



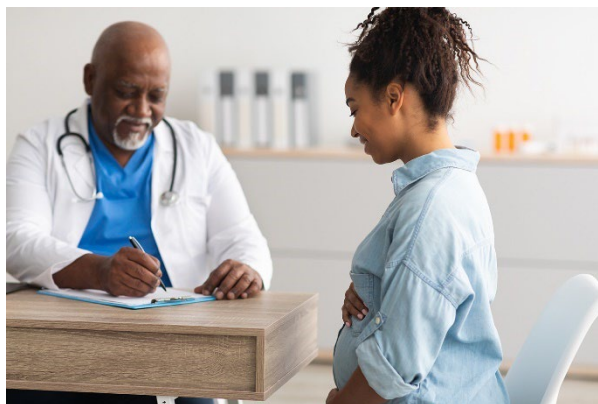
May 2022 | Jewish Healthcare Foundation news, events, milestones, & more

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PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs Awards Jewish Healthcare Foundation \$1.4 Million for Maternal Health Program

The Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) awarded the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) over \$1.4 million in funding to continue the Pennsylvania Perinatal Quality Collaborative's (PA PQC) work in improving perinatal health outcomes.



“We are deeply committed to the health and well-being of mothers and children across the commonwealth,” said DDAP Secretary Jen Smith. “Meeting the needs of this vulnerable population requires a collaborative approach across the healthcare system, and this funding will help assure that they are directly connected with services to help them and their newborn or soon-to-be newborn thrive.”

The funding from DDAP includes \$700K for a continued focus on improving outcomes for maternal opioid use disorder (OUD) and neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) that began in 2019, and \$1.4 million for the expansion of the maternal substance use and substance exposed newborn work through March 14, 2023.

As an action arm of the [Pennsylvania Maternal Mortality Review Committee](#), the PA PQC supports healthcare providers across the commonwealth in implementing key interventions in response to the major causes of maternal deaths. This includes a focus on maternal substance use, substance exposed newborns, maternal depression, severe hypertension, and reducing racial/ethnic disparities. The PA PQC's focus is growing in 2022 with several expanded and new initiatives to help birth sites and neonatal intensive care units (NICU) drive improvement and adopt standards of care.

The PA PQC was launched in April 2019 by over 140 advisory and work group members across the commonwealth, with a focus on reducing maternal mortality and improving care for pregnant and postpartum women and newborns affected by opioids. The PA PQC currently includes 53 birth sites and NICUs, representing 81% of live births in Pennsylvania, and 14 commercial and Medicaid health plans across the commonwealth, which are actively identifying perinatal processes that need to be improved and adopting best practices to achieve common aims.

The perinatal care teams from the PA PQC sites form a team, participate in quarterly Learning Sessions, launch quality improvement initiatives, access quality improvement resources, and report aggregate data via surveys and the PA PQC Data Portal to drive improvement towards the PA PQC's goals.

Among PA PQC hospitals that submitted surveys for the January-March 2022 quarter, the PA PQC has observed the following in comparison to the baselines for sites prior to joining the PA PQC:

- 43% increase in the percentage of hospitals providing medications for OUD.

- 100% increase in the percentage of hospitals using validated, self-reported screening tools for maternal substance use.
- 41% increase in the percentage of hospitals using standardized non-pharmacologic protocols for NAS.
- 26% increase in the percentage of hospitals using standardized pharmacologic protocols for NAS.

"These improvements in the recognition and treatment of mothers with OUD and neonates suffering from NAS are a direct result of open dialogue between staff from collaborating hospitals," said James A. Cook, MD, FAAP, director of newborn services at Geisinger Health System and co-chair of the PA PQC Advisory Work Group. "With updated information provided by keynote speakers from across the country, the PA PQC brings together teams of nurses, physicians, social workers, and community providers from all parts of Pennsylvania to share their success stories so that all hospitals may learn from each other."

DDAP previously awarded JHF \$700,000 to support the launch of the PA PQC in April 2019. The launch included a 140-member advisory work group across the commonwealth primarily focused on reducing maternal mortality and improving care for pregnant and postpartum women and newborns affected by opioids.

Learn more about the PA PQC on their [website](#).

