



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

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Message from Karen Wolk Feinstein

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation staff began the new year with an ambitious vision and a list of accomplishments on our part that would make for a healthier, safer America. We imagined what we could achieve in 2022 by leveraging our collective skills, assets, and partnerships to address emerging needs and longstanding challenges. We worked, as always, to reimagine systems of care that were safer, more responsive, more accessible and reliable. We are happy to say that we met many of our objectives for 2022. We have begun envisioning the progress we hope to realize in 2023.

Thank you for being a valuable partner in our work. Keep an eye out in January for our Year in Review. In the meantime, enjoy the below news from December.

House Bill Establishes Federal Agency Dedicated to Patient Safety

On December 6, U.S. Representative Nanette Barragán (D-CA) announced [H.R.9377 – To establish the National Patient Safety Board](#), legislation to establish an independent federal agency dedicated to preventing and reducing healthcare-related harms. This landmark legislation is a critical step to improve safety for patients and healthcare providers by coordinating existing efforts within a single independent agency solely focused on addressing safety in health care through data-driven solutions.



Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, medical error was the third leading cause of death in the United States, with conservative estimates of more than 250,000 patients dying annually from preventable medical harm and [costs of more than \\$17 billion to the U.S. healthcare system](#). [Recent data](#) from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that patient safety worsened during the pandemic.

The National Patient Safety Board Act would create a National Patient Safety Board (NPSB), a nonpunitive, collaborative, independent agency modeled in part after the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Commercial Aviation Safety Team (CAST) to address safety in health care. The aviation industry has had a stellar safety record thanks to the work of the NTSB and CAST, which together have been improving and promoting transportation safety in the United States for more than 25 years. The NPSB would guarantee a data-driven, scalable approach to preventing and reducing patient safety events in healthcare settings.

The NPSB is designed to augment the work of federal agencies and long-standing patient safety organizations without displacing them. To support this role, the NPSB would also have a public-private partnership team, the *Healthcare Safety Team*, to gain consensus on patient safety measures, autonomous data collection technologies, and solutions.

The NPSB's solutions would focus on problems like medication errors, wrong-site surgeries, hospital-acquired infections, errors in pathology labs, and issues in transition from acute to long-term care. By leveraging interdisciplinary teams of researchers and new technology, including automated systems with AI algorithms, the NPSB's solutions would help relieve the burden of data collection at the frontline, while also detecting precursors to harm.

A coalition of leaders in health care, technology, business, academia, and other industries has united to call for the establishment of an NPSB. A list of NPSB Coalition members can be found at npsb.org.

“We have seen many valiant efforts to reduce the problem of preventable medical error, but most of these have relied on the frontline workforce to do the work or take extraordinary precautions,” said Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, president and CEO of the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative and spokesperson for the NPSB Advocacy Coalition. “The pandemic has now made things worse as weary, frustrated, and stressed nurses, doctors, and technicians leave clinical care, resulting in a cycle where harm becomes more prevalent. Many organizations have united to advance a national home for patient safety to promote substantive solutions, including those that deploy modern technologies to make safety as autonomous as possible.”

“As healthcare providers, our top priority and collective responsibility is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our patients through highly reliable care that minimizes preventable harm. The establishment of a National Patient Safety Board would enable a collaborative, evidence-based and scalable solution to optimize patient safety across our country’s healthcare system,” said Peter WT Pisters, MD, president of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

“Health care is moving to new venues, and the integration of technology is creating an army of new providers. Now more than ever, we need a national organization that looks broadly across the healthcare space and identifies ways that we can share experiences and insights that will make our systems of care safer for patients,” said Joanne M. Conroy, MD, chief executive officer and president of Dartmouth Health.

“As a mother who lost a child to medical errors, I wanted to make sure there was learning from the event so it wouldn’t happen again to anyone else. However, those events stay in each individual setting and are not disseminated to a larger audience,” said Carole Hemmelgarn, MS, MS, founding member of Patients for Patient Safety US. “We need a central agency like the National Patient Safety Board to gather data on these events, analyze them, share them, and develop solutions to mitigate them in the future.”

The text of this bill can be found [here](#).

