



Symptoms & Cures

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



SEPTEMBER 13, 2018

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A PRESCRIPTION FOR BETTER HEALTHCARE IN NEW JERSEY

New Staffers Strengthen Quality Institute's Mission

At the Quality Institute, three new policy staff members with impressive real-world experience have joined our mission to drive health care quality, access, and affordability. Their backgrounds in government, administration, hospitals, and finance will strengthen our impact in New Jersey. I'm excited to introduce them to you.

First, let me tell you about **Amanda R. Burd, MPA**. Amanda is our new Chief of Staff and she comes to us after eight years



with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), where she executed strategies that cut costs, streamlined operations, and increased productivity. Amanda will be extraordinarily valuable to the Quality Institute as we accelerate our work on projects related to

government programs. Amanda will support me on our Health Care Reform Work Group in partnership with Senator Joe Vitale and also will focus on the State Health Information Network (HIN) with the New Jersey Innovation Institute. Amanda's experience with budgets, data research and analysis, and project management will be essential to our work. A graduate of TCNJ, Amanda has a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University.

To support our work in health care quality, we've brought **Adelisa L. Perez, BSN, RN**, on board. Adelisa's decade of nursing experience will be critical to her position as Director of Quality. Adelisa, who will soon graduate with a master's degree in nursing leadership from Rutgers School of Nursing, will oversee our work as Regional Leader of the Leapfrog Group. She'll also support our work with the National Quality Forum, the Mayors Wellness Campaign (MWC), and Conversation of Your Life (COYL). Adelisa understands Leapfrog quality measures from the hospital perspective — and she has experience with audits regarding infection control and other quality improvement data. I am certain Adelisa will be especially helpful to our hospital members who may have questions about Leapfrog. Adelisa has multiple certifications in stroke, cardiac, telemetry, and life support. I see her connecting with hospitals and other member organizations that want to connect our community wellness programs to their population health initiatives. And her clinical background will be an asset in COYL's community conversations about end-of-life care.

Kate Shamszad, MPH, comes to us after working as a Clinical Director at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. At the Quality Institute, Kate will work with Matt D'Oria on our Medicaid 2.0 Initiative. Kate's day-to-day involvement with very sick children gives her direct insight into how Medicaid can support medically complex children and their families, especially since Medicaid enrollment is almost 50 percent children. Kate led 140 multidisciplinary employees at six locations, including critical and acute

care, level 1 trauma center, inpatient and residential psychiatry, and home hospice care. I am certain she'll be an extraordinary asset to our initiative to advance Medicaid in New Jersey. Kate is skilled in Quality Improvement, Inpatient Care, Pediatrics, and Healthcare Management. She has a Master's Degree in Public Health from University of West Florida.

Our new policy staff members, along with our talented existing staff and the insight and perspective of you, our members, gives the Quality Institute enormous opportunities to make real impact on health care in New Jersey. As we move into the fall I'm inspired every day to take on the challenge of making health care work better for everyone — consumers, families, providers, payers, employers, and taxpayers. Please reach out anytime to learn how you can maximize your membership, get more involved with our initiatives, and advance our urgent mission.

You can meet our new staffers at our Open House tonight. [Find out more information and register now.](#)

Members: Register Now for Our Quarterly Quality Breakfast

Quarterly Quality Breakfast

Tracking Our Value-Based Care: Catalyst for Payment Reform and the Quality Institute Scorecard 2.0 Release



Tuesday, September 25, 2018

8:00 a.m.-10 a.m.

Trenton Country Club

201 Sullivan Way, West Trenton, NJ 08628

Are value-based payments gaining traction and yielding desired effects in New Jersey?

The Catalyst for Payment Reform (CPR) developed New Jersey's Commercial Scorecard 2.0, which pilots their expanded methodology to understand if and how payment reform activity correlates with quality and affordability in New Jersey's commercial market.

Join the Quality Institute and CPR in our round-table discussion of the official unveiling of CPR's Scorecard 2.0, lead by CPR's Program Director, Andrea Caballero, to discover the thought-provoking findings, participate in lively discussions regarding the scorecard's uses and implications, and network with New Jersey's key health care leaders and decision-makers.