AI & ML in Healthcare Symposium Highlights Pittsburgh's Potential

On May 10 and 11, Pittsburgh showcased its potential to become a leader in artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) within health care. The "AI/ML in Healthcare Symposium," hosted for the first time by the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Military Medicine Research, included two days of stimulating discussions by leading researchers and innovators on topics like AI applications in health care, AI's impact in pre-hospital and in-hospital healthcare delivery, improvements in medical imaging, technological applications for patient safety, and an exploration for future research and education as AI becomes more integrated with health care. The Jewish Healthcare Foundation was a co-sponsor of the event as part of its ongoing work to position the Pittsburgh region as a hub for transformative healthcare technologies and innovation, especially as it pertains to patient safety.

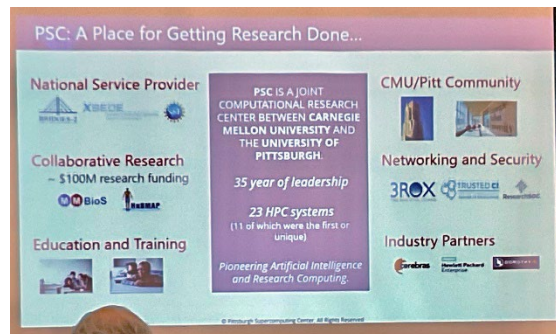


(From left to right) Ronald Poropatich, MD, MS; Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD; and Paul Phrampus, MD at the "AI/ML in Healthcare Symposium." Photo by Emily O'Donnell.

The Center for Military Medicine Research, led by Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative (PRHI) Board Member [Ronald Poropatich](#), MD, MS, hosted the symposium with guidance from an expert

planning committee which included [Shandong Wu, PhD](#), [Michael Pinsky, MD](#), and [Giles Clermont, MD](#).

The Center for AI Innovation in Medical Imaging, a partnership between the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, and UPMC, led by Dr. Wu, is an important partnership between three key regional stakeholders working on AI in healthcare projects. Dr. Pinsky shared how the University of Pittsburgh's School of Medicine created a new class focused on exposing the fundamental concepts of AI in healthcare to first-year and second-year medical students to prepare them for a more digital and tech-enabled health care. The NOMA project, led by Dr. Clermont is focused on developing an AI model that can identify potential medical errors in the ICU by emphasizing early detection and forecasting of errors with the ultimate goal of enabling real-time insights and action. Artur Dubrawski, PhD, provided an overview about the key practical limitations of real-world healthcare AI and the current ways we have to overcome those challenges. He said that the key limitations of AI in practice are driven by the data we have, the models we build, and the humans that shape it all together.



Karen Wolk Feinstein speaking at the “AI/ML in Healthcare Symposium” with (from left to right) moderator Paul Phrampus, and panel-members Parthasarathy Thirumala, MD; Alexander Sundermann, DrPH; and Shyam Visweswaran, MD, PhD. Photo by Emily O'Donnell.

The symposium featured a panel focused on patient safety that was moderated by Dr. Paul Phrampus, the Director of the Peter M. Winter Institute for Simulation, Education and Research (WISER), and featured JHF and PRHI President & CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein presenting on the National Patient Safety Board (NPSB) and the ways it relates to the theme of AI/ML in healthcare. Through its focus on spreading solutions, the NPSB would support a national acceleration toward technology development and adoption with promising solutions implemented at scale. Shym Visweswaran, MD, PhD, another member of the panel, highlighted his team's work at the University of Pittsburgh focused on developing a learning electronic medical record system that predicts what information physicians would want to have displayed during the patient interaction pathways.

As the symposium concluded, the confluence of the speakers and attendees spanning academia, industry, and government only reinforced Pittsburgh's ability to lead in the application AI/ML to health care. JHF and PRHI will continue to build on the momentum of the symposium through its regional work to catalyze an autonomous patient safety industry in Pittsburgh.

Read more about the symposium in the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) and in [TribLIVE](#).

Karen Feinstein Presents at International Women's Forum Chile Conference on "Women, Aging, and Inequities in Healthcare"

The International Women's Forum (IWF) 2022 Cornerstone Conference, "Discovery Through Earth, Seas, & Skies," took place in Santiago, Chile, from May 17 to May 19. The annual IWF Cornerstone Conference brings together some of the world's preeminent women leaders to explore critical issues across professions with the aim of advancing women's leadership and championing equality worldwide. Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, president and CEO of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF), participated in one of the 2022 conference's major panels, "Women, Aging, and Inequities in Healthcare," as well as co-hosted the Healthcare Special Interest Group session as a follow-up on her panel's discussion.



