15217 Pittsburgh: Building a Neighborhood Safety Net From the Bottom Up for Teen Mental Health

A breakfast at Ritter’s led to a breakthrough. One morning last summer at the Bloomfield diner, Jeffrey Finkelstein, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, was listening to JHF President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein describe the Foundation’s ongoing efforts in adolescent behavioral health. She was frustrated that, despite three years of JHF policy and advocacy work, change was agonizingly slow — and the needs were immediate.

“You might,” said Mr. Finkelstein, “want to talk to our friends in Detroit.” The Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit had recently rolled out “We Need to Talk,” a community-wide initiative to address the crisis of youth mental illness head-on.

Connecting to Detroit would present a new perspective on what can be achieved in a short period of time.

Fast-forward to February 20. JHF held a day-long planning session for 15217 Pittsburgh, a neighborhood-based teen mental health initiative. Two leaders of the Detroit program — Todd Krieger, JD, MS, senior director for planning and agency relations of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit; and Amy Wayne, MPH, youth mental health coordinator for the Federation — spent the morning describing their efforts and methods to an audience of more than 50. In the afternoon, planning commenced for 15217 Pittsburgh, involving the Jewish Family and Community Services, the Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, Hillel Academy, LEAD (Leading Education and Awareness for Depression) Pittsburgh, Allegheny HealthChoices, and other community partners.

(Continued on page 2)
As in Detroit, 15217 Pittsburgh (named for the zip code of the Squirrel Hill area) will build on existing partnerships, reflect the cultural experiences of the community it serves, and be designed for replication in other neighborhoods. While the Detroit program works in the Jewish community of its sprawling metro area, Pittsburgh’s is concentrating on Squirrel Hill — a neighborhood with a historically strong Jewish presence, and which is also Pittsburgh’s most diverse.

JHF planning for a next phase of the youth mental health initiative was underway before the October 27 attack at the Tree of Life Synagogue. Dr. Feinstein knew that the program would now be “addressing a community in trauma,” and that mental health needs would grow ever more acute. “Building a Community Safety Net for Teen Mental Health from the Bottom Up” was the overarching theme of the February 20 event.

Ayala Rosenthal, a senior at Yeshiva Girls School who has become a mental health advocate, represented the youth voice at the event. While part of her efforts are devoted to her Orthodox community, she is working for all teenagers. This past November, with JHF support, Ayala organized a suicide prevention training for more than 30 local students as well as a teen mental health panel for more than 100. “The teenagers are active,” said Dr. Feinstein, acknowledging Ayala in the audience, “and they are expecting us to be active, too. They want to be advocates for themselves, and we should be running to keep up with them.”

The Detroit program, said Mr. Krieger, is based on the belief that “we can’t change the system, but we can support youth” in a series of smaller and helpful ways. If at first “you try to take on the system, you are setting yourself up for failure.” He acknowledged a paradox of the era: the many digital tools and networks that are supposed to increase communication and connection are, in practice, making many young people more lonely and isolated. Moreover, “there is a major need for parent education,” he said. “They need to be teaching resiliency,” rather than smoothing out life’s difficulties for their kids — and simultaneously applying undue pressure to get into the “right” college.

The Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit began by calling every Jewish agency in the region together. “We are the convener,” said Mr. Krieger. “We can get everyone at the table and talking.” The program that emerged is based on three pillars: 1) Training (suicide awareness and prevention for all people engaging with kids 10 and older), 2) Education/Awareness (programs and activities that destigmatize mental health); and 3) Interventional Supports (additional mental health professionals spread throughout the community).
Mr. Krieger said the most successful part of “We Need to Talk” has been the series of short videos, available on www.jhelpdetroit.org/weneedtotalk. They range from mental health experts offering advice to dramatic first-person stories from teenagers recounting their own struggles. Some have received more than 20,000 views.

In closing the day, Dr. Feinstein recognized the work of all partners to date. “We all acknowledge that we have a problem. We need to take time to talk about solutions, and we need to do better,” she said. “Our commitment to all of you is that we will come up with an action plan.”

Join a Statewide Effort to Promote Maternal Health: the Pennsylvania Perinatal Quality Collaborative

Working with partners across the state, the Foundation has guided the creation of the Pennsylvania Perinatal Quality Collaborative (PA PQC). It will be administered by JHF and WHAMglobal (Women’s Health Activist Movement Global). Ahead of the official launch in April, the PA PQC is recruiting multi-disciplinary teams from health systems, birth hospitals, birth centers, and community providers throughout the Commonwealth.