PA Health Funders Collaborative Recognizes Leadership and Accomplishments of Founding Chairs Russ Johnson and Karen Wolk Feinstein

The Pennsylvania Health Funders Collaborative (PHFC) held their 16th annual meeting, highlighting key issues facing the health of Pennsylvanians and recognizing the service of founding chairs Russ Johnson and Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD who are both stepping down from leadership positions at PHFC.

In 2007, health funders across Pennsylvania came together to set priorities and facilitate collaborations in areas of shared interest and high need throughout the Commonwealth. This meeting led to the formation of the PHFC, a collaborative that strives to improve the effectiveness of health funders' initiatives by collaborating, networking, sharing best practices, and creating a unified voice among funders working in Pennsylvania communities.



Dr. Karen Feinstein and Russ Johnson cheers to their time of service at PHFC.



Group photo of PHFC members and attendees.

Johnson, president and CEO of the HealthSpark Foundation in Colmar, PA, and Dr. Feinstein have been co-chairs of the PHFC since its founding in 2008.

As part of the PHFC two-day conference Nov. 29-30 at the Harrisburg Hilton. JHF chief policy officer Robert Ferguson, MPH presented a tribute to Johnson and Dr. Feinstein's PHFC leadership over the past 14 years. PHFC also discussed a robust policy agenda heading into the new year.

Under the leadership of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) and HealthSpark Foundation, PHFC has become a respected source of non-partisan information for enhancing vulnerable populations' access to high-quality and cost-effective health services. PHFC has tackled issues integrating behavioral health into primary and oral care, federal and state policy, economic impact of Medicaid expansion in Pennsylvania, ACA enrollment, racial disparities and health equity, technology, and improving the effectiveness of local health funding by working collaboratively across the state.

Ann S. Torregrossa remains the executive director of PHFC and JHF will remain its fiscal agent for 2023 unless it can pass the baton sooner. Ferguson will be co-chair of the PHFC in the new year.

Harry Litman Moderates Internal “Podcast” on Post-election Policy Climate for JHF Board

Harry Litman, JD, Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) Board member, former U.S. District Attorney, law professor, and political commentator, and former Pittsburgher, moderated a panel discussion during JHF’s Dec. 5 All Boards meeting. Litman is also the producer and host of the popular podcast “Talking Feds.”

Litman facilitated an hour discussion on current policy challenges and changes to the political landscape from the most recent election. The panel included: John Delano, KDKA political analyst and government, political, and economic news reporter who hosts the Sunday Business Page segments for KDKA’s weekend news; Steven D. Irwin, Leech Tishman Fuscaldo & Lampl partner, chair of its Government Relations Practice Group, and current chair of Pennsylvania Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; Chis Jennings, founder and president of Jennings Policy Strategies Inc. and three decades-long health policy veteran of the White House, Congress, and the private sector.



Included in the discussion was Harry Litman, JD (upper left), JHF board with Steven D. Irwin (upper right), John Delano (lower left), and Chris Jennings (lower right).



Panelists commented on the most recent (and even upcoming) elections, issues with polling, health policy, and future anticipated action on policy issues important to JHF. They also took questions from the Board.

“The people here are kind of the first authors of history. This period in some ways seems without precedent in our history and it continues to be a tumultuous time at best,” said Litman.

JHF Staff Present Program Overviews and Impact During All-Boards Meeting

Members of three Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) program teams made presentations during JHF's December 5 All Boards meeting showcasing their growth, impact, and vision for the future.

"We have some great ideas and initiatives that originated with our staff and have had an impact on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania," JHF president and CEO Dr. Karen Wolk Feinstein said in her introduction.



Stacie Bonenberger, MOT, OTR/L, program manager, aging initiatives, and Anneliese Perry, MS, NHA, program manager, aging initiatives, co-leaders of [Dementia Friends Pennsylvania](#), discussed how the program, established in 2018, operates with no hierarchy, designing alongside those it is meant to serve and in response to feedback and project prototyping. Recent accomplishments the team shared with the Board included: Reaching the [10,000 friends](#) milestone; creation of 18 sector guides for supporting those with dementia; translation of the Dementia Friends' curriculum into 13 languages; and adaptation of education materials to age-appropriate levels for first grade through high school. This year, JHF also announced the establishment of [Dementia Friendly Pennsylvania](#), a new initiative aimed at supporting Pennsylvanians living with dementia.