The "Women, Aging, and Inequities in Healthcare" panel with (from left to right) Teresa Valdes-Fauli Weintraub, Karen Wolk Feinstein, and Jamile Camacho.

Women deal with inequities in health care across the world, but the biases and the discrimination grow even more pronounced as women get older. During the IWF Town Hall panel discussion on "Women, Aging, and Inequities in Healthcare," Teresa Valdes-Fauli Weintraub, managing director at Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc., moderated a discussion with Dr. Feinstein and Jamile Camacho, MD, professor of surgery and breast pathology and magister in bioethics at Clinica Alemana Universidad del Desarrollo and past president of the Surgeons Society of Chile, to explore why older women face inequities in health care and consider options to address the situation.

Dr. Feinstein and Dr. Camacho provided evidence that older women across the world often face challenges in getting the best care: confusing and random payment coverage for basic diagnostics; complicated treatment guidelines, with some guidelines even lacking the validation of good science. Guidelines can be set by "out-of-touch" actuaries who seem to assume that the quality of life after 65 or 70 isn't worth an investment in expensive interventions—even when these interventions could add satisfying and productive years to their lives. Without coverage, treatments can be unaffordable because many older women live on very tight budgets (including below poverty levels).

Too few charitable foundations or politicians champion research or insurance coverage that would address these disadvantages for older women, even when what is paid for, recommended, and delivered reflects a basic societal "ageism." Geriatricians generally receive lower reimbursement than other specialties in the U.S., leading to a serious shortage, while a growing aging population increases the need for such care. Consequently, senior women are undertreated, underdiagnosed, under-researched, under-respected.

The talk ended with a call to senior women and post-menopausal women to speak up and advocate for themselves. There is much to learn from the successful advocacy efforts of AIDS

activists, participants in Race for the Cure, and mothers who promoted designated driver campaigns.

IWF Healthcare Special Interest Group Convenes at Chile Conference to Discuss Inequities Faced by Women

During the May 2022 International Women's Forum (IWF) Cornerstone Conference in Santiago, Chile, the IWF Healthcare Special Interest Group met to continue the discussion around inequities faced by older women in seeking good health care.

The special session was led by Debra Caplan, MPA, IWF Pittsburgh Forum President and Chair of WHAMglobal and the JHF Board of Trustees, and Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, President and CEO of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, and it was set up to continue the conversation from the previous day's conference panel, "Women, Aging, and Inequities in Healthcare."



To further frame the discussion, Dr. Feinstein provided data on ageism within health care, particularly in the U.S., and she facilitated a discussion about next steps to address the biases and discrimination. The discussion began with insights from IWF members and subject matter experts Beverly Morrow, 2021 Woman of the Year in philanthropy by the Women's Foundation in Arkansas and retired McDonald's owner and operator; Judith Reichman, MD, a leading gynecologist at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, author (*I'm Not in the Mood; I'm Too Young to Get Old; Slow Your Clock Down*) and television personality; and Alison Taunton-Rigby, PhD, OBE, CEO of RibaNovix and Cambridge Biotech Corporation, director and trustee of Boston Children's Hospital, and life sciences and financial services leader.

Following the expert comments, IWF members considered disparities faced in their home countries and successful models and strategies to address these issues. The session concluded with a discussion for future meetings and topics.

Dr. Feinstein and Caplan formed the IWF Special Interest Group for Health in 2019, and the group has met several times a year since, including most recently in [March 2022](#) to discuss human trafficking through a public health lens.

Patient Safety Podcast Explores Opportunities for Transformation

Two new [Up Next for Patient Safety](#) episodes are now available.

[Systemic Solutions](#) features researcher Dr. Kathleen Sutcliffe, Bloomberg Distinguished Professor at Johns Hopkins University and author of the highly lauded book *Still Not Safe: Patient Safety and the Middle Managing of American Medicine*, and patient safety visionary Dr. Vivian Lee, president of health platforms at Verily Life Sciences and author of the acclaimed book *The Long Fix: Solving America's Health Care Crisis with Strategies that Work for Everyone*. Dr. Sutcliffe reviews patient safety efforts from a historical perspective and discusses why progress has been so slow. Dr. Lee offers a glimpse into the potential for a tech-enabled transformation of health care.

