



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

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**A Record Year for JHF**

Just a few months into 2022, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) has been entrusted with over \$25 million in public and private funds to ensure critical public health programs reach our community. This level of funding makes 2022 one of JHF’s most significant years in its 31-year history as a valued partner and grants manager. These funds provide for essential community projects in HIV/AIDS, maternal health, senior living and long-term care, and workforce development, among other initiatives.



For 30 years, JHF has demonstrated its ability to work collaboratively with governmental, charitable, and community-based partners to address pressing health needs. This began during the earliest days of the Foundation when JHF became a regional fiscal agency to help people living with HIV/AIDS across southwestern Pennsylvania. Over the decades the HIV/AIDS programming administered by JHF has grown significantly, and the Foundation still serves as the area’s fiscal agent for federal HIV funding through the Ryan White Part B, as well as State 656, HUD HOPWA (Housing and Urban Development—Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS), and the Minority AIDS Initiative. JHF also serves as the fiscal agent for AIDS Free Pittsburgh, a public health initiative to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

JHF has also been designated as one of the lead agencies to advance women’s health initiatives. Through the Pennsylvania Perinatal Quality Collaborative, JHF leads quality improvement efforts in maternal healthcare across Pennsylvania. JHF unites birth sites, neonatal intensive care units, and health plans across the Commonwealth to actively identify perinatal processes that require improvement and quickly adopt best practices to achieve common aims. Focus areas include maternal opioid use disorder and neonatal abstinence syndrome. JHF’s operating arm the Women’s Health Activist Movement Global advances programs for safer childbirth and the maternal health workforce. JHF’s maternal health will further expand thanks to the recent announcement [link] of the COVID-19 Nurturing Maternal and Child Health Initiative.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, JHF brought decades of experience in long-term care education to help provide critical training and resources to senior care workers across Pennsylvania. JHF served as a lead educator for statewide senior and long-term care networks to help residents and

staff stay safe and informed throughout each phase of the crisis, including current work as part of the PA Long-Term Care Learning Network. Through the Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home Initiative, JHF convenes experts across Pennsylvania to pilot a new model for senior residential living to address longstanding issues in senior care. JHF is also the state administrator for Dementia Friends Pennsylvania, an initiative to raise awareness about dementia and decrease stigma surrounding dementia.

JHF is proud of its proven reputation as a trusted intermediary for health resources across Pennsylvania. Much of the funding awarded in 2022 thus far comes from JHF's partners in Harrisburg within the Pennsylvania state government, and we are honored by the state's confidence in us. In addition to administering these public and private funds, JHF distributes \$7-9 million each year from its endowment to bolster initiatives within JHF's focus areas.

## JHF Named Administrator for \$9M in Maternal and Child Health Funding

On April 14, state Representative Morgan Cephas, state Senator Christine Tartaglione, Pennsylvania Physician General Dr. Denise Johnson, and the Wolf administration, announced \$25.6 million in American Rescue Plan funding to be allocated for a new maternal and child health initiative in Pennsylvania. The COVID-19 Nurturing Maternal and Child Health (NMCH) Initiative recognizes the impact the pandemic had on Pennsylvania communities and makes strategic investments to begin the implementation of inventive and informed improvements. The funding announcement also coincided with [Black Maternal Health Week, April 11-17](#). The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) is pleased to be named an administrator for approximately \$9 million including several of the grant programs within the initiative.

The NMCH closely coincides and builds on the recent announcement from the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services that the commonwealth would expand Medicaid coverage for all qualifying individuals for 12-months postpartum. This new funding will provide \$10 million to expand lead abatement and remediation, more than \$5 million for new equipment at Temple University Hospital for Women's Health, and \$5 million for maternal care innovation grants. Also included in the initiative is funding for local maternal mortality review committees, doula services, healthy eating, and new mom and baby training.

"With the promise in this funding, we are putting money into solving maternal mortality and working to address the social determinants of health that contribute to the crisis we are experiencing across Pennsylvania," Representative Cephas said.



State Rep. Morgan Cephas spoke during a press conference at Temple University's new [Hospital for Women's Health in Philadelphia](#)

“As an obstetrician and gynecologist, I have dedicated my life’s work to safeguarding maternal health,” Johnson said. “As a Black woman, I am especially pleased to see these investments being announced during national Black Maternal Health Week because maternal mortality rates for women of color are up to three times higher than for white women. We must continue to do more to erase that disparity and these initiatives are a step in the right direction.”

JHF will be responsible to administer the designated funds within NMCH for programs within the focus areas of doula services, certification, and workforce development; grants for local maternal mortality review committees and related innovation grants; a healthy food pilot program; and a free at-home pregnancy test program to enable early notification of pregnancy and connection to prenatal care.

“The Jewish Healthcare Foundation has been engaged for the past five years with public and private partners to improve pregnancy outcomes and reduce maternal mortality across Pennsylvania,” said Karen Wolk Feinstein, president and CEO of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation. “We are pleased that the Commonwealth is entrusting us with the opportunity to further that work by serving as an administrator of a portion of the ARPA funds. This new funding will advance essential programs and services that benefit the health and well-being of Pennsylvania’s mothers and families.”

