

## Rheingans, Carrie

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**From:** Carrie Rheingans, Washtenaw Health Initiative Senior Program Manager <crheinga@med.umich.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 01, 2016 10:12 AM  
**To:** Rheingans, Carrie  
**Subject:** New WHI Steering Committee Members, SIM Update - July/August Washtenaw Health Initiative Newsletter

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## Newsletter

July/August 2016

**WASHTENAW  
HEALTH  
INITIATIVE**

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### **VA Caregiver Respite Program seeks to prevent Caregiver Burnout**



**CAREGIVER RESPITE PROGRAM**

VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System is in the initial phase of a national pilot program that provides in-home respite care

## **WHI News** **SIM Update**

The WHI continues to roll out the local activities for the Livingston/Washtenaw Community Health Innovation Region (CHIR), one of five testing regions of Michigan's State Innovation Model (SIM).

In the past three months, the WHI has formed a new SIM Work Group, which contains three subcommittees:



1. [Intervention Subcommittee](#), which will develop a clinical-community linkage intervention to reduced emergency department use, and will use community health workers to connect individuals with social services
2. [Data and Information Technology Subcommittee](#), which will develop local solutions for collecting, monitoring, and reporting data related to SIM work
3. [Clinical Subcommittee](#), which consists of representatives from the two regional Accountable Systems of Care (Integrated Health Associates and University of Michigan Health System) and many Patient Centered Medical Homes in the region. Committee members will share information

for Veterans within Washtenaw County. The Volunteer Caregiver Respite Program is currently being piloted at 10 other Veteran Affairs Medical Centers across the nation. Starting in 2009, this program grew out of a need to provide support to those outside the medical care system who have primary responsibility for caring for an ill or injured Veteran.

Veterans currently enrolled in care at VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System may be eligible for an array of long-term care services, including respite care to provide temporary relief for caregivers. Veterans must meet certain eligibility requirements to participate in these programs, and the Respite Care Program is limited to 30 visits per calendar year. Some Veterans in need of these services either do not meet the requirements or still have remaining gaps in service.

The Voluntary Caregiver Respite Program places volunteers in the homes of home-bound Veterans to provide support and companionship while giving the Veteran's caregiver a much-needed break. Volunteers can help to fill the gaps in care while providing a break for the caregiver. Volunteers can stay with the Veteran while the caregiver runs errands, attends doctor's appointments, or takes a break from the day to day requirements of being a full time caregiver. It is important to note that volunteers are not home-based aids; they are unable to assist with food preparation, bathing, or other personal health needs.

and help develop, implement, and monitor the clinical-community linkage intervention

In early August, the state hosted a state-wide SIM kickoff summit. [Slides from the information sessions](#) are available on the state's SIM website. The next WHI all-member Stakeholders Group meeting on Friday, September 16, from 2:00 - 4:00 pm at the Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Building will include more details about local and state SIM work.

### **WHI Welcomes two new Steering Committee Members**

The Washtenaw Health Initiative welcomes two new members to its Steering Committee: Connie Conklin, Executive Director of [Community Mental Health Services of Livingston County](#), and Bill Fileti, President and Chief Executive Officer for [Integrated Health Associates \(IHA\)](#). The WHI Steering Committee will serve as the Governing Body of the Livingston/Washtenaw Community Health Innovation Region, which directs the local implementation of the SIM.

Connie Conklin received her Bachelor of Social Work from Northern Michigan University, and her Master of Social Work in Macro and Clinical Practice from Eastern Michigan University.



*Connie Conklin*

She has worked at Livingston County CMH for nine years and previously for the State of Michigan for 14 years in the Michigan Department of Community Health (now Michigan Department of Health and Human Services). She served as the Director of Programs for Children with a Serious Emotional Disturbance and Wraparound State Coordinator, and was a national consultant and lead training for Children's Mental Health: System of Care and Wraparound Model Training.

Connie grew up in Livingston County and is a graduate of Brighton High School.

Instead the purpose of the volunteer is to spend time with and support the Veteran and his/her caregiver.

Volunteers are matched with Veterans based primarily on geographic location, then based on similar interests/hobbies. Veterans can receive a maximum of 8 hours of Voluntary Respite support each week, with no more than 4 hours per day. These hours can be spread throughout the week at the discretion of the Volunteer, Caregiver and Veteran.

Those interested in supporting this effort should contact Voluntary Service at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System at (734) 845-3467 to learn more. Volunteers are required to be at least 18 years old, undergo fingerprinting, provide 2 positive references, and have a favorable background investigation. The first volunteer orientation was held on August 18, 2016. Following orientation, volunteers will be matched with a Veteran and accompanied on a first visit to a Veteran's home.

Another way to support this program is to share this information with other interested parties.

The initial program goal is to have 20 volunteers in place within 6 months. Even this number will likely not be enough to meet the needs of Veterans and their caregivers who could greatly benefit from this support.