The latest episode, [Lessons from a Netflix Film](#), pairs aviation safety journalist Andy Pasztor and transportation safety expert Chris Hart, founder of Hart Solutions LLC, for a lively discussion of how a “culture of speed” at Boeing depicted in a recent Netflix documentary, “Downfall: The Case Against Boeing,” led to tragic yet preventable consequences and share lessons for how to keep safety from taking a backseat to profit in the U.S.’s revenue-driven approach to health care.

Listen to the new episodes and find previous episodes [here](#).



PA Youth Advocacy Network Unites Activists for Mental Health Awareness Month

The PA Youth Advocacy Network recognized the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month with several youth-centered events. Since 2018, the Network, a program of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, has activated youth and adults across Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania to call for change and promote teen mental health with skills-building and advocacy opportunities.

In May, the Network closed out a series developed with the Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern PA, titled [Where Mentoring and Youth Mental Health Meet](#). The monthly series began in February and offered four sessions in



Signing of the Teen Mental Health Awareness Day proclamation at the Allegheny County Council on May 24, 2022. Pictured (left to right): Front row, County Council Member Olivia "Liv" Bennett, primary sponsor of the declaration; Mohammad Shedeed, teen activist; and Sarah Pesi, policy associate at JHF. Back row, members of the Council.

which caring adults explored the role strong relationships between adults and young people and between young people and their peers play in youth mental health. In addition, a bonus session focused on creating a mental health safety plan. Youth involved with mentoring programs joined the third session for a youth voice panel, in which they shared their stories and insights on best practices for youth outreach and peer supports. The Mentoring Partnership provided event summaries and tools for participants to use in their work, which are available on the Mentoring Partnership [website](#).

On Mental Health Day of Action, May 19, the PA Youth Advocacy Network teamed up with the [PA CARE Partnership](#) to hold a statewide youth panel titled [The Pandemic has Created a Mental Health Crisis: Schools, Mental Health, and What Teens Have to Say](#). Five youth advocates from across Pennsylvania spoke about their work as advocates, especially around the topic of mental health and what teens need in school and in their day-to-day lives. The youth also fielded questions from adults in the audience and provided insight on how adults can promote teen mental health. A recording of the panel is available [here](#).

The Network celebrated Teen Mental Health Awareness Day by hosting the Rally Across PA! Celebrate Teen Mental Health Advocates event on May 22. This day was declared in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania by Governor Tom Wolf, in Allegheny County by the Allegheny County Council, and in Luzerne County by the Luzerne County Council, all of whom passed proclamations written by youth advocates as part of the Network's advocacy efforts. Governor Wolf also recorded a video message to recognize and congratulate the youth leaders, which was played during the event. Youth leaders presented on teen mental health policy priorities, opportunities to get started in advocacy, and everyday activism, and they called for adult involvement across the Commonwealth.

This is the second consecutive year in which Teen Mental Health Awareness Day has been recognized with proclamations authored by PA Youth Advocacy Network advocates. Read more about the 2021 celebration and proclamation here: [May 23 Declared Teen Mental Health Awareness Day in Pennsylvania and City of Pittsburgh](#).

Missing from these exciting teen mental health events was JHF Adolescent Behavioral Health Initiative Program Manager Deborah Murdoch, MPH. But her absence was linked to a joyous event—she welcomed a baby daughter, Eleanor Grace Ash, on May 7!

Teen Mental Health Collaborative Members Engage with Legislators

On May 26, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) convened members of [the Teen Mental Health Collaborative](#) for the second in-person meeting of 2022. Attendees had the opportunity to share and network with Collaborative participants and elected officials, define the focus of Collaborative's working groups, and identify opportunities for shared advocacy with elected officials.

The Out of School Time, Training, and Advocacy Working Groups provided report-outs during the meeting. These included a presentation on the Mentoring Partnership Peer Mentoring Webinar and a discussion of the Pennsylvania Governor's race.