Watch a video of the press conference for the announcement [here](#).

## **Jewish Healthcare Foundation Approves \$450K in Grants, Including New Funding for Healthcare Safety Innovation Competition; Certifying and Reimbursing Doulas; and Seniors’ Recreation and Exercise Program**

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) Board convened for its first meeting of the year on April 11, 2022 and approved new grants for launching a Healthcare Safety Competition and Virtual Exhibit; advancing the PA Doula Commission’s work; and expanding Venture Outdoors’ Senior Recreation and Exercise program.

### *Launching the Healthcare Safety Competition and Virtual Exhibit*

JHF approved a one-year grant up to \$300,000 to the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative (PRHI) to further support a Healthcare Safety Competition and Virtual Exhibit that aims to showcase new patient safety solutions. The competition and corresponding event will feature transformative



The JHF Board met to approve new grants and welcome new board members and staff.



concepts submitted by the next generation of innovators and leaders—students from undergraduate and graduate programs in health professions, biological sciences, engineering, safety science, management, machine learning, robotics, AI, data analytics, and beyond.

Through a national competition, students will be invited to submit innovative ideas to make healthcare safer by applying advanced technologies (with a focus on autonomous solutions). The winning ideas will receive rewards up to \$25,000. The competition also will include a second category for schools and departments from colleges and universities that come forward with a bold, comprehensive vision for the future of patient safety. The school or department with the most powerful vision will win a \$75,000 prize.

At the culmination of the competition, the winners and others with promising ideas will be invited to participate in a Virtual Exhibit that will portray a broad and inclusive vision of the future. As part of the Virtual Exhibit, current thought leaders, inventors, researchers, investors, and scientists will present their reactions, their own visions, and ideas to help the students further develop their concepts. The Virtual Exhibit will allow widespread circulation of an updated, tech-enabled vision of a safer, more reliably best-practice healthcare system and inspire a new generation of innovators.

To plan for the Healthcare Safety Competition and Virtual Exhibit, JHF will form an advisory board composed of patient safety experts and thought leaders from across the country. The advisory board will help shape the competition, assist in marketing and communications efforts, recruit universities to participate in the competition, identify judges, and suggest expert support networks for the winning students. The board will also create a series of problem statements that the students will use as prompts to respond to the competition.

“Health care lacks a bolder and safer vision of the future, especially in deploying current cutting-edge technology,” said Karen Wolk Feinstein, president and CEO of JHF. “This competition will generate new solutions from the best and brightest future healthcare leaders and strengthen networks for healthcare safety innovation.”

JHF and PRHI have been working to reduce medical harm for 24 years. This initiative builds on a two-year, \$500,000 grant JHF awarded PRHI in December 2021 to catalyze an autonomous patient safety industry in Pittsburgh. This healthcare safety and technology project will position the Pittsburgh region as a hub of autonomous patient safety solutions and will build on the region’s assets in AI, machine learning, advanced informatics, big data, predictive analytics, and life sciences innovation.

### *Establishing a Statewide Infrastructure to Certify and Reimburse Doulas*

JHF approved a two-year grant up to \$100,000 to advance the work of the PA Doula Commission to promote the certification and reimbursement recommendations established by the JHF-convened Statewide Doula & Perinatal CHW Advisory Group and to prepare the doula workforce.

Doulas are non-medical, trained professionals who provide emotional, physical, and informational support and guidance to pregnant and postpartum women. They provide continuous labor support to pregnant individuals and families, conduct perinatal and bereavement visits up to one year after

birth or termination of pregnancy, accompany pregnant individuals to healthcare and social service appointments, and connect individuals to community-based resources. The majority of doula services are either grant funded, paid out of pocket, or covered in limited ways through contracts with Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs). However, because a more uniform payment structure for doula services has yet to be established in Pennsylvania, people's ability to access doula services continues to be limited.

As part of JHF's Full Court Press initiatives launched in 2021, JHF set a goal to develop a certification and reimbursement system for doulas in Pennsylvania. In just two months, a JHF-convened Statewide Doula & Perinatal CHW Advisory Group of 100 members, with leadership from the Doula Alliance sub-group, gained consensus on certification and reimbursement recommendations. The Doula Alliance's leaders then formed the PA Doula Commission as a non-profit in November 2021 and launched the certification with the PA Certification Board in February 2022.

The PA Doula Commission will next assemble an advisory board and work with partners and stakeholders to advance doula certification and reimbursement policy and implementation, and to provide scholarships, training, and technical assistance to doulas in Pennsylvania.

### *Expanding Venture Outdoors' Senior Recreation and Exercise Program*

JHF approved a \$50,000, one-year grant to Venture Outdoors as they expand their recreation and exercise programming for seniors. This funding will allow the organization to support the growing need within the senior community for social connection and physical wellbeing exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Venture Outdoors plans to hire a full-time coordinator to expand Venture Outdoors' partnerships and develop additional meaningful and engaging activities.