Gwendolyn Hooks, the Volunteer Caregiver Respite Program coordinator,

Bill Fileti serves as CEO of IHA Health Services Corporation and is a member of the Board of Directors. He served as one of the founders of IHA during its conception in 1993 and formal launching. Over the last 20 years, IHA has emerged as one of the leading medical groups in the nation, noted for its high quality, excellent patient satisfaction and effective resource stewardship.



*Bill Fileti*

Bill also serves on the Saint Joseph Mercy Health Partners board and the Saint Joseph Mercy Health Partners Clinically Integrated Network board. He is a member of the Together Health Finance and Contracting Committee. In addition, he is an active board member of the United Way of Washtenaw County, and serves on their Finance Committee.

Bill possesses an extensive health care and business background. He previously served in executive leadership positions with major health care systems and physician groups in Michigan and New Jersey. He is a graduate of Canisius College in Buffalo and the Rutgers Graduate School of Business.

### **WHI Advance Care Planning Project - Local Findings Disseminated Across Michigan, Nation**

The WHI Advance Care Planning (ACP) Project team conducted a series of focus groups and interviews in early 2016 with community residents and providers to understand the local community's experiences and challenges with ACP. These findings were compiled into an [issue brief](#) published by the [Center for Healthcare Research & Transformation](#), and [highlighted on the blog](#) of the national health policy journal [Health Affairs](#).

emphasizes that this program creates a reciprocal relationship, allowing the volunteer to benefit as much or more than the Veteran served. Volunteers are able to donate their time to provide a well-deserved break for caregivers in their communities. This service allows the caregiver to refresh and refocus, enabling him/her to provide higher quality care to the Veteran. The Volunteer Caregiver Respite Program is another way VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System is serving those who have served.



*Read the full issue brief online*

### Quick Links



- [WHI Website](#)
- [WHI Member Portal](#)
- [Center for Healthcare Research & Transformation](#)

Based on the local findings, three main policy recommendations were made:

1. Normalize advance care planning conversations
2. Invest in advance care planning training and reimbursement
3. Establish metrics and operationalize advance care planning

The WHI ACP Project team is developing a conversation guide for use by both patients and providers in the community. The guide will be promoted through this WHI newsletter, and available on the [WHI website](#).

## Upcoming Event

***Being Mortal* Film Screening with the WHI Advance Care Planning Project, Arbor Hospice**

## Upcoming Member Meetings & Other Events

### September

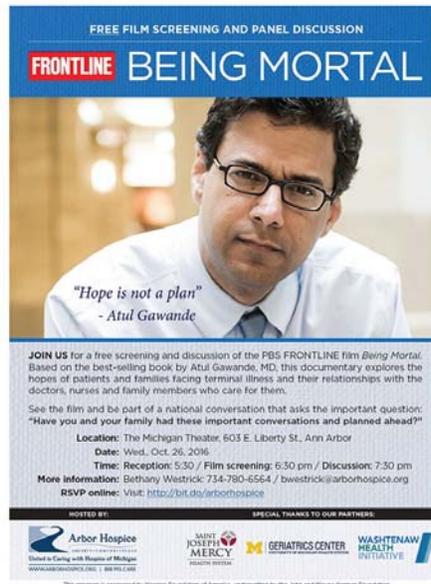
- 6 - SIM Data/IT Subcommittee (3-4pm, CHRT)
- 8 - UNITE Meeting (3-4 PM, CHRT)
- 9 - WHI Steering Committee Meeting (2:30 - 4 PM, CHRT)
- 13 - SIM Intervention Subcommittee (1-2pm, CHRT)

- 15 - WHI Advance Care Planning Project meeting (11-noon, CHRT)
- 16 - WHI All-Member Stakeholders Group Meeting (2-4 PM, Washtenaw Community College, Morris Lawrence Bldg. Rm 101)
- 19 - SIM Work Group Meeting (10-11:30 AM, CHRT)
- 20 - WHI Opioid Project Meeting (11 - 12:30, Patrick Barrier Conference Rm, 705 Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor)
- 21 - WHI Finance Committee Meeting (3-4 PM, CHRT)
- 22 - UNITE Meeting (9-10:30 AM, CHRT)
- 27 - SIM Intervention Subcommittee (1-2pm, CHRT)
- 30 - WHI Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Work Group meeting (3-4:30, CHRT)

**October**

- 4 - SIM Data/IT Subcommittee (3-4pm, CHRT)
- 8 - UNITE Meeting (3-4 PM, CHRT)
- 11 - SIM Intervention Subcommittee (1-2pm, CHRT)
- 14 - WHI Steering Committee Meeting (2:30 - 4 PM, CHRT)
- 17 - SIM Work Group Meeting (10-11:30 AM, CHRT)
- 18 - WHI Opioid Project Meeting (11 - 12:30, Patrick Barrier Conference Rm, 705 Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor)
- 20 - UNITE Meeting (3-4 PM, CHRT)
- 21 - WHI Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Work Group meeting (3- 4:30 PM, CHRT)
- 25 - SIM Intervention Subcommittee (1-2pm, CHRT)
- 26 - *Being Mortal* Movie Screening (5:30-8pm, Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, [register online today](#))

**About the Washtenaw Health Initiative**



*Being Mortal* delves into the hopes of patients and families facing terminal illness. Investigating the practice of caring for the dying and exploring the relationships between patients and their doctors surgeon, Dr. Atul Gawande shares stories from the people and families he encounters. When Dr. Gawande's own father gets cancer, his search for answers about how to best care for the dying becomes a personal quest.