Deborah Murdoch, MPH, JHF program manager, and Sarah Pesi, MSPPM, JHF policy associate, presented on "Building a Youth Mental Health Advocacy Movement," highlighting the work of the Adolescent Behavioral Health Initiative at JHF, including the [Teen Mental Health Collaborative](#) and the [PA Youth Advocacy Network](#). Recent accomplishments include: A collaborative film project with Allegheny County during COVID-19; the Youth Advocacy Series, educating youth from 23 Pennsylvania counties; and how youth involved with the network have expanded their work regionally, nationally, and internationally, presenting at conferences and participating in trainings.

Sue Steele, community engagement and marketing manager for the HIV/AIDS team, presented "We Are in Control: Advertising & Events By Us, For Us," showcasing the work of the [Ryan White Part B funding](#) and [AIDS Free Pittsburgh](#), both of whose goal is to eradicate HIV/AIDS and make certain people diagnosed with HIV/AIDS are cared for and supported. The program has grown from a small budget in 2016 which was able to undertake one photoshoot and staggered advertising to being the recipient of \$900,000-plus in funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Health in 2021 and over \$1 million in funding in 2022 to expand outreach to rural Pennsylvania communities. Recent accomplishments include: A website redesign which has driven traffic by up nearly 2,000%, [a direct mailer](#) was sent to 600,000 residences in Pennsylvania, and this year's [Too Hot for July](#) HIV awareness event drew over 1,000 people in collaboration with more than 25 community partners. At the event 84 people were tested for HIV.

Teen Mental Health Collaborative Holds Quarterly Meeting at Jewish Healthcare Foundation

On December 8, the [Teen Mental Health Collaborative](#) held its quarterly meeting at the Jewish Healthcare Foundation as an opportunity to network, share organizational highlights from the year, hear and learn from partner organizations, and to celebrate the holiday season together.

Following the meeting, [Community Care Behavioral Health](#) facilitated an in-person *Question Persuade Refer* (QPR) training for interested collaborative members. A youth-focused QPR training teaches individuals how to recognize the warning signs of suicide and provides guidelines about how to Question a person about suicidal thoughts, how to Persuade them to get help, and how to Refer the person for help.

Collaborative members heard presentations from Sara Nevels of Gwen's Girls/Black Girls Equity Alliance about Caring Connections for YOUth, a community-led diversion network for youth, families, and systems; Carol Frazier of JHF led a discussion on innovations for health system and CBO partnerships; and UPMC Community Care Behavioral Health Organization (CCBHO) Child & Adolescent Program Manager Neil Glover gave an overview of CCBHO.

The collaborative is looking forward to continuing its work into the new year, discussing its plan to hold a regional youth advocacy gathering in 2023, develop a service menu for schools of out-of-school based partnerships, and hold additional behavioral health trainings for the collaborative in 2023.



Over one dozen members of the Teen Mental Health Collaborative met at JHF for their final quarterly meeting of 2022.

Two Awards Added to National Patient Safety Competitions

Two additional competitions, TAMUhack in Texas and the TeenTech Awards in London, are participating in the [Patient Safety Technology Challenge](#), funded by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and administered by the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative.

The Patient Safety Technology Challenge is designed to fuel the engagement of students and innovators in creating solutions and envisioning transformational approaches to reduce preventable harm from medical errors and reimagine a vastly safer healthcare system.



The new competitions will both feature awards recognizing patient safety solutions. TAMUhack is one of the largest Texas-based hackathons and will have a Patient Safety Technology Track with a \$1,000 prize, open to graduate and undergraduate students. The TeenTech Awards are an international student challenge based in the United Kingdom for ages 11-19, and they will be offering both the Big Idea and Futurist award prizes with finals taking place in London in June 2023.

Learn more about these and other participating competitions [here](#).