“Over 140 people from all the regions of the Commonwealth are working together to standup the PA PQC through an Advisory Group and nine work groups,” notes Robert Ferguson, JHF’s director of government grants and policy. The PA PQC will focus on reducing maternal mortality and improving care for pregnant and postpartum women and newborns affected by opioids.

A PQC is a network that seeks to improve the quality and safety of care for mothers and babies across prenatal, labor/birth, newborn, and postpartum services. PQC s are growing in strength across the nation, with active collaboratives in over 35 states. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advocates for PQC expansion, showing that they “contribute to important improvements in health care and outcomes for mothers and babies, including reductions in severe pregnancy complications.”

The new website WHAMglobal.org/papqc contains more details about the collaborative’s work. The “Get Involved” section provides instructions for providers and health plans, as well as registration for an introductory webinar on March 11 from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. and Learning Collaborative session on April 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hilton Harrisburg Hotel.
At Snowbird Health Summit, JHF Advances Work of Patient Safety

The third annual Snowbird Health Summit, with a sponsorship this year by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, brought together 50 prominent thought leaders in health care to speak freely about the future of health. Held at the Snowbird ski resort in Utah, the Feb. 15-18 event was abuzz with the promises of technology: Verily, the life sciences subsidiary of Alphabet, Google’s parent company, was the main sponsor. But it was also grounded in the human fundamentals of health care, with sessions on “Caring for Caregivers,” “Delivering Health Care in Rural America,” and “Integrating Mental & Physical Health.”

JHF President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein led a session on patient safety, “20 Years Post ‘To Err is Human’: How Will We Make Progress?” It built on the work of JHF’s all-boards retreat this past December, and captured in the recent JHF report “Bystander Boards: Health Care’s Achilles’ Heel.” She also led a session the next morning, “If Not Snowbird, Who? A Commitment to Action.”

Dr. Feinstein noted that “there was much enthusiasm for improving board governance,” and patient safety overall.

Six participants were designated by Dr. Feinstein to offer their own perspectives: Carolyn Clancy, MD, deputy undersecretary for Discovery, Education and Affiliate Networks, Veterans Health Administration; Joanne Conroy, MD, CEO and president of Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center; David Cutler, PhD, Otto Eckstein Professor of Applied Economics at Harvard; Michael Good, MD, CEO of University of Utah Health, dean of the University of Utah School of Medicine, and an anesthesiologist; Robert Kaplan, PhD, Marvin Bower Professor of Leadership Development, Emeritus at the Harvard Business School; and Jonathan Perlin, MD, president of Clinical Services and CMO of Hospital Corporation of America.

In the next morning’s follow-up session, she identified six areas for future action: Safe Health, Online Health, Zip Code Health (building safety nets from the bottom up, outreach at neighborhood level),

(Continued on page 5)
Special Populations Health (serving seniors, caregivers, women, people living with disabilities), Integrated Health, and Value Health (lowering costs and improving outcomes).

The Snowbird Health Summit was founded in 2016 by Vivian S. Lee, MD, PhD, MBA, when she was at the University of Utah; she joined Verily last year as president of Health Platforms. The other co-sponsors were the University of Pennsylvania’s Center for Health Incentives & Behavioral Economics, the John A. Hartford Foundation, and University of Utah Health.

**PRHI Deepens Perfecting Patient Care℠ Training at Community LIFE**

A new round of Perfecting Patient Care (PPC)℠ training at Community LIFE got underway in February, deepening a relationship that started in 2016.

More than 50 mid-to-senior level leadership staff from Community LIFE (Living Independence for the Elderly) are participating in the full PPC experience. The four full-day sessions are conducted over eight weeks and include project-specific coaching through June.

With five locations in the Pittsburgh area, Community LIFE provides coordinated medical care, therapies, and in-home services. Its day health centers offer on-site specialists, social activities, meals, pharmacy, and transportation. The partnership began with the Community Health Workers Champions program in the fall of 2016. Training for frontline and leadership staff followed in 2018.

PPC is the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative’s Lean-based quality improvement curriculum to increase efficiency, eliminate errors, and achieve better health outcomes.