This grant is the latest effort in JHF's *Senior Connections* program, a multipronged initiative launched in 2016 to meaningfully engage and support seniors in the Pittsburgh region. Venture Outdoors was an early partner of *Senior Connections*, developing their Fit with a Physician program in 2017 with the leadership of Terence Starz, MD, and in partnership with the Allegheny County Medical Society and JHF to promote the importance of exercise as the best prescription for helping people age successfully.

The Fit with a Physician Program provides outdoor experiences for seniors through one-mile walks in local city and county parks, which are currently free to individuals 50 and older, funded by JHF. These walks are led by volunteer physicians, therapists, nutritionists, and other healthcare professionals who share their areas of expertise to provide an educational component emphasizing the importance of exercise, healthy living, and the amazing benefits of the outdoors. Since 2017, the program has created over 700 senior outdoor experiences and has expanded to include other outdoor activities, such as biking and kayaking classes, through the Venture Outdoors Again program.

Read more in the Pittsburgh Business Times [here](#).

During the April meeting, the JHF Board also welcomed [new trustees](#) and new staff members.

## Ariana Longley Joins JHF for Patient Safety Initiative

Ariana Longley joins the Jewish Healthcare Foundation in May as a consultant to guide the planning and execution of the upcoming Healthcare Safety Competition and Virtual Exhibit. Longley spent the last seven years at the Patient Safety Movement Foundation, where she served as COO and vice president and helped to build their broad international network of patient safety experts and advocates. Longley is well-recognized within patient safety circles and has impressive skills managing multiple projects, developing business plans, and expanding networks. Prior to her time at the Patient Safety Movement Foundation, Longley was a project manager at Masimo Corporation in California. Longley received her BS from Loyola Marymount University and her MPH from the University of Edinburgh.



Ariana Longley

## New Staff and Accounting Contractor Join JHF

**Sara Nelis** will join the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) in May as the new project manager for the PA PQC and the *Pittsburgh: A Safer Childbirth City* initiative. Nelis is currently completing her MSN and is a licensed nurse. She is an experienced maternal child healthcare professional and joins JHF after having worked at West Penn Hospital as an assistant nurse manager in their labor and delivery unit. She is a certified childbirth educator and doula, and she also previously worked at Magee-Womens Hospital. Nelis received her BS from the University of Pittsburgh and is currently finishing up her MSN at Capella University.



Sara Nelis (left) and Sarah Pesi

**Sarah Pesi** has been with JHF since January 2021, but she recently moved into a full-time position as a policy associate supporting the Adolescent Behavioral Health Initiative and patient safety programs. Pesi has advanced JHF's teen mental health programs – including guiding the PA Youth Advocacy Network teens to author Pennsylvania's first ever teen mental health awareness day last year. Pesi earned a master of science in public policy & management with a concentration in public policy analysis from Carnegie Mellon University, and a BA in public policy studies and a minor in social services administration from Chatham University.

**Mary Ann P. Mantick** began in April as an independent accounting contractor for JHF. Mantick has 31 years of accounting and bookkeeping experience. She most recently worked as a fiscal analyst with the Allegheny County Department of Public Works. Mantick attended the Community College of Allegheny County.

## University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing Awards JHF Honorary Alumni Award

During the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing graduation ceremony on April 29, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) was recognized with an honorary alumni award. JHF is proud to receive this award.

JHF has enjoyed a long, storied partnership with the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, including collaborating on Nurse Navigators, Working Hearts, the Board of Visitors, Health Careers Futures, the JHF Feinstein Fellowships, and most recently the Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home initiative. The leadership, faculty and students at the School of Nursing have been consistent partners for JHF in improving the health outcomes for our community, while continually working towards enhancing career paths for nurses. In particular, Jackie Dunbar-Jacob, PhD, RN, FAAN, dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, has participated in JHF's Senior Living Full Court Press team, has been a JHF Board member, and is currently a Health Careers Futures Board member.



JHF President & CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein (far right) and JHF COO & Chief Program Officer Nancy Zionts (far left) with Pitt Nursing graduates

## JHF Meets with Community Health Worker Initiative Work Group

In April, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation convened local payers, foundations, workforce boards, and community health worker (CHW) groups to discuss strategies for retaining, building, and sustaining the CHW workforce in the region. The work group is comprised of members from the Henry L. Hillman Foundation, Pittsburgh Foundation, Heinz Endowments, Jewish Healthcare Foundation, Allegheny County Health Department, Highmark, UPMC Health Plan, Southwest PA AHEC, Allegheny Health Network (AHN), and Partner4Work. The group discussed the current CHW trainings and programs that are underway in the region, the role of workforce boards in helping to scale the CHW workforce in the region, and how health plans are supporting CHWs. The group identified next steps to further define different types of financing models for CHWs and to educate providers on the role of CHWs and how to effectively supervise and retain CHWs.





## Pittsburgh: A Safer Childbirth City Partners Unite and Uplift Communities Through Outreach Efforts

*This is the second article in a series featuring the Pittsburgh: A Safer Childbirth City partners. Read the first article [here](#).*

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 other perinatal support workers to bolster the care support system around women and families during pregnancy, childbirth, and the months after.



