

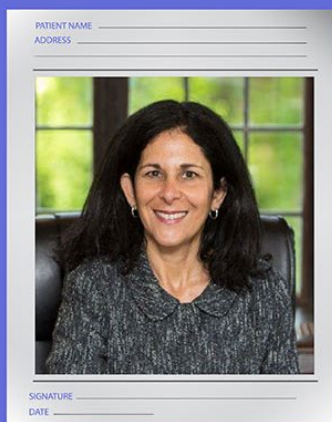


Quality Institute Newsletter

A bi-weekly look at the Business & Politics of
Health Care in New Jersey



FEBRUARY 28, 2019



Schwimmer
Script

A PRESCRIPTION FOR BETTER HEALTHCARE IN NEW JERSEY

Pioneering Midwife Joins Quality Institute Board

We are thrilled that Linda Sloan Locke, CNM, MPH, LSW, has joined the Quality Institute's Board of Directors, and we are so pleased to introduce her to our members.

Linda's experience and passion for maternal child health make her a valuable addition to our leadership. As you can read in the Take Five below, Linda has been practicing patient-centered care long before that phrase entered the health care lexicon.

She began her career as a midwife and later earned her LSW so she could better support her patients, many of whom came to her with issues beyond the traditional boundaries of medical care. Linda wanted

to better understand the interaction of mental health and physical health.

In recent years, the Quality Institute has focused on maternal and child health and I believe that Linda's insight and perspective will be essential to our efforts to improve outcomes for mothers and babies. And her experience in social justice will be critical to our work to end the unacceptable racial disparities we continue to see in health care.

I urge you all to take a look at the below must-read Take Five interview, and to welcome Linda Sloan Locke to our board.



Take Five with the Quality Institute's Newest Board Member, Linda Sloan Locke, CNM, MPH, LSW

Linda Sloan Locke, CNM, MPH, LSW, combines her experience in social work, midwifery, public health, and nursing in direct service to underserved populations. She recently joined the Quality Institute's Board of Directors.

What drew you to becoming a midwife?

I have been a midwife for 44 years. So, the 1970s was when I

began thinking about career options, and back then nursing was largely limited to care at the bedside. I wanted a more independent and active role in patient care. Few areas of nursing had an independent focus besides midwifery and anesthesiology. I wasn't sure I wanted to focus on putting people to sleep and waking them up. And back then midwives were scarce. But once I got into OB, I loved it. To see life coming into the world! I met a midwife by chance through a friend and I thought, "This is what I really want to do." I wanted the ability to be an independent practitioner especially at this time, as we were beginning to move away from the medicalization of birth.



How does your work as a mental health provider in the field of social work connect with your work as a midwife?

As a midwife, we do annual checkups and I found so many of my patients wanted to talk about what was going on in their lives. I felt ill equipped to respond. I thought of becoming a psychiatric nurse practitioner, but I think social work fits well with midwifery. I heard the phrase, “The social worker is midwife to the soul.” It’s really true. As midwives, we help women give birth to their babies. As a social worker, I help women give birth to themselves, in a way. With my training I understand the relationship between the body and mind and understand the interaction of mental health and physical health. There is a great deal of synchronicity.

You are among the professionals participating in the Quality Institute’s Medicaid Policy Center and you helped design a Maternity Episode of Care Model. How do you see payment reform improving maternal and child outcomes?

Payment drives care. Reforming payment is essential to providing quality care in any sphere, and I think particularly in maternal child health. We see the value of extending Medicaid coverage to 365 days after a woman gives birth. In the Episode of Care, payment is tied to quality. There was a big push in quality for a while and then it got lost. We’re setting the bar higher rather than lower and basically incentivizing quality care. It’s the carrot rather than the stick approach, which drives more value.

Why did you want to join the Quality Institute board?

Linda (Schwimmer, President and CEO of the Quality Institute) approached me. I was impressed with the Quality Institute, but it did not occur to me to join the board. As I began to look and learn more about the Quality Institute I realized this is an incredible opportunity to be part of an organization that can have such an impact on the quality of health care in our state.

You have researched racial disparities in health care. This is a tough question, of course, but can you tell us why you think we’ve been unsuccessful in closing the racial gap and what you think needs to be done?