[Register now!](#)

For more information on the Scorecard 2.0 project, click [here](#).

Breakfast and refreshments will be served.

Take Five with James Spaulding, BSN, RN, CCRN, Sim Lab Coordinator at St. Peter's University Hospital

We spoke recently with James Spaulding, BSN, RN, CCRN, who is the Simulation Lab Coordinator at [Saint Peter's University Hospital](#). Spaulding told us how the lab provides valuable, hands-on training for physicians and other health care professionals to advance quality, safety and cost containment.

As the Sim Lab coordinator, can you explain the overall concept?

Dr. Nayan Kothari, Chief Academic Officer for Saint Peter's University Hospital, noticed that with the advent of new technologies there was a decline in hands-on interaction and conversations with patients.

He envisioned two elements of the simulation lab. First, the technical aspects could be taught with robots, or medical mannequins. The second part was a focus on bedside medicine, using actors to pose as patients with a script and diagnosis. We want to prepare young doctors in having difficult conversations with patients, perhaps breaking bad news such as a diagnosis of cancer, or discussing end-of-life treatment. We provide feedback of what they could do differently, and they get experience before they interact with real patients. We work with first-, second-, or third-year residents as well as attending physicians and other health care professionals.



How does the work in the Simulation Lab improve health care quality?

We take a situation — maybe a medical emergency that already has happened — where we want the outcome improved. We take that situation and work it into the software of the medical mannequins. We build in objectives; perhaps a patient is really deteriorating. We can provide feedback in real time. How did the doctor perform? What did they miss? Did they think of a particular medicine? In medicine, these emergencies don't happen all the time, thankfully. So this is a high volume, low risk training exercise. For instance, we have a mannequin mom that delivers a full-term baby but then experiences a hemorrhage. We run the simulation with the team of nurses and obstetric residents and we can run through this repeatedly — wherein the real world this might happen once every four or five months. We run simulations on situations such as drowning, a choking baby, cardiac arrhythmia, and all pediatric advance life support situations. With hands-on experience, clinicians remember the information better and are better prepared for the real world.

What is the biggest mistake you see health care professionals make?

Occasionally, there could be a misdiagnosis or the wrong medication dispensed. We created the Simulation Lab to provide a culture of safe learning. After we run these training exercises, we see people communicate better with each other, with nurses, and with patients. Everything that happens is on video and we can screen the video to a group of peers. Everyone walks away with more knowledge and confidence.

Does the Sim Lab lower health care costs?

Our aim is to train health care professionals to provide the highest quality care, and there are examples where this effort can reduce costs. For instance, one simulation involves a nurse recognizing when a patient starts to decline. If we can intervene early we may avoid an ICU admission. We're teaching healthcare professionals to pick up on things before they escalate.

How is your Simulation Laboratory supported?

We got off the ground through grants and donations and we primarily work with physicians and also health care professionals such as nurses and respiratory therapists. We're generating some income by providing Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support training. We also work with sub-acute facilities that send their staff to us to brush up on clinical skills and to learn how to deal with emergencies. We're working with long-term care facilities to see if we can prevent readmissions to hospitals. So we will look at data to see if we reduce readmissions and make a real difference for patients.

Register Now!

***September 27th 12:00-1:00 PM:** Garden Practice Transformation Network webinar series presented by the QI Collaborative. Dr. Stephen Goldfine, the Chief Medical Officer of Samaritan Healthcare and Hospice, will address “Talking with Your Seriously Ill Patients about Their Goals of Care, and Accessing Palliative or Hospice Care.” These webinars are free CE credit opportunities for eligible physicians and nurses.

October 18th 8:30 – 10:00 AM: Quality Institute Southern Regional Membership Engagement Event hosted by Jefferson Health at Jefferson Cherry Hill Hospital. [Register now!](#)

October 25th 9:30 – 11:00 AM: Quality Institute Northern Regional Membership Engagement Event hosted by Atlantic Health System at Morristown Medical Center. [Register now!](#)

***November 13th – November 15th:** Quality Institute’s Mayors Wellness Campaign at the NJ State League of Municipalities in Atlantic City, NJ.