Pittsburgh Business Times: PRHI's Work Helps Lead to Patient Safety Bill

Over the last two and a half years, Dr. Karen Wolk Feinstein, president and CEO of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative, has been advocating at the national level for the creation of a National Patient Safety Board that would be established by the proposed legislation. [Read more in the Pittsburgh Business Times.](#)



HEALTH CARE

Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative's work helps lead to patient safety bill

WESA: Baldwin-Whitehall student tells U.S. Senators that more money is needed for teens' mental health

Brooklyn Williams, a past participant in the PA Youth Advocacy Network's Teen Mental Health Advocacy Series, took to the floor of a U.S. Senate committee to advocate for increased funding to address teens' mental health needs. [Read more at WESA.](#)



Long-Term Care Learning Network Concludes First Year of Programming with Annual Gathering/Learning Collaborative Webinar

The Pennsylvania Community Health Choices Long-Term Care Learning Network (LTC LN) ended a very successful first year of educational programming with an annual gathering/learning collaborative webinar held on December 8. One hundred sixty-seven individuals, plus teams from nursing homes from across the Commonwealth, gathered via Webex to hear about best practices on the quarterly theme of addressing workforce challenges, updates from the Department of Human Services Office of Long-Term Living, several of Pennsylvania's long-term care associations, and the Long-Term Care Resilience Infrastructure Supports and Empowerment program.



Attendees heard reflections on the work done to date within the LTC LN, including quarterly themes and webinar topics. Best practices were shared on the use of telemedicine in nursing facilities and on transitions of care. Jewish Healthcare Foundation COO & Chief Program Officer Nancy Zionts, MBA, convened a panel of representatives from each of the three managed care organizations regarding their role in collaborating on providing quality care for nursing facility residents. Representatives from the Pennsylvania Association of Directors of Nursing Administration, Pennsylvania Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, and Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Assessment Coordinators shared updates on how they can support those working in long-term care.

Speakers for the collaborative included Jamie Buchenauer, MPA, deputy secretary, Department of Human Services Office of Long-Term Living; Angela McCray, RN, director of nursing, and Jennifer Monahan, RN, shift supervisor, Concordia at Villa St. Joseph; Anthony Chin, MS, director of social services, Quality Life Services – Apollo; Jennifer Mullins, nursing home transitions service coordinator, PA Health & Wellness; Dominique Oputa, LPC, manager, Jocelyn Saggese, BSW, manager, and Amanda Schrader, RN, supervisor, Long-Term Services and Supports, AmeriHealth Caritas/Keystone First; Kimberly Schin, service coordinator, PA Health and Wellness; Renee Abbs,

RN, BSN, senior statewide manager, nursing facility service coordinator; Sophie Campbell, MSN, RN, CRRN, RAC-CT, CNDLTC, executive director of educational programming and services, Pennsylvania Association of Directors of Nursing Administration; Molly Langford, MSN, CRNP, president, Pennsylvania Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine; Brian Stever, RN, BSN, clinical consultant and board member, Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Assessment Coordinators; Matthew Chambers, MD, team member, Long-Term Care Resilience Infrastructure Supports and Empowerment, Department of Health; and Jill Vovakes, MHA/INF, director, Bureau of Quality Assurance and Program Analytics, Abigail Coleman, director, Division of Program Analytics, and Larry Appel, MD SFHM, medical director, Department of Human Services, Office of Long-Term Living.

Programming for the first quarter of 2023 will focus on bringing Age-Friendly Health Systems to nursing facilities across Pennsylvania through the LTC LN, in collaboration with the Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home initiative.

Dr. Jackie Dunbar-Jacob Reflects on Career of Impact, Path Forward for Nursing

[Jackie Dunbar-Jacob](#), PhD, RN, FAAN always wanted to be a nurse.

The idea came at such a young age, her sister has said she can't remember Dr. Dunbar-Jacob having a list of potential occupations, as children often do. Dr. Dunbar-Jacob theorizes her passion for the field was likely sparked by: Having an appendectomy at a young age and memories of the care she received from nurses; memories of her primary care physician whose wife was a nurse; or her passion for books authored by Helen Wells about Cherry Ames, a fictional job-hopping, mystery-solving nurse cut from a similar cloth as Nancy Drew.

While working toward her bachelor's degree in nursing at Florida State University, Dr. Dunbar-Jacob was attracted to the psychiatric mental health field. This passion led her to University of California for her master's degree in science focusing on psychiatric nursing. She would go on to receive her PhD in counseling psychology from Stanford University.