Brown Mamas helps Black mothers elevate their collective mothering experience. Photo credit: Brown Mamas

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 community outreach and support services to the Pittsburgh community.

**[Brown Mamas](#)** is a community-led, mom-focused organization focused on helping Black mothers in the Pittsburgh region elevate their collective mothering experience by building the village they need to raise happy, healthy adults and thrive beyond motherhood. Brown Mamas holds in-person support groups and meetups for Black moms in Pittsburgh to connect with one another and facilitates a super-engaged Facebook community of nearly 6500 for Black mothers in the region. In addition, the cross-generational GrowMama Mentoring program connects less-experienced mothers with more experienced moms, with the mission of helping moms build their village of support. In June 2022, Brown Mamas will re-launch the Brown Mama Café support groups, which were developed in response to feedback from community listening sessions held during the COVID-19 pandemic, to provide further opportunities for tribe building and positive socialization.

**[Elephant Song](#)** provides birthing people and families with doula services for birth, the postpartum period, breastfeeding, and other services. The Elephant Song team intentionally selects Black doulas to provide their services and strives to inform and empower Black and Brown birthing people. Using social media platforms, Elephant Song provides culturally relevant pregnancy, birth, postpartum, and breastfeeding education to Black and Brown expectant parents across the country, and their content is starting a bigger conversation around Black maternal health across the Pittsburgh region.

[Kangaroo Birthing & Maternity Concierge](#) provides birth doula programming primarily to women of color and mother transition support with our fiscally sponsored sister arm (and partner with [New Sun Rising](#)) [Unshakeable Motherhood](#) and postpartum recovery education and lifestyle support. Kangaroo Birthing & Maternity Concierge clients have access to group coaching, one-on-one doula consultations, and pre-cooked family-sized meals, laundry service, and prenatal mental health appointment transportation provided by the mommy concierge and Kangaroo Birthing & Maternity network. Through the NurturHer app, postpartum mothers hand-select their personal mommy concierge and access online maternal survival educational tutorials to strengthen and guide their motherhood journey. Kangaroo Birthing & Maternity Concierge contracts with the Allegheny County Health Department to provide the NurturHer app, and they are updating the app based on community feedback. They were recently recruited, applied, and accepted into the Batchery 14 “Deep Dive” program. [The Batchery](#) is a Berkeley-based global incubator for seed stage startups ready to go from idea to launch. They are a global gateway to Silicon Valley, with the best investor advisory mentorship community, tools, and partnerships for entrepreneurs in the Bay Area, around the US, and internationally. Kangaroo Birthing & Maternity Concierge plans to expand their educational video library; they began a nutritional video series focused on healthy breakfasts, and they are working on a series focused on postpartum exercise, at-home newborn care, and so much more.



Hello Neighbor provides infant essentials. Photo credit: Hello Neighbor

[Hello Neighbor](#)'s Smart Start Program provides a bridge between the local refugee and immigrant communities and the local pregnancy, postpartum, and infant resources. The Smart Start Program offers case management services and volunteer support throughout pregnancy and postpartum care. Through the utilization of volunteers, donations, and community partnerships, Hello Neighbor provides a baby box of basic infant care items, postpartum care items, a supply of diapers, meal delivery service, case management, transportation, and accompaniment to medical appointments. Additionally, Hello Neighbor provides follow-up postpartum support until mom and baby are comfortable navigating their medical services and local resources comfortably.

These organizations have created a circle of inter-collaboration, in which they refer clients to other SCC partners for services. WHAMglobal and JHF are grateful for continued opportunities to partner with these organizations and look forward to continuing to learn from them in the future.

## NASEM Releases National Nursing Home Quality Report with JHF as a Sponsor

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) have released a new report, [“The National Imperative to Improve Nursing Home Quality: Honoring Our Commitment to Residents, Families, and Staff,”](#) sponsored by The John A Hartford Foundation, The Commonwealth Fund, The Sephardic Foundation on Aging, and The Samuels Foundation, and the Jewish Healthcare Foundation.

The report, developed by the [NASEM Committee on the Quality of Care in Nursing Homes](#), examines how our nation delivers, regulates, finances and measures quality of nursing home care, including the long-standing challenges brought to light by the COVID-19 pandemic.



The report indicates that wide-ranging systemic changes are needed to transform nursing homes to meet the needs of residents, families, and staff. Strengthening the nursing home workforce, improving emergency preparedness, and increasing the transparency and accountability of nursing homes' finances, operations, and ownership are key actions among the report's comprehensive recommendations. The report echoes the core themes captured in JHF's award-winning, short documentary, [What COVID-19 Exposed in Long-Term Care](#), released at the end of 2020.

The NASEM Committee on the Quality of Care in Nursing Homes held a webinar to discuss the report and its recommendations, a recording of which is available [here](#). The report's recommendations will be incorporated into the work of JHF's Full Court Press for Senior Residential Living, the Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home Initiative, and PA Health Funders Collaborative.

## Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Learning Network Kicks Off Second Quarter Programming

The Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Learning Network educational programming is underway, with each quarter focusing on a new theme that relates to the Office of Long-Term Living's Incentive program. The second quarter webinars will cover topics related to reducing avoidable transfers from nursing facilities to hospitals.

