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What's Included In This Edition:

Schwimmer Script - Join Our Call for Passage of the Healthy Smiles Act

Take Five Interview - Fay Cobb Payton, PhD, MBA, Executive Director at the Institute for Data, Research, and Innovation Science (IDRIS) at Rutgers University - Newark

TeamBirth Model Grows in New Jersey with New Hospitals Participating in 2025

Smarter Investments, Healthier Families: Policy Briefs

Conversation of Your Life (COYL) -

- Register for Social Work Perspectives on Advance Care Planning Webinar on 11/3
- Register for COYL Partner Meeting on 11/6

Welcome, New Leadership Council Member - Hackensack Meridian Health

A graphic for the 'Schwimmer Script' section. It features a circular portrait of Linda Schwimmer, JD, a woman with dark curly hair. To the right of the portrait, the text reads 'Schwimmer Script' in large, bold, dark blue letters, with a stylized pen icon. Below this, it says 'Linda Schwimmer, JD' and 'President & CEO, Q' followed by the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute logo. The background is blue with white dotted patterns.

Join Our Call for Passage of Healthy Smiles Act

As the current administration and New Jersey legislative session wind down, there is still opportunity to create meaningful change for our state's children. For too long, children's oral health has been overlooked, even though good dental care is vital to overall health, development, and well-being.

Untreated dental problems are a leading cause of school absences and can hinder academic and social growth. Oral health is the literal entry point for overall good health. Unfortunately, the New Jersey Department of Health's Basic Screening Survey [found that 36% of third graders](#) have untreated tooth decay, nearly twice the national average.

One reason that New Jersey struggles with providing good



oral health is access challenges for children enrolled in New Jersey Medicaid. Many dentists do not participate in New Jersey Medicaid because the rates they are paid are very low. The fee-for-service rates that the State pays have not changed since 2007 — and the five Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) generally pay less than those rates. In fact, a comparison of New Jersey Medicaid's reimbursement rates for children's dental care with data collected by the American Dental Association shows that New Jersey rates are in the bottom 10% of the nation.

Lawmakers and Governor Murphy can address this issue and help New Jersey's children by enacting the [Healthy Smiles Act](#) (S4298/A5471). The Healthy Smiles Act calls for a 20 percent increase in fee-for-service reimbursement rates and requires MCOs to pay at least those rates. It also includes a cost-of-living adjustment so that the rates will not remain frozen for another 19 years. You or your organization can join our call for passage of the Act by signing onto our support letter [here](#)...

[Read Full Story](#)

TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Fay Cobb Payton, PhD, MBA
Executive Director,
Institute for Data, Research & Innovation Science (IDRIS),
Rutgers University - Newark



Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

[The Institute for Data, Research and Innovation Science \(IDRIS\)](#) at [Rutgers University - Newark](#) is a member of the Quality Institute's Education Council.

Interview Sneak Peek: *What inspired Rutgers University to launch IDRIS?*

[IDRIS](#) was launched as part of Rutgers University Academic Affairs' broader [Roadmaps to Excellence](#) initiative, which emphasizes academic excellence and research across all Rutgers campuses — Camden, New Brunswick, Newark, and Rutgers Health. We're located at Rutgers–Newark and focus on technology/AI and the intersection of field domains using a social-technical model. We are examining, and interrogating technology — and its implications around ethical and responsible use and social impacts.

This means not only examining technical advances, but also their social and ethical implications. IDRIS is an interdisciplinary initiative housed in the chancellor's office and involved in each school on campus. It is also an organizing hub for applied

social, ethical, and responsible scholarship in data science and emerging technologies...

[Read Full Interview](#)

TeamBirth Model Grows in New Jersey with New Hospitals Participating in 2025

[TeamBirth](#), a nationally recognized evidence-based model that enhances the safety and overall experience of childbirth, continues its expansion across New Jersey. Six additional hospitals began implementing TeamBirth earlier this year, while another seven are actively preparing to launch the program this Fall, bringing the total number of participating hospitals and birthing centers in the state to 26.