Up until relatively recently, there has not been much of a focus on racial disparities. The focus was more on social determinants of health, and racial disparities were looked at only as they related to poverty, lack of health insurance, etc. Only recently are we looking at other issues in our society such as implicit bias, racism, the tradition of denigrating certain races — and how all those issues impact health. It took

us a while to understand the relationship of health, mental health, and the mind-body connection as well as the effect of long-term stress and intergenerational trauma on health. There is no quick fix. You have to address these other issues, and you have to make sure that care is appropriate and respectful.

As we introduce you to our membership, can you tell us something about yourself that people might be surprised to know?

Well, I have ten grandchildren. And I have been working on getting a private pilot's license. My dad (John Steward Sloan, Sr.) was a pilot. He was a Tuskegee Airman, and so, that was my introduction to flying. My Dad wrote a book, *Survival! A Purple Heart Tuskegee Airman*. People often are surprised to hear that.

Upcoming Quality Institute Events

3.21.2019 | [Register today](#) for the **5th Annual Innovation Showcase** hosted by NJII and the Quality Institute on **Thursday, March 21**, at the NJIT Wellness and Events Center in Newark. This year's theme will be "Using Data to Drive Value and Innovation." Former Utah Governor, and HHS Secretary, Michael Leavitt will be the keynote speaker and also hear from former Chief Technology Officer of the United States, Aneesh Chopra and New Jersey Commissioner of Health Shereef Elnahal. Stay through the afternoon for breakout sessions focused on Government, Innovation, and Value. Participation in this conference is free of charge and complimentary light breakfast will be served. *Open to the public.*

4.25.2019 | Join us for our next **CE accredited webinar in the GPTN Webinar Series: Cultural Intelligence: Breaking Barriers in End-of-Life Care** on **Thursday, April 25th, from 12-1 pm** with Dr. David Barile, Founder and Chief Medical Officer of Goals of Care Coalition of New Jersey. [Register now](#).

5.21.2019 | [Register now](#) for the Quality Institute's Spring All Council Conference, *Racial Bias in Health Care: A Diagnosis and Treatment Plan*, on **May 21, 2019, at 2 pm**.

This year's conference will feature keynote speaker Tiffani Johnson, MD, MSc, a faculty member at PolicyLab at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Emergency Medicine at CHOP and the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. A networking reception will immediately follow the Conference. Find the agenda and more details about this event [here](#). **Members and invited guests only.**





Medicaid Policy Center

In a recent report, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services projected that the overall cost of health care expenses will rise by 5.5% per year—with Medicaid expenses following the same predicted growth. As the healthcare market continues to outpace GDP each year, the [Medicaid Policy Center](#) will focus on ensuring that quality care is linked to affordability. Through partnerships, we will seek to implement innovative and best practice solutions to tackling health and social policy that drive costs and quality in order to ensure that New Jersey Medicaid remains an affordable for the State of New Jersey and the best quality program for the 1.8 million people who rely on it. The report is from the CMS Office of Actuary's National Health Expenditure Projections for 2018-2027. Read more about the National Health Expenditure Data [here](#).

If you have questions, please contact Matt D'Oria at mdoria@njhcqi.org or Kate Shamszad at kshamszad@njhcqi.org.

The Quality Institute's Medicaid work is funded by [The Nicholson Foundation](#).



Mayors Wellness Campaign

Conversation Of Your Life

Join the Statewide Effort to Improve End-of-Life care for New Jersey Residents:

To honor [National Health Care Decisions Day](#) (April 16), COYL taskforces are in the process of finalizing plans for community signing events throughout New Jersey. We invite, and encourage, all local leaders to participate in these events. This will be a great opportunity to lead communities by example and to highlight the importance of advance care planning, especially by the sharing of a personal story that exemplifies why advance care planning is important to you, as well as by publicly signing your own Advance Directive. If you or a colleague would like to participate, please contact Adelisa Perez at aperez@njhcqi.org.