On the April 7 webinar for nursing facilities, Nancy Zions, MBA, COO and chief program officer, Jewish Healthcare Foundation, and Larry Appel, MD, SFMH, medical director, Department of Human Services, Office of Long-Term Living, provided a welcome and introductory remarks.



Nancy gave an introduction to the theme of reducing avoidable transfers from nursing facilities to hospitals and provided an overview of the reasons for hospital admissions of nursing facility residents, trends in readmissions from nursing facilities to acute care, appropriate reasons to transfer residents to the hospital, transition of care models, and the elements of patient safety culture. The session also featured an overview of the Learning Network webinar structure recommendations for facilities to identify a core team. Other presenters included Rollin M. Wright, MD, MS, MPH, associate professor of Medicine, Penn State Health at Hershey Medical Center; and Stacie Bonenberger, MOT, OTR/L, program manager, Aging Initiatives, Jewish Healthcare Foundation.

The second nursing facility webinar of the month was held April 21 and focused on quality improvement strategies. Stacie Bonenberger and Anneliese Perry, MS, NHA, CECM, program manager, Aging Initiatives, Jewish Healthcare Foundation provided an overview of the Plan-Do-Study-Act principles and examples of quality improvement from the field. They also introduced the upcoming “Q Tips” feature on Tomorrow’s HealthCare™, which will offer self-paced learning, including 15-minute education sessions and additional resources and tools to use and share with team members. Nancy Zions and Wilmarie González, bureau director, Bureau of Quality Assurance & Program Analytics, Department of Human Services, Office of Long-Term Living provided introductory remarks.

The first special populations webinar for the quarter, “Avoiding Hospitalizations from Nursing Facilities: It All Starts with a Good Admission to the Nursing Facility,” was held April 28. This webinar was developed in response to requests from service coordinator managers and supervisors and nursing facility staff to learn more about the resident’s experience and the role of the managed care organization and explored key factors for a successful admission to a nursing facility and the mechanisms that could help in early identification of issues that might result in a hospitalization. The event was conducted as a panel session between Nancy Zions and representatives from each of the three managed care organizations reviewing the existing and potential roles service coordinators can play in the admissions process that can help to avoid rehospitalizations of residents.

May’s webinars will feature additional topics related to avoiding hospitalizations, including falls prevention and promoting vaccinations, as well as preventing re-hospitalizations after a return from an admission. June will wrap up the topic of avoiding hospitalizations with presentations on polypharmacy and antipsychotics and wound care, and participants will be sharing best practices from the field.

## **Nancy Zions and Amy Berman Present during Indiana University School of Medicine and MESH Coalition Grand Rounds**

Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) COO & Chief Program Officer Nancy Zions, MBA, and The John A. Hartford Foundation Senior Program Officer Amy Berman, RN, LHD, FAAN, presented during grand rounds held by the Indiana University School of Medicine and the [MESH](#)





[\(Managed Emergency Surge for Healthcare\) Coalition](#) based in Indianapolis, Indiana. Their presentation shared information on innovations for nursing homes, focusing on the [Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home Initiative](#) and the [Age-Friendly Health Systems model](#). Zionts and Berman emphasized the opportunities for nursing home quality improvement based on the gaps revealed and exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. JHF and The John A. Hartford Foundation, in addition to the Henry L. Hillman Foundation, Independence Foundation, and the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, are piloting the program to advance a new model of care among skilled nursing facilities and local health systems across Pennsylvania.

## Nancy Zionts Appointed to PA Association of Area Agencies on Aging Strategic Advisory Council

Congratulations to Jewish Healthcare Foundation COO and Chief Program Officer Nancy Zionts, MBA, who has been appointed to the strategic advisory council for the PA Association of Area Agencies on Aging. In this role, Zionts will contribute her insight from decades of experience supporting seniors and aging programs at the local, regional, statewide, and national levels.



Nancy Zionts

## Dementia Friends Champions Engage York County First Responders

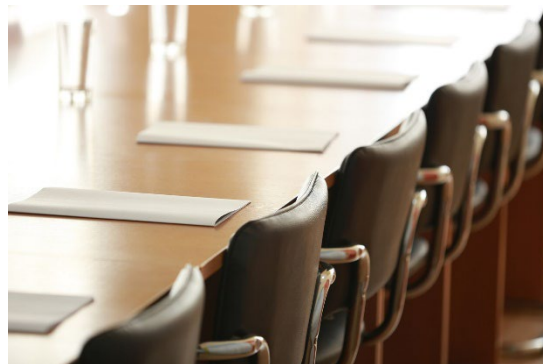
York County-based Dementia Friends Champions Jill Kaylor, Tina Hess, and Alison Sprinkle led a Dementia Friends Information Session for local first responders. The session offered strategies and best practices for serving people living with dementia. The Dementia Friends Champions also lead the local Dementia-Friendly Community Initiative, Dementia Friendly York/Adams. Managed by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, Dementia Friends Pennsylvania operates on a “train the trainer” model that prepares Dementia Friends Champions to hold Information Sessions and spread awareness in their communities across the Commonwealth. Check out local news coverage of the event [here](#) and [here](#).