Collaborative members had the opportunity to share their efforts and challenges during a Community Concerns Listening Session with Legislators. Participating legislators included Sen. Jay Costa, District 43; Rep. Emily Kinkead, District 20; Rep. Dan Frankel, District 23; and Rep. Martell Covington, District 24. Participating legislative staff were Cheryl Kleiman, legislative director and executive director of Senate Education Committee, Office of Sen. Lindsey M. Williams; Ken Aquiline district director, Office of Rep. Sara Innamorato, District 21; Alexis Trbovich, field representative, Office of Sen. Devlin J. Robinson, District 37, and James Scott, legislative aide, Office of Rep. Valerie Gaydos, District 44.

Participants had the opportunity to participate in informal lunch conversations between legislators and community organizations to brainstorm solutions. Discussions centered on funding for out-of-school time; developing school partnerships; education regulations; training and investments in peer supports; connecting systems within state government (teen mental health is covered by numerous umbrellas in the state budget); and the role of community organizations to promote mental health and address barriers to access to services.

The session concluded with a discussion of plans for summer activities and advocacy opportunities. The convening was a chance for legislators and community organizations to come together and drive solutions. This was just the beginning of the conversation, and at the conclusion of the session the legislators were eager to take action on the next steps to implement some of the solutions.



The Teen Mental Health Collaborative met at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh in Squirrel Hill. Pictured (left to right): Front row: Michelle Thomas, Mentoring Partnership; Rep. Emily Kinkead; Sarah Pesl, Jewish Healthcare Foundation. Back row: Alexis Trbovich, field representative for Sen. Devlin Robinson; Sara Nevels, Gwen's Girls; Hersh Merenstein, Boys & Girls Club; Kara Petrosky, Boys & Girls Club; Rep. Martell Covington; Marrita Gillcrease, Center of Life; Sophia Duck, Mentoring Partnership; Ally Weekly, Friendship Circle; Kenneth Aquiline, district director for Rep. Sara Innamorato; Kiyomi Knox, Center of Life.

In 2020, JHF initiated the Collaborative to facilitate opportunities for youth-serving organizations to share their approaches to providing emotional support, connection, and engagement for teens and to learn from one another. The youth-driven programs used various approaches, including [expressive arts](#), [podcasts](#), and [peer support](#), to create environments in which teens can build resiliency, leadership skills, and new relationships to guide themselves and others through the pandemic. The Collaborative provides organizations with trainings and [opportunities](#) to share program ideas and expertise.

Senior Living Full Court Press Addresses Implications of NASEM Report on Nursing Home Quality

The May 4 Senior Residential Living Full Court Press meeting focused on the recommendations contained in a highly anticipated report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM), [*The National Imperative to Improve Nursing Home Quality: Honoring Our Commitment to Residents, Families, and Staff*](#). The 600+ page report, developed with support from a coalition of sponsors, including the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF), examines how the United States delivers, finances, regulates, and measures the quality of nursing home care. Many themes that appear throughout the report were captured in JHF's award-winning 2020 documentary [*What COVID-19 Exposed in Long-Term Care*](#).



A featured quote in the report from the daughter of two parents who required nursing home care during COVID-19 echoes the sad fact that the problems with long-term care are not new: “The pandemic has lifted the veil on what has been an invisible social ill for decades.”

Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN, president and CEO of The John A. Hartford Foundation, lead funder of the NASEM report, delivered opening comments. The overarching conclusion is that “the way the United States finances, delivers, and regulates care in nursing home settings is ineffective, inefficient, fragmented, and unsustainable.” She noted that the report provides a comprehensive road map to improving the long-term care system in the United States, focusing on the interconnectedness of systems to ensure that all older adults have access to quality care. Dr. Fulmer highlighted the JHF Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home project, funded by The John A. Hartford Foundation, which is addressing one of the key action items of the report, namely, to ensure a well-prepared workforce.

An expert panel of study authors and funders discussed how to engage in advancing the proposed strategies. Panelists were Stuart Butler, PhD, senior fellow at The Brookings Institute; David Grabowski, PhD, professor of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School; and Tricia Neuman, ScD, senior vice president at the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation.

Dr. Grabowski provided a high-level overview of the NASEM report and reviewed the seven areas for improvement. Dr. Butler reflected on what the long-term care system might look like 20–30 years from now and which recommendations will get us there. Dr. Neuman took an optimistic tone, sparked by President Biden’s State of the Union Address, which referenced federal action on staffing levels, value-based care, and transparency regarding facility ownership. All agreed that addressing workforce issues and the financing of nursing home care are crucial areas for immediate focus.