Confirmed locations and dates, with additional counties to be announced soon:

- **Atlantic County:**

April 24, 3 pm at Hammonton Library

- **Bergen County:**

April 4, 4:30 pm at Berkley College;

April 5 1:30 pm at Senior Source,

April TBD for Tenafly

- **Burlington County:**

April 16, 12 pm at Gibson House

- **Essex County:**

April 17, 12 pm at Edgemont Park

- **Mercer County:**

April 16, time TBD at Trenton Public Library

- **Middlesex County:**

April 7, 2 pm at Highland Park Public Library;

April 25 2 pm at Spotswood Library

- **Monmouth County:**

April 26, 10 am at Monmouth County Library Eastern Branch

- **Union County:**

April 16, 7 pm at Clark Public Library

**COYL is funded by the [Horizon Foundation for New Jersey](#). COYL focuses on engaging communities in important conversations on end-of-life care to empower residents to take the action steps needed to ensure their end-of-life wishes are honored through advance care planning.*

In the News

2.25.2019 | [NJ Biz.com](#)/ C-Section Rates are Trending Down But Experts Say More Work Needs to Be Done

Due to greater statewide focus on quality assurance programs that were created to specifically lower the number of Cesarean section births, C-section rates have decreased over the past few years in New Jersey. Quality Institute President & CEO, Linda Schwimmer, told NJ Biz, “We’re really happy to see

that hospitals are acknowledging that it is a problem and they can do something about it and that we are a partner for them.” [Read the full article.](#)

Shout Outs

Congratulations to **The Nicholson Foundation** for welcoming Dr. Kim Boller as the organization’s new Chief Strategy and Evaluation Officer. The Quality Institute wishes Dr. Boller the best of luck in her new role. [Read more here.](#)

Congratulations to **St. Francis Medical Center** on the opening of the center’s in-house Community Pharmacy. Your innovative efforts help ensure that patients in your community, both in-patients and out-patients, receive the medications they need. The pharmacy also offers free home delivery. [Read the full story here.](#)

Industry Events

3.21.2019 | [An NJ Spotlight Roundtable: *Envisioning Better End-of-Life Care in New Jersey.*](#) The **Quality Institute Director of Quality and Conversation of Your Life (COYL) lead, Adelisa Perez, RN**, will be among a panel of experts, including **Cathy Bennett, President and Chief Executive Officer** of the **New Jersey Hospital Association** and **Dr. Shereef Elnahal, Commissioner** of the **New Jersey Department of Health**, to discuss how to evolve and improve end-of-life care in the New Jersey. *Invitation only.*

3.24.2019 | [National Quality Forum’s 20th Annual Conference](#). Linda Schwimmer, the Quality Institute’s President & CEO and Chair of the National Quality Forum’s (NQF) Consensus Standards Approval Committee (CSAC), will be among the speakers at the NQF Annual conference. The Quality Institute encourages all health care leaders to attend and to learn about the latest opportunities to improve quality for their communities and patients. [Learn more and register now.](#)

3.30.2019 | [The Changing Landscape of Concussion](#). Join **Quality Institute member Capital Health Capital Institute for Neurosciences** on Saturday, March 30, from 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m at Princeton University for this educational program focusing on the changing concept of concussion and evolving research that suggests potentially more serious and long-lasting consequences.

Professionals caring for young people with concussions or traumatic brain injuries, as well as healthcare providers, educational systems, health departments, and youth sports groups, may benefit from this program. [Register today](#).

6.5.2019 | [World Congress' 4th Annual Oncology Management Summit](#). Join World Congress for their 4th Annual Oncology Management Summit, *Leverage Value Based Initiatives to Improve Quality and Better Manage Costs in the Delivery of Cancer Care*, in Chicago, IL. Speakers at this event include some **Quality Institute members**, such as Steven Peskin, MD, MBA, FACP, Executive Medical Director, Population Health, from **Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey**; Terrill Jordan, President and Chief Executive Officer, **Regional Cancer Care Associates**; and Jeffrey W. Langsam, DO, Medical Director, New England, Regional Care Market, **Aetna**. [Learn more and register now](#).

ABOUT US

- [Our Mission & Vision](#)
- [Quality Institute Staff](#)
- [Board of Directors](#)
- [Our Accomplishments](#)
- [National Partnerships](#)

OUR INITIATIVES

- [Health Care Policy 360](#)
- [Health Matters Poll](#)
- [Mayors Wellness Campaign](#)
- [QI Collaborative](#)
- [The Leapfrog Group](#)



MEMBERSHIP

- [Our Members](#)
- [Council Member Benefits](#)
- [Become a Member](#)

MEDIA CENTER

- [In The News](#)
- [Press Releases](#)
- [Schwimmer Script](#)
- [Take Five](#)
- [Symptoms & Cures](#)
- [Videos](#)

EVENTS

- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Past Events and Materials](#)
- [Industry Events](#)

RESOURCES

- [Health Care Reform](#)
- [Policy Resources](#)

[Contact New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)