York County Dementia Friends Information Session

## NPSB Coalition Advances Policy Progress

On April 25, the National Patient Safety Board (NPSB) Advocacy Coalition gathered for their second meeting of the year. Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, welcomed new members to the coalition: Avkin, Children's Hospitals' Solutions for Patient Safety, Meridian Healthcare Consulting, and Patients for Patient Safety US. JHF Chief Policy Officer Robert Ferguson, MPH, reviewed updated NPSB legislative opportunities, including specifications for a public-private healthcare safety team established by and within the proposed NPSB. Withing the first two years of the NPSB, the public-private healthcare safety team would review, update, and prioritize measures for patient safety events, identify data sources for patient safety measures, and recommend patient safety data surveillance technologies and specifications to identify and anticipate the patient safety measures. During the third year and beyond, the team would maintain the measures, data sources, and surveillance technologies, and identify or develop solutions based on the causes of the patient safety events. Ferguson thanked coalition members for their feedback, which contributed to this addition to the NPSB proposal.



James Gelfand, JD, SVP of health policy at the ERISA Industry Committee (ERIC), reviewed an updated policy and advocacy plan for the coalition and listed targeted next steps for the coalition.

## Karen Wolk Feinstein Presents at Patient Safety Movement Foundation Conference

Jewish Healthcare Foundation President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD joined a panel for the Patient Safety Movement Foundation (PSMF)'s World Patient Safety, Science & Technology Summit held April 29 and 30. The panel focused on how regulation can support quality and value in health care, and Dr. Feinstein brought insight from the development of the [National Patient Safety Board](#) proposal. Other panelists

included Robin Betts, RN, CPHO, MBA-HA, vice chair of PSMF and vice president of safety, quality and regulatory services at Kaiser Permanente Northern CA; Martin Hatlie, JD, co-director at MedStar IQS and president and CEO of Project Patient Care; and Michelle Block Schreiber, MD, director of quality measurement and value based incentives group at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.



## Karen Wolk Feinstein Leads Patient Safety Panel for AcademyHealth National Conference

On April 4, Jewish Healthcare Foundation President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, led a panel of patient safety experts during the Health Datapalooza and National Health Policy Conference, hosted by AcademyHealth in Washington, D.C. The discussion focused on policy opportunities to address intractable patient safety problems and to advance a vision for a solution to a better, safer future of health care – including the creation of a [National Patient Safety Board](#).

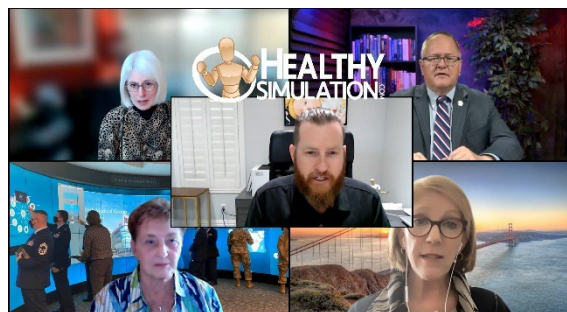


Karen Wolk Feinstein presents during AcademyHealth conference panel

Panelists included David Classen, MD, MS, associate professor of internal medicine at the University of Utah School of Medicine and chief medical information officer at Pascal Metrics, Carole Hemmelgarn, adjunct professor at the University of Illinois Chicago and Georgetown University, Hardeep Singh, MD, MPH, chief of the health policy, quality and informatics program at the Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, the director of Houston DISCOVERY, and a professor of medicine at the Baylor College of Medicine; and Kimá Joy Taylor, MD, founder of Anka Consulting, a health care consulting firm, and a nonresident fellow at the Urban Institute.

## Healthy Simulation Conference Welcomes Karen Wolk Feinstein

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, presented twice during the Healthy Simulation Virtual Symposium on April 13, 2022. With other patient safety leaders, Dr. Feinstein discussed advocacy opportunities related to calling for a [National Patient Safety Board](#), the importance of establishing a national home for healthcare safety, and the relevance and connection to the simulation industry.



The featured panel was moderated by Lance Baily, HealthySimulation.com Founder/CEO, and featured Paul Phrampus, MD, FSSH FACEP, the director of the [WISER](#) Center and medical director of patient safety at UPMC; KT Waxman, DNP, MBA, RN, CNL, CHSE, CENP, FAONL, FSSH, FAAN, clinical professor and director at UC San Francisco and director at the [California Simulation Alliance](#); Pam Boyers, PhD, MA, associate vice chancellor of clinical simulation at iEXCEL at the University of Nebraska Medical Center; and Dr. Feinstein.

Dr. Feinstein also shared about the National Patient Safety Board Advocacy Coalition during a breakout session later in the day. Learn more about the Conference [here](#).



## Karen Wolk Feinstein is Guest on Business Black Belts Podcast

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, joined the Business Black Belts podcast. Dr. Feinstein shared insight on mentorship, her experience as a woman in business, and her passion for understanding how societies become more just, caring, and democratic. Listen in [here](#).