Following the expert panel, attendees shared questions and perspectives on the starting points to address the recommendations outlined in the report. Comments focused on the need to be cautious with implementing new regulations in an already highly regulated and financially stressed industry, as well as the lack of alignment of incentives between hospitals and nursing homes and the need for creative solutions to both workforce challenges and models of senior living.

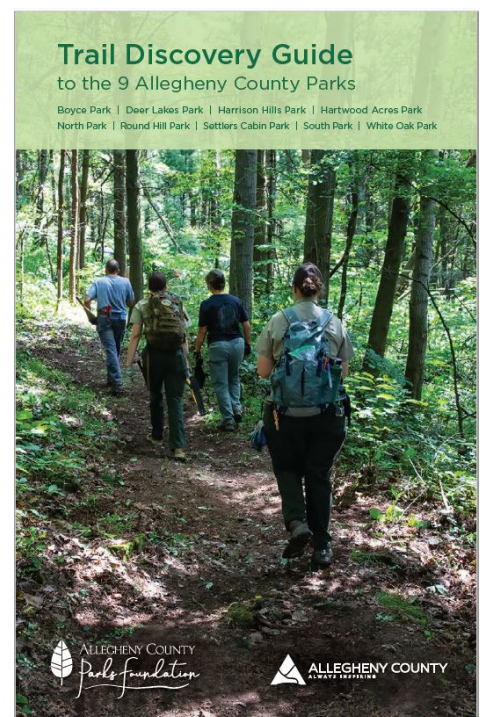
Allegheny County Parks Trail Guide Completed as Caren Glotfelty Retires from Parks Foundation

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) is pleased to share the result of a county parks trail guide project led by the Allegheny County Parks Foundation (ACPF) to engage and support the health of our region’s residents.

JHF granted ACPF funding in 2020 to support the development, design, printing, and promotion of an [Allegheny County Parks Trail Discovery Guide](#). The new guide contains maps of 22 trails, engaging photos, and trail details such as mileage and elevation statistics. Park visitors can find the guide [online](#) or as a printed booklet. On the ACPF website, park visitors may also download individual trail directions and maps.

JHF previously supported ACPF with a 2017 grant to develop a mobile-friendly, senior-friendly application that uses maps, text, and images to highlight curated walks, events, and other attractions focused on a senior audience of varied abilities. At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, JHF granted ACPF funding for a social media campaign to promote outdoor opportunities that allowed for safer socialization and activity.

These grants are part of *Senior Connections: Creating a Culture of Health and Exercise*, a multipronged initiative led by JHF to engage and support seniors in our region. The expanded trail guide will help more people across Allegheny County, especially seniors, to access information about the park trails and will foster good exercise habits and improved mental health through park visits.



“The Jewish Healthcare Foundation stepped up with funding for the Trail Discovery Guide at a time when our region was searching for ways to manage the isolation of sheltering inside. As a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Allegheny County Parks Foundation, Karen Feinstein understood the crucial role that the parks could play in a health crisis. We are grateful that this support will help orient park visitors through 18 of our parks’ popular trails. It gave us the tools to encourage people to use the network of trails and venture into parks they may have never visited before,” said Caren Glotfelty, ACPF Executive Director.

JHF congratulates Glotfelty on her upcoming retirement from ACPF, which she joined in 2014. Glotfelty has been an environmental advocate for more than four decades, and JHF celebrates her dedication to improving the health and wellbeing of Allegheny County residents and visitors.

Karen Feinstein Viewpoint: Paul O’Neill, Pittsburgh’s safety pioneer, still has much to teach us

The Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative continues to honor the legacy left by the late Paul O’Neill, but the recent RaDonda Vaught case in Tennessee highlights the large gaps that still exist within healthcare safety efforts. Read Karen Wolk Feinstein’s insight in the Pittsburgh Business Times for how health care must continue to learn from O’Neill’s safety legacy.



HEALTH CARE

Wolk Feinstein's Viewpoint: Paul O’Neill, Pittsburgh’s safety pioneer, still has much to teach us

Karen Wolk Feinstein Named to Pennsylvania Healthcare Power 100 List

Jewish Healthcare Foundation President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, has been named to City and State Pennsylvania’s Healthcare Power 100 list for the second straight year. Read more [here](#).