In New Jersey, the Quality Institute, in partnership with [Ariadne Labs](#) and with support from the [New Jersey Department of Health](#), is leading statewide implementation. The goal is for every hospital and birthing center in the state to offer TeamBirth.

The seven New Jersey hospitals launching this Fall, 2025, are:

- Atlantic Health Overlook Medical Center — *Summit*
- Englewood Hospital — *Englewood*
- Hackensack Meridian Health Riverview Medical Center — *Red Bank*
- Holy Name Medical Center — *Teaneck*
- RWJBarnabas Health Community Medical Center — *Toms River*
- St. Joseph's University Medical Center — *Paterson*
- The Valley Hospital — *Ridgewood*

Hospitals That Implemented TeamBirth Earlier in 2025, include:

- Capital Health Medical Center — *Hopewell*
- Hackensack Meridian Health JFK University Medical Center — *Edison*
- Inspira Medical Center — *Mullica Hill*
- Inspira Medical Center — *Vineland*
- Penn Medicine Princeton Medical Center — *Princeton*
- RWJBarnabas Health Trinitas Regional Medical Center — *Elizabeth*

[Read the Press Release](#)

Smarter Investments, Healthier Families: Policy Briefs

We've created a series of one-pagers to inform decision-makers and the public about the proven value and quality outcomes of certain Maternal Child health programs and types of care. [The Burke Foundation](#) supported and collaborated with us in this work. We hope you'll review, use, and share these materials.

[Read the briefs:](#)

- [More Than a Visit: Paying What CenteringPregnancy Is Worth](#)
- [Investing in Early Childhood: The Case for HealthySteps in New Jersey](#)
- [Advancing Maternity Care in New Jersey: The Case for Investing in Midwifery](#)
- [Advancing Equitable Maternity Care in New Jersey: The Case for Investing in Doula Support](#)
- [CenteringParenting: Transforming Pediatric Care for Children and Families](#)



Please join us for an engaging virtual webinar, "[Social Work Perspectives on Advance Care Planning in Aging](#)," on **Monday, November 3, from 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.**, to learn how Advance Care Planning (ACP) is integrated across different social work settings. This session brings together social workers from various practice settings to share their experiences and perspectives on ACP in hospice, community, and private practice. Attendees will gain practical tools to initiate ACP conversations, address common myths and misconceptions, and advocate more effectively for their clients' wishes across the continuum of care.

Panelists:

- [Joan Ordille, DSW, LCSW](#) - Hospice & Palliative Care, [Rutgers School of Social Work](#)
- [Tracey Arnauer, MSW, LCSW](#) - Community-Based Practice, [Holy Name](#)
- [Molly Fisher, LCSW](#) - Private Practice

Moderated by:

- [Lauren Snedeker, DSW, LSW](#) - Assistant Professor of Teaching & Director of the Certificate on Aging and Health, [Rutgers School of Social Work](#)
- [Katie Bisaha](#) - Program Officer, [New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute](#)

[Register Here](#)

We invite you to join us on **Thursday, November 6 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.** for a [COYL Partner Meeting](#) to come together, share insights, and strengthen our collaborative efforts to promote advance care planning. A short feedback session on resources and supports will be followed by regional planning discussions for COYL events.

[Register Now](#)

NEW LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEMBER

WELCOME





Hackensack
Meridian *Health*

[Hackensack Meridian Health](#) has joined the Quality Institute's Leadership Council in the general hospital system seat. Our Leadership Council is our inner circle and works closely with our staff and board on policy direction and focus. We are proud to include Hackensack Meridian *Health* on our Leadership Council, as we have worked closely with them for many years to advance safe, high-quality, and affordable health care for everyone.



For information on how to join, please contact Virginia Tesser at vtesser@njhcqi.org.

To learn more about our current initiatives, please visit our website at www.njhcqi.org.

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