Krista Gage, an enrollment manager at Community LIFE, says that her PPC training allowed her and her team “to really understand the problems. It made me objective in my ability to look at the processes, and has given me more confidence.”
WHAMglobal Is Birthing a Movement

The Women’s Health Activist Network Global (WHAMglobal), a supporting organization of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, continues to grow in scope and mission. Its website was recently revamped and expanded. Pay a visit to www.whamglobal.org and you will see:

- A new feature called “Spotlight Forum” — profiles of women in healthcare leadership roles who are either members of WHAMglobal, the International Women’s Forum (IWF) special interest group on health care, or the Women of Impact for Health Care. JHF Global Health Associate Hanifa Nakiryowa is researching and writing the profiles. The early subjects include Dr. Danette Glassy, a pediatrician who has taken on a strong advocacy role in Washington state; Dr. Marthe Haverkamp, a doctor/researcher advancing value-based healthcare, cost-reduction strategies and system improvement; and Rochelle Courtenay, an Australian philanthropist who created the Share the Dignity project to supply low-income women with sanitary products during menstruation.

- A section for the Pennsylvania Perinatal Quality Collaborative (PA PQC). This initiative (described on Page 3) will officially launch in April.

Participants Sought for Practicing End-of-Life Conversations at Death & Dying Fellowship on April 1

The JHF and Health Careers Futures Fellowship on Death and Dying concludes on April 1 with the 33 Fellows practicing their skills in conducting end-of-life conversations.

Many of the faculty from throughout the Fellowship will be participating. We invite our board members and JHF friends to join the practice sessions as well. The ideal participant would bring some expertise, either through professional training or personal experience. The goal is to offer the Fellows practice in a skill that a formal education in medicine does not necessarily provide.

The April 1 session will be held Downtown at the QI²T Center, 650 Smithfield Street, Suite 2600. Robert Arnold, MD, chief medical officer of the UPMC Palliative and Supportive Institute, will be the guest faculty member. The session runs from 5 to 8 p.m., including dinner, but volunteers need not

(Continued on page 7)
stay for the duration.

If interested, please contact JHF Chief Program Officer and COO Nancy Zionts at zionts@jhf.org or 412-594-2559.

Most of the Fellowship’s sessions are site visits. The February 25 session was held at the Charles M. Morris Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, operated by the Jewish Association on Aging. The topic was “Spirituality at End of Life & End of Life in Long-Term Care.” The session also included a firsthand narrative by JHF Trustee Theresa Brown, RN, a home hospice nurse and author.

JHF Supports ‘Public Health Under Siege’ Conference in Washington

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation provided sponsorship to a Washington conference on February 6, “Public Health Under Siege: Improving Policy in Turbulent Times,” organized by the Policy Action Institute of the American Public Health Association. Among the keynotes was Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, fresh from presiding over the State of the Union Address the night before.

Speaker Pelosi addressed policy priorities on public health, going beyond traditional subject areas to include climate change as a public health matter, as well as a national security and economic issue. While she touched on the new agenda on HIV/AIDS, it was U.S. Assistant Secretary for Health Brett Giroir who outlined the government’s plan to reduce HIV transmission dramatically by 2030. Other significant figures included Henry Waxman, a congressman from California for 40 years; Leana Wen, the new president of Planned Parenthood; and former Surgeon General Boris Lushniak, now dean of the University of Maryland School of Public Health.

Four people from JHF attended: President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein, Director of Innovation Mara Leff, Women’s Health Specialist Kate Dickerson, and Director of Government Grants and Policy Robert Ferguson.

The APHA conference built upon AcademyHealth’s National Health Policy Conference held the preceding two days in Washington.

From left to right: Lisa Simpson, president and CEO of AcademyHealth; Georges Benjamin, MD, executive director of APHA; Karen Feinstein; Karen Remley, senior fellow at the de Beaumont Foundation.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi delivers keynote address at “Public Health Under Siege,” February 6 in Washington, D.C.
Ten New Board Members Join Foundation in 2019

The Foundation welcomed 10 new board members in January. They represent the fields of medicine, business, finance, academia, and workforce development.