## Save the Date: Too Hot for July on June 2

Too Hot for July (TH4J) returns live and in person this year! Save the date for Thursday, June 2 from 5-11pm at KLVN Coffee Lab, 6600 Hamilton Ave Fl 1, Pittsburgh, PA 15206. The annual HIV awareness event is hosted by [AIDS Free Pittsburgh](#), in partnership with [True T Pgh](#). This year, TH4J will feature a street party, a vogue dance battle, free HIV testing, and much more. The night will end with an energizing performance by nationally known artist, Saucy Santana. And we have a few surprises in store! Keep updated on the event by following [AFP's Facebook page](#).





## PA CARE Partnership Mental Health Panel Features PA Youth Advocacy Network Teens

Join us for a youth panel hosted by the PA CARE Partnership, “The Pandemic has Created a Mental Health Crisis: Schools, Mental Health, and What Teens Have to Say.” Teens active in the PA Youth Advocacy Network will convene to share their work as teen advocates, with a focus on mental health and what teens need in school and their day-to-day lives. There will be a Q&A period, during which questions from adults are encouraged. The panel will be held via Zoom on Thursday, May 19, 2022, from 3 pm to 4:30 pm.

Register [here](#).

### Meet our teen panelists!

PA CARE Partnership Panel | May 19, 2022 | 3pm - 4:30pm



Aneesha Kandala  
Susquehannock High School  
11th grade



Connor Dalgaard  
West Allegheny High School  
12th grade



Daiyannah Brown  
Mercy Career and Technical High School  
11th grade



Elwin Serrao  
Monsignor Bonner and Archbishop Prendergast Catholic High School  
11th grade



Giavanna Cella  
Wyoming Seminary  
9th grade

## Healing: When a Nurse Becomes a Patient by Theresa Brown Out Now

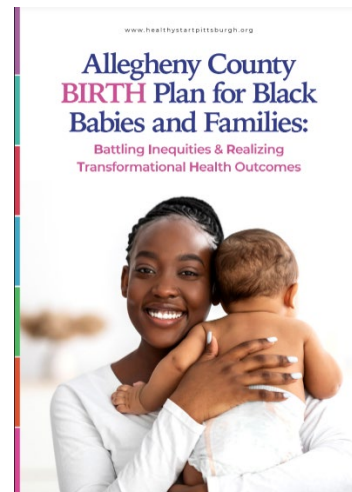
Congratulations to former Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) Board member Theresa Brown, RN on the publication of her book, [\*Healing: When a Nurse Becomes a Patient\*](#). The moving story chronicles Brown’s journey as a breast cancer patient with years of experience working as an oncology and hospice nurse. Brown serves as guest faculty for the JHF Death & Dying Fellowship and shared her journey with the fellows. Read more about Brown’s book [here](#).



Theresa Brown

## Healthy Start, Inc. Publishes Allegheny County BIRTH Plan

Congratulations to Healthy Start, Inc. on the publication of the Allegheny County BIRTH Plan, which lays out a strategy to equitably build on the county's maternal and child health infrastructure and address health disparities. The Women's Health Activist Movement Global is proud to partner with Healthy Start, Inc. on maternal health initiatives, including *Pittsburgh: A Safer Childbirth City*. Learn more about the plan [here](#).



## Now Hiring: Communications Associate, Program Associate, and Women's Health Program Manager

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) seeks applicants for three positions: a communications associate to support JHF and the Foundation's three operating arms, a program associate to support the success of the esteemed JHF Feinstein Fellowships, and a women's health program manager. Read more and apply for the communications associate position [here](#), the program associate position [here](#), and the women's health program manager [here](#).



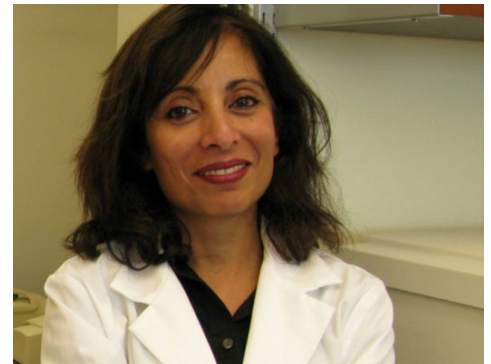
## Patient Safety Fellowship Deadline Extended to May 8

The 2022 Patient Safety Fellowship will take a fresh look at promising solutions for medical error from some of the best thought leaders in health care and weigh their merits. Applications are due Sunday, May 8, 2022. More information about the fellowship and applications [here](#).



## Dr. Maliha Zahid Reaches New Heights of Innovative Research, Medical Practice... and Classical Dance

Physician scientist Maliha Zahid, MD, PhD, FACC, joined the JHF board in 2021 and has brought her multifaceted perspective and energy to her role. Dr. Zahid is a practicing cardiologist at Excelsior Health Physician Practices and assistant professor of developmental biology at the University of Pittsburgh. She is also chief scientific officer of Vivasc Therapeutics and a senior member of the National Academy of Innovators. Her current research interests include developing novel vectors to target heart and lung tissue to deliver cargo of interest specifically to these organs to ameliorate cardiac and pulmonary pathologies respectively; studying mechanisms of normal cell antenna development (also known as ciliogenesis); and developing innovative treatment solutions for various diseases. She received the 2018 Emerging Innovators Award from the University of Pittsburgh Innovation Institute and is a three-time Pittsburgh Innovation in Research Award winner and was elected senior member to the National Academy of Innovators in 2022. In the summer of 2022, Dr. Zahid will be joining Mayo Clinic as a clinician investigator.