Too Hot for July: AIDS Free Pittsburgh and community partners host fourth annual HIV awareness event on June 2

Too Hot for July (TH4J) returns live and in-person this year! Join [AIDS Free Pittsburgh](#), in partnership with [True T PGH](#), for this signature HIV prevention awareness event on Thursday, June 2 from 5–11 pm at KLVN Coffee Lab, 6600 Hamilton Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206. This year, TH4J will feature a street party, a vogue dance battle, free HIV testing, and a vendor marketplace curated by True T PGH to highlight local businesses owned by women, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color), immigrants, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. The night will end with an energizing performance by nationally known artist Saucy Santana. RSVP on [AFP's Facebook page](#).



Birthing A Movement event to uplift and celebrate the maternal health workforce at the 2022 Three Rivers Arts Festival

In partnership with *Anthropology of Motherhood* (AoM), WHAMglobal will host *Birthing A Movement* at AoM's Culture of Care Exhibit from June 3-12 at 100 7th Street, Pittsburgh, PA at the 2022 Dollar Bank Three Rivers Arts Festival. *Birthing A Movement* will feature artist Lena Chen and her project *Full Circle*, a participatory art project that engages communities of birth workers in sharing stories about their labor experiences. The Anthropology of Motherhood's "Culture of Care Exhibit" will feature works of art that engage in the complex visual, material, emotional, corporeal, and lived experiences of motherhood, caregiving, parenting, nurturing, and maternal labor. Join the experience of Full Circle on Friday, June 3 from 4:00-7:00 pm, Saturday, June 4 from 12:00-6:00 pm, and Sunday, June 5 from 12:00-6:00 pm.



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

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



New PA POLST Live Virtual Course Launches

On May 3, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) and Pennsylvania POLST presented the new *POLST: Doing it Right!* Virtual Course to a multidisciplinary group of 22 adult learners from across the commonwealth. The virtual course was adapted from the prior in-person curriculum and is part of a larger redesign of the POLST training. This project was supported by a grant from the McElhatten Foundation to enhance access to POLST education and resources for healthcare providers and personnel throughout Pennsylvania. Participants received a total of 5 continuing education credits for completing the virtual course.



During the session, participants had the opportunity to review the history and background of POLST, learn techniques and tools to improve POLST conversation facilitation skills, review teaching materials that can be used across all healthcare settings, and, most importantly, practice having conversations about POLST through role-play using case studies developed around various patient scenarios.

A multidisciplinary, statewide faculty served as facilitators for the POLST conversations. Faculty included Judith S. Black, MD, MHA; Kalpana Char, MD, associate vice president, Special Needs Program Medical Services, UPMC Health Plan; Justin Engleka, GNP-BC, ACHPN, MBA, senior palliative care program manager, Helion Healthcare; Jeanne Kerwin, D.MH, HEC-C, clinical ethics and palliative care consultant; Margaret Kreher, MD, FACP, clinical associate professor, Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Care, Family and Community Medicine, Thomas Jefferson University, Sidney Kimmel Medical College; Suzanne Labriola, DO, primary care and integrated medicine physician, Pittsburgh Health Partners; and Alexander Nesbitt, MD, medical director, UPMC Susquehanna Health Supportive and Palliative Care. Faculty, course participants, and JHF staff served as observers during the role-play exercise and provided feedback on the conversations. In collaboration with a statewide POLST Curriculum Committee, PA POLST is also developing enduring continuing education modules on the following topics:

- Overview of POLST and Advance Directives
- POLST Conversations & Tools
- POLST Implementation
- Medicare Reimbursement for Advance Care Planning Discussions
- Emergency Medical Services and POLST
- Cultural Competency & POLST

These self-paced modules will be available soon on the [PA POLST website](#), and learners will be able to receive continuing education credits.

Dr. Judy Black Champions End-of-Life Care for All

From her humble beginnings in rural Punxsutawney, education was always a priority for Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) Medical Advisor Judy Black, MD, MHA. Her passion for learning and for sharing her knowledge has led Dr. Black on a path from a one-room schoolhouse to a long and distinguished career in internal medicine and geriatrics—and to becoming a leading expert on end-of-life care. After retiring from clinical practice in 2019, Dr. Black remains committed to sharing her knowledge with a new generation of professionals, with the goal of ensuring quality end-of-life care for all.