There are seven new Jewish Healthcare Foundation trustees, serving for three-year terms: Stacy Beck, MD, assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences, UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital; Susanne M. Gollin, PhD, FFACMGG, professor of Human Genetics, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, and Clinical Cytogenetics Consultant in the Pittsburgh Cytogenetics Laboratory; Geoffrey Gerber, PhD, president and chief investment officer of Twin Capital Management; Mark S. Kamlet, PhD, University Professor of Economics and Public Policy and provost emeritus at Carnegie Mellon University; Valerie Njie, MS, recently retired as executive director/senior vice president of Bidwell Training Center, Inc.; Rema Padman, PhD, professor of Management Science and Healthcare Informatics in the Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy at CMU; and Jim Rooney, co-founder and partner of FirstLink Research and Analytics.

The two new members of the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative Board are both from the Allegheny County Medical Society: President Robert Cicco, MD, and Executive Director Jeremy Bonfini. The new board member of Health Careers Futures is Tomi Waters, DEd, associate dean for Academic Affairs and lead dean for Healthcare Programs at the Community College of Allegheny County, Boyce Campus.

Janelle DeBaldo and Elena Facchini join JHF

JHF welcomes two new staff members in 2019:

**Janelle DeBaldo** is a program assistant for Women’s Health Activist Movement Global (WHAMglobal). She worked on the WHAMglobal team during her 2018 summer internship at JHF, and has returned to continue her work to improve women’s health and health services. She earned her Bachelor’s in Communication Management with a concentration in Health Care from the University of Dayton in December 2018. She plans to attend graduate school in Fall 2019 to pursue a Master’s in Healthcare Administration.

(Continued on page 9)
Elena Facchini, MPH, will join the Foundation in March as a Partnerships and Resource Development Specialist. She will be working on the WHAMglobal team, the Healthcare Innovation team, and the Reinvesting in Health team. A Pittsburgh native, she has returned home with extensive international experience in public health, and an impressive range of work in private- and public-sector partnership development and resource development. As a health officer for the U.S. Agency for International Development from 2011 to 2015, she served in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Kenya. Following that, she was based in London, working for consultancies in international development and corporate social responsibility. While in the U.K., Ms. Facchini earned a postgraduate diploma in Global Business from the Saïd Business School at Oxford. She received her Master’s in Public Health from George Washington University and a Bachelor’s in Psychology and Sociology from the University of Georgia. Ms. Facchini has also worked in Italy and Spain. She is fluent in French, German, and Italian, but claims to have just “basic” Spanish and Swahili.

JHF Trustee Steve Irwin Accompanies Mayor Bill Peduto on Israel Visit

Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto traveled to Israel in late February for the 33rd International Mayors Conference, organized by the American Jewish Congress. JHF Trustee Steve Irwin, JD, joined the mayor in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

On February 24, Steve Irwin and Mayor Peduto visited the Western Wall. (Photo courtesy: American Jewish Congress)

They also paid homage at a memorial to the 11 victims of the Tree of Life Synagogue attack. The memorial was established by Keren Kayemet L’Israel -Jewish National Fund. (Photo courtesy: Dennis Zinn, KKL-JNF Photo Archive)
JAMA Article on Building Trust in Health Care Cites Contribution by Karen Feinstein

JHF President and CEO Karen Wolk Feinstein received a citation in JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association) for her contribution to a February 2019 article, “A Framework for Increasing Trust Between Patients and the Organizations That Care for Them.” The article was inspired by “[Re]Building Trust,” an American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Foundation conference of healthcare leaders attended by Dr. Feinstein. It’s the first in a series of articles on Trust in Health Care running in JAMA.

The July 2018 ABIM conference was motivated by concern over the “growth of the ‘post-fact, post-truth’ environment … in which people come to doubt scientific facts,” said ABIM President Richard Baron, MD. “Trust is fraying in society broadly and in health care in particular, and that will have dramatic consequences for the healthcare system.”

Dr. Feinstein was part of a “Wise Crowds” exercise to determine how to enhance trust in health care. As reported in the conference’s summary, she “recommended an emphasis on teamwork, which she said was responsible for some of the best care she has seen delivered. She called for a focus on efforts to expand scope of practice for allied professionals and building respect among the health professions.”

The JAMA article was written by Thomas H. Lee, MD, chief medical officer of Press Ganey; Elizabeth A. McGlynn, PhD, executive director of the Kaiser Permanente Center for Effectiveness and Safety Research; and Dana Gelb Safran, ScD, chief performance measurement & improvement officer, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts.

Dr. Feinstein was cited among the 14 healthcare leaders whose contributions at the conference led to the conclusions in the article, which can be found here.