An information session will be held April 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm, and applications are due Sunday, May 1, 2022. Please complete the online application, which requests a personal statement, resume, and letter of reference. Find the info session registration and application here:

[www.hcfutures.org/fellowships/patient-safety](http://www.hcfutures.org/fellowships/patient-safety)

## JHF Celebrates St. Patrick's Day

After enjoying an in-person all-staff meeting, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation staff celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a festive gathering at the downtown Pittsburgh offices.



## Congratulations to Morgan Overton

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation congratulates Morgan Overton, MSW, who will begin a new position with the City of Pittsburgh as Administrative Assistant in the Office of the Mayor. Overton will aid the Chief Operating and Administrative Officer and the Chief Economic Development Officer with research and policy development. JHF is grateful to Morgan for her dedication to improving maternal health as part of the JHF team and wishes her the best in this next endeavor.



*Morgan Overton*

## Jason Kunzman Serves Pittsburgh and Jewish Community with Commitment to Innovation and Excellence

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) has called Kunzman a friend since 2003, long before he assumed his current position as chief program officer at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh (JCC).

At JHF, Kunzman served as the Foundation's chief financial officer and chief operating officer, and he helped to lead many of JHF's community-wide efforts. Kunzman oversaw JHF's HIV/AIDS initiatives and worked to elevate the role of HIV/AIDS care providers. He also worked to promote the adoption of health information technology and reduce medical errors and waste. He was instrumental in securing federal grants during the beginning of the Obama administration, including a grant for the Electronic Health Record Initiative for primary care. While he worked behind-the-scenes, Kunzman strived to help JHF integrate back-office functions with front-facing operations and "bring those two sides of the ledger into greater conversation" across the organization.



*Jason Kunzman*

Kunzman says his proudest achievement at JHF was his role in the third (and successful) attempt to secure funding for the Squirrel Hill Health Center. "We were certainly a stubborn group and would not take 'no' for an answer. We knew that it was the right thing at the right time for our community." Reflecting on his time at JHF, Kunzman says, "No matter what role you were brought in to play, Karen [Wolk Feinstein, PhD, President and CEO of JHF] and the team not only encouraged but insisted that everyone think as boldly as they possibly could...In every subsequent position after my time at the Foundation, I have tried my best to think boldly and enjoy pushing the boundaries of what some might think is possible or realistic, while encouraging my colleagues to do the same."

From early on in his life, Kunzman had an aptitude for this style of striving for excellence. Kunzman's parents were his biggest mentors, who advised him "to be ready, willing, and able to do what it took to get the job done," when building his career. Kunzman was always dedicated to public service and initially pursued a career in law enforcement. After graduating from the University of South Florida with a degree in criminology, he set out on a cross-country search for his first placement, riding a Greyhound bus for four months to take civil service exams at various police departments. He landed in Baltimore County, MD, first becoming a policeman and later working as a forensic accountant for a Big Four accounting firm.



*On a short-staffed day in April 2021, Kunzman took a story-time shift in the JCC Early Childhood Development Center infant room.*

In his steps since moving on from JHF, Kunzman has committed to improving health and health care for patients, providers, and the community by challenging the status quo. In 2010, he joined the federal effort to advance healthcare innovation and became deputy director in the Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology. In this position, he assisted in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and helped lead a \$260 million national grant program, in which 17 diverse communities from across the country engaged in large scale transformation efforts combining health information technology, performance measurement, quality improvement, and payment reform.

Later, Kunzman joined a health information technology startup, focused on implementing predictive analytics and an integrated decision support engine to improve patient outcomes and reduce overall costs through the better use of prescription medications nationwide. He then guided the Pennsylvania Association of Area Agencies on Aging's 52 branches to successfully participate in the rollout of Medicaid managed long-term services and supports.

Kunzman's latest move was to assume his current position at the JCC, where he now orchestrates the JCC's essential community programs, from childcare to fitness programs to teen outreach and much more. The JCC is in perpetual motion, and each day often brings a slew of challenges. "I can wake up with the best of intentions of getting through my to-do list and 100% of the time it never happens," Kunzman says with a chuckle.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, this adaptability became more important than ever. "The pandemic was a gut-punch not only to our business model, but to the very fiber of who we are as an organization," Kunzman says. He and the JCC team had to shift quickly to respond to community needs. They adopted a motto of "plan, implement, revise," a cycle they often complete and repeat daily. Although gathering in community looked quite different for a time while the pandemic loomed, Kunzman found motivation in the excitement of building what he calls a

“comprehensive cocoon of care” around the community. “It has been a very influential period of my professional career,” he says.

Kunzman’s exceptional leadership at the JCC during this time earned him the Emerging Leader Award from the Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership back in December.

Throughout his career journey, and especially during the last two years, Kunzman says he has been grateful for Dr. Feinstein’s career advice, for opportunities to partner with JHF, and for the push that JHF gave him to achieve and maintain the highest level of excellence.