The oldest of four children growing up in a rural town, Dr. Black had aspirations of becoming a pharmacist. However, for young women in that era, the career options presented to them were only those deemed “female-centric” in nature. She recalled, “My guidance counselor in high school really encouraged secretarial, nursing, and teaching careers. I looked at nursing school because I didn’t want to be a teacher or a secretary.”

This seemingly misguided advice proved salient, as her love of learning was cultivated during her education at Presbyterian University School of Nursing. While pursuing her RN diploma, Dr. Black reflects, “I had some experiences that made me think I really wanted to be a physician. I went ahead and worked in the operating room as a scrub nurse while I went to college for pre-med.” She was the first in her family to earn a college degree and credits her parents with providing the encouragement and support to believe that she could be whatever she wanted to be—despite what the cultural norms at the time had to say. She earned her MD from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and a master’s degree in Health Services Administration from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health. Dr. Black credits many mentors throughout her education, in particular the late oncologist Dr. William Cooper, chairman of the Department of Medicine at Shadyside Hospital, who was instrumental in guiding her professionally. In addition, she is grateful for how supportive her husband, Mickey, has been throughout her career endeavors.

Much of the work that Dr. Black has done during her medical career—and her work with JHF—has centered on educating both early career and experienced healthcare professionals. She was extensively involved with resident education while working at the Western Pennsylvania Hospital and UPMC St. Margaret Memorial Hospital. She became acquainted with JHF’s aging work during her work as medical director of Senior Markets at Highmark and joined as medical advisor in 2016.

Through the Death and Dying Fellowship offered by JHF, Dr. Black continues to have an opportunity to mentor nurses, physicians, social workers, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and other young healthcare professionals on how to have end-of-life conversations. “It’s important that we have students exposed to the positive aspects of aging early in their careers, and that is something JHF has really taken a lead on, such as with the Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home initiative. Learning and having an opportunity to interact with both elderly and frail can be very rewarding,” she noted.

She also shares from both her professional and personal experiences with older adults seeking education on planning for the end of life as faculty for the “Closure” course offered by JHF through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute of Carnegie Mellon University.

Dr. Black was instrumental in getting POLST (Pennsylvania Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment) established in Pennsylvania. POLST was developed in Oregon in the 1990s as a process for creating a portable medical order to communicate wishes regarding health care for the seriously ill or frail. She was introduced to the POLST initiative in the early 2000s and became committed to bringing it to Pennsylvania. As the lead faculty for the POLST curriculum administered by JHF, Dr. Black guides providers on best practices for having POLST conversations. She also participates with JHF as a member of the Coalition for Quality at the End of Life, a coalition of organizations concerned about the quality of care that is available to seriously ill and dying people and their families in Pennsylvania.



Dr. Black enjoying a sunset stroll with four generations of her family. Pictured (left to right): Ed Sherman, Judy’s father; son, Rob Black; grandchildren Landon and Abigail; Dr. Black and her husband, Mickey.

In addition to her continued work with JHF, Dr. Black remains engaged professionally through her work with the Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society Western Division as their secretary/treasurer since the organization’s inception in 1988 and has been part of the nationally recognized annual educational course in geriatrics. She also continues to represent Pennsylvania for the National POLST organization. Dr. Black is driven to ensure that POLST discussions are quality conversations between patients and providers and that the POLST form is respected across care settings and patients’ end-of-life care wishes are met.

Dr. Black has witnessed much progress in how our society addresses aging and end-of-life issues, but challenges remain, she notes, particularly regarding how we finance care for older adults. “What I’d like to see,” she explains, “is a more integrated financial system between Medicare and Medicaid that would allow for more support of seniors in the setting of which they want to live both as they age and as they’re facing end-of-life care.”

Given her continued commitment to educating today's and tomorrow's geriatrics and end-of-life professionals, Dr. Black's retirement is not the leisurely lifestyle many envision for themselves. She does, however, enjoy the flexibility that retirement has afforded her. She saves plenty of time for active pursuits, such as tennis, pickleball, biking, and water-skiing, as well as for enjoying time with her seven—soon to be nine—grandchildren and her 95-year-old father. JHF is deeply grateful that Dr. Black continues to make time to provide expert guidance on our aging and end-of-life programming.