As a doctoral student, she taught and worked in multicenter clinical trials on chronic disease focused on patient adherence to treatment. Those clinical trials and the Pitt faculty who served as principal investigators of the work, referred her to the University of Pittsburgh, where she began in 1984 as an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry, Department of Epidemiology, and Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing.



"It became very clear to me that the academic world was what I was interested in," Dr. Dunbar-Jacobs remembers.

She has had an exciting, rewarding, and impactful career at the University of Pittsburgh, serving 35 years as a faculty member, 21 of those as dean of the university's School of Nursing. She has worked as a staff nurse, unit manager, nursing director, and has taught nursing at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

She has served in many roles at the University of Pittsburgh, including: Chair of the Department of Health and Community Systems at the School of Nursing; director of Community PARTners Core at Pitt's Clinical and Translation Research Institute; and Director of the Center for Nursing Research at Pitt, to name a few. Most recently, she has also served as the Distinguished Service Professor of Nursing, an emeritus member of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, and an advisory professor to Fudan University in Shanghai, China. She is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, the American Psychological Association, the Society for Behavioral Medicine, the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research, and the American Heart Association.

"What I am most proud of accomplishing during my time as dean is the quality of the School of Nursing and its graduates. We have worked very hard to have high-quality programming and to have high-quality nurses entering the workforce from the University of Pittsburgh," Dr. Dunbar-Jacob said.

That commitment shows in the growth of the program, which currently boasts of 1,050, of which 770 are undergraduate students. The School of Nursing at Pitt is consistently ranked in the top 10 by U.S. News & World Report, and in the top 20 globally.

The pandemic brought with it several adaptations to the educational environment at the School of Nursing, including online education which has led to an openness to providing hybrid options moving forward. Additionally, the simulation techniques used during the pandemic to simulate real-world scenarios will likely be used to augment nursing education, but she is doubtful it will replace clinical experience.

She said these simulation practices are helpful in training students but also to keep the practicing nurse up to date.

"Through the pandemic, we've also learned how we can interact with each other without having to use gas and pollute the environment, which is a great tool," Dr. Dunbar-Jacob added.

With the Great Resignation of practitioners leaving the discipline of nursing, nurses are calling for systems to address issues of communication with nurses, respect for the profession (or lack thereof), and to increase the safety of those working in the field from both medical harm and violence in the workplace.

Passionate about the Great Resignation from sub-acute care, she added that once the door between schools of nursing and sub-acute care is open, there are incredible opportunities for students to learn, while also contributing back to the nursing home itself.

"It's going to take a lot of work with schools of nursing to incorporate nursing homes and the variety of opportunities for student learning that nursing homes provide. It's rare to see a school of nursing incorporate a nursing home into its educational practice. The most urgent and important thing we can do is to have clinical diversity and get exposure to the incredible opportunities there," Dr. Dunbar-Jacob said.

Sitting in her office, amid several boxes waiting to be packed up with memories, accomplishments, and lessons accumulated over the past two decades, she said her hope for the School of Nursing is that it sustains interest in the emphasis on the value of scientific research to contribute to the actions taken in practice and the quality of the students it educates and graduates into the workforce.

Reflecting on retirement, Dr. Dunbar-Jacob, a self-described "night chronotype," said she is looking forward to sleep according to her body's wishes and to put away her alarm clock. Beyond that, she is enthusiastic about being able to carry on with projects of import to her in service to several committees at the state and national level.

As a current member of the Health Careers Futures (HCF) Board, a past Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) board member, and a friend of the foundation, Dr. Dunbar-Jacob has accepted an invitation to work with JHF and HCF's Revisiting the Teaching Nursing Home initiative and providing her expertise in this space as a consultant.

"What really excited me about the Jewish Healthcare Foundation is its ability and action to take on current pressing issues and do something meaningful about those issues. That is what gives me great joy in working with the Jewish Healthcare Foundation," Dr. Dunbar-Jacob said.

JHF Celebrates the Holidays at the 58th Carnegie International



The Jewish Healthcare Foundation gathered to celebrate the holidays with a tour of the 58th Carnegie International exhibit at the Carnegie Museum of Art, followed by lunch. JHF wishes you and yours a safe and enjoyable holiday season and a happy new year!