Dr. Maliha Zahid

Born and raised in Lahore, Pakistan, Dr. Zahid grew up surrounded by female role models who represented strength and empowerment in a male-dominated world: her entrepreneurial mother, who began college at age 29 after a divorce and later opened her own printing press business; Dr. Zahid's grandmother; and the teachers who ran Dr. Zahid's school. Dr. Zahid is grateful to her mother for enrolling her in a private school beginning in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, which gave her access to smaller class sizes and a more personalized, focused education. Her experience was a departure from the norms of the time, when girls' education was considered an afterthought. One teacher, Mrs. Gertrude Baptist, inspired Dr. Zahid's love of science and helped Dr. Zahid achieve her dream of becoming a doctor, which she held since childhood. Knowing that the medical school application process was competitive, Dr. Zahid had several backup plans, including becoming a research scientist or training as a world-class dancer. Channeling the spirit of the women in her life, Dr. Zahid has followed all three paths.

After graduating with her medical degree from Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan, Dr. Zahid worked as a clinical research assistant in Lahore and then made her way to St. Louis, Missouri, for an internal medicine internship and residency. Dr. Zahid then relocated to Pittsburgh for a cardiovascular disease fellowship and went on to join the PhD program at the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health.

"My career path is a little bit nontraditional, to say the least," says Dr. Zahid, who continued practicing as a cardiologist throughout her doctoral program. "Nobody could fathom that you could be a PhD student and not be full time. So, the only folks who were willing to take a chance and do this experiment with me were my mentor, Dr. Paul Robbins, and my PhD advisor, Dr. Robert Ferrell, who was the head of the department of human genetics. They thought it was a very unusual proposition, but they decided to go along with it, and the experiment worked."

While Robbins' lab was focused on gene therapy for diabetes and arthritis research, he allowed Dr. Zahid to direct her own research focus. "I'm grateful to him for giving me enough leeway and liberty to pursue my own research interests." This freedom led to a major breakthrough.

While completing her PhD program, Dr. Zahid discovered the cardiac targeting peptide (CTP), which could serve as a novel vector for heart tissue and heart muscle cells. As one of many potential applications, Dr. Zahid is researching whether CTP could improve use of a common and effective heart rhythm control drug, amiodarone, which can only be used safely on a short-term basis because it becomes toxic to other parts of the body over time. Amiodarone attached to CTP can then be delivered specifically to heart cells where it is needed. This reduces the dose needed and limits side effects. With the support of a National Institutes of Health (NIH) [grant](#), Dr. Zahid and her team "are doing some testing in guinea pigs, and it's very preliminary, but we are hopeful."

Dr. Zahid is also the primary investigator for NIH-funded research on developing chronic obstructive lung disease therapies and a cystic fibrosis research project through the University of Pittsburgh Clinical and Translational Science Institute. Her research has received prior grants from the American Heart Association and National Science Foundation.

"Because of my practice and because of my physician focus, my research has ended up being very translational and closer to application than more basic research would be. And I think they both grow from each other," says Dr. Zahid. "I think being both an MD and PhD is like sitting on a fence and being able to see both sides of a field. I truly think that being a PhD improves me as a cardiologist, and being a physician makes my science a little bit more relevant."

Dr. Zahid also mentors the next generation of physician scientists. After gaining her own lab in 2020, Dr. Zahid began offering research experiences to high school and college students who aspire to attend medical school. This inspired her to create a scholarship for top female students interested in STEM fields, in her teacher's name, at her high school alma mater. The scholarship is now in its second year.

Pursuing her "third dream" of becoming a world-class ballroom dancer in her spare time, Dr. Zahid dances with a Pittsburgh-based troupe. Dr. Zahid first began classical Indian dancing as a child, a realization of one of her grandmother's dreams, as dancing by women was culturally prohibited in her grandmother's early years. After taking a hiatus while completing her medical studies, Dr. Zahid returned to the dance floor while pursuing her PhD. Around the same time, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, and dancing has become her way of proactively tackling the disease and maintaining her health.

Dr. Zahid is now preparing to join Mayo Clinic as a clinician investigator, where she will continue to pursue her novel research. She is particularly excited to see future innovations in targeted drug delivery and personalized medicine. But her Pittsburgh roots run deep, and Dr. Zahid will take with her the insights of her Pittsburgh colleagues, including those at JHF. Dr. Zahid says being part of the JHF board has been an educational experience and that JHF's persistent work in policy change parallels what she hopes for the ultimate outcome of her research: "affecting and improving the lives of people that you've never met or will see."



## Staff Walk at Phipps

To celebrate the end of the winter season and to welcome the warmer weather, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation staff gathered at Phipps Conservatory for a guided tour of the spring flower show.