Arbor Hospice will host a screening and panel discussion **Wednesday, October 26** at the Michigan Theater beginning at 5:30pm. After the screening, you can participate in a guided conversation on how to take concrete steps to identify and communicate wishes about end-of-life goals and preferences.

[Register online](#) to reserve your spot today!

**Other News**

**Coordinated Funders announce Organizations selected to receive funding**

[The Washtenaw Coordinated Funders](#) announced the recipients of the Program Operations Funding Awards in June 2016. Investing \$4.5 million annually, the Coordinated Funders [granted awards](#) to 67 health & human services programs at 38 agencies. The funding period spans from July 1, 2016 - June 30 2018.

The Washtenaw Coordinated Funders is a group of organizations that work together to better coordinate their funding of human service programs in Washtenaw County. The Coordinated Funders goals are:

The [Washtenaw Health Initiative](#) is a voluntary, county-wide collaboration focused on how to improve access to coordinated care for the low-income, uninsured, and Medicaid populations. The effort includes representatives from the University of Michigan Health System, Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System, health plans, county government, community services, physicians, and safety net providers.

[Washtenaw Health Initiative](#)  
(734) 998-7567

## Share Your Story

Share your story ideas for the WHI newsletter with Carrie at (734) 998-7567 or [crheinga@umich.edu](mailto:crheinga@umich.edu)

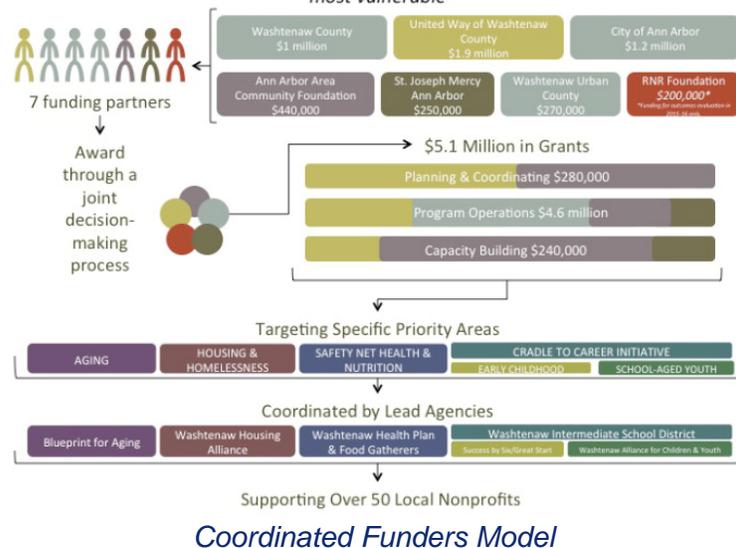
## Join Our Mailing List

- Understand the full landscape of needs and distribute resources more strategically
- Model the collaboration we espouse from funded agencies
- Leverage each other's funding and resources
- Reduce or eliminate redundancies and streamline processes and procedures
- Better coordinate grant-making processes so we can make better informed decisions together

The group is composed of the following organizations:

- [Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation](#) (AAACF)
- [Office of Community and Economic Development](#) (OCED), representing Washtenaw County, Urban County, and the City of Ann Arbor
- [United Way of Washtenaw County](#) (UWWC)
- [RNR Foundation](#)
- [Saint Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor](#)

### A Coordinated Funding Approach to meet the needs of our community's most vulnerable



## Washtenaw County Public Health welcomes new Medical Director

Dr. Jessie Marshall, M.D. was appointed as the Washtenaw County Public Health Department's [new Medical Director](#) through [county resolution 16-099](#), effective July 11, 2016.



Dr. Jessie Marshall

Dr. Marshall is a trained internal medicine and pediatric physician. She attended medical school and completed her residency at Wayne State University. She received a Master of Public Health with a concentration on health policy and management from Harvard School of Public Health and completed a health policy fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, MA. She also completed an internal medicine research fellowship at Johns Hopkins University, in Baltimore, MD.

Prior to joining the Washtenaw County Public Health staff, she served diverse patient populations across the United States. She currently practices as an adult hospital medicine physician with the University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) in Ann Arbor, MI. She will continue her clinical practice at reduced hours with UMHS as she fills the role of county medical director.

Dr. Marshall will serve on the Intervention subcommittee of the WHI's State Innovation Model work.

Washtenaw Health Initiative, c/o Center for Healthcare Research & Transformation,  
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