**Open to the public; all other events are for Quality Institute members and invited guests only. For more information about membership, please contact Virginia Tesser at vtesser@njhcqi.org.*



New Member

Please welcome our new member, [Aunt Bertha](#). Aunt Bertha connects all people in need and the programs that serve them (with dignity and ease).



Medicaid 2.0

The Medicaid 2.0 team is continuing our work to improve care for children with complex medical needs. At the end of August, we convened a stakeholder work-group to advance efforts to establish a Patient-Centered Medical Home for Medically Complex Children. Representatives of Medicaid Managed Care

Organizations, state officials, and leading providers of children's health care came together to discuss the potential use of the medical home model for children.

Use of this model of care is gaining attention with policy makers in many states as families and providers grapple with the care coordination needs of these children. The stakeholders who gathered at this work-group explored eligibility criteria for children to qualify, as well as the care coordination roles at the plan and provider level. The Quality Institute will reach out to the state to obtain data to create model eligibility criteria scenarios to determine the potential cost and savings for each of the various criteria. We'll also outline the care coordination roles and responsibilities of the plans and the providers in a future demonstration project.

If you want to learn more about this, or the Medicaid 2.0 Initiative, please contact Matt D'Oria at mdoria@njhcqi.org or Kate Shamzsad at kshamszad@njhcqi.org.

Medicaid 2.0 is funded by [The Nicholson Foundation](#).



Mayors Wellness Campaign

Healthy Communities create Healthy Citizens

The Quality Institute and United Health Foundation joined together to support the annual Trenton Water Fest, which provides free health care, healthy foods, and activities to hundreds of Trenton residents. Mayors Wellness Campaign Spokeswoman and four-time Olympian athlete, Joetta Clark Diggs, led a fitness activity for children who attended the August event.



Conversation of Your Life



Conversation of Your Life will host a panel discussion on advance care planning at the **Bernardsville Library** on **Tuesday, September 25** at **7:00 pm**. [Register online](#) and follow the link for Adult Programs, or call 908-766-0118 to sign up.

Conversation of Your Life (COYL) is active in Middlesex, Burlington, Gloucester, Somerset, Monmouth, Mercer, Bergen and Camden counties. COYL is expanding to Hudson, Essex, Union, Hunterdon, Cape May, and Atlantic counties. If you are interested in joining a COYL Task Force in your community, please reach out to Adelisa Perez at aperez@njhcqi.org or call 609-452-5980. COYL is a Mayors Wellness Campaign program that focuses on engaging communities in fruitful dialogue — *the Conversation of Your Life* — to let individuals' family, friends, and doctors understand and respect their end-of-life wishes through advance care planning. COYL is generously supported by [The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey](#).

Shout Outs

Congratulations to New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and the Department of Banking and Insurance for taking aggressive actions to stabilize the state's insurance market through the [Individual Mandate and Reinsurance initiatives](#). Instead of an increase, consumers will see an overall average rate decrease of 9.3 percent in the individual market for 2019. Good move New Jersey! [Read the NJ.COM editorial](#).

Inspira Health Center Bridgeton celebrated the completion of their new emergency department expansion and renovation by holding a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, August 27th. Congrats! [Read the full story](#).

Congrats to the Quality Institute's Board Member, and former NJ Governor, James J. Florio on the release of his new book, *Standing On Principle*.

Good luck and congratulations to Amanda Melillo, our former Chief of Staff, on her new position. We thank you for your dedication and years of service to the Quality Institute.



Quality Institute In the News

09.12.2018 | [NJSpotlight.com](#) / [What do You Want to Know About Medicaid in NJ? New Website Has Answers](#)

Data Dashboard, a website the state established to improve transparency, operation, and accessibility of public data of NJ Medicaid program.

09.11.2018 | [My Central Jersey](#) / [Advanced care planning programs set by SCLSNJ and NJ Health Care Quality Institute](#)

In response to the community need to open up the conversation about advanced end-of-life care planning, the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) partnered with the Quality Institute, via the Mayors Wellness Campaign's program Conversation of Your Life (COYL), to host a program series to focus on advanced care planning and end-of-life care wishes, spanning October through December.

09.11.2018 | [NJ.com](#) / [NJ Makes a Brilliant Save on Obamacare](#)

NJ recently passed a law that requires all residents to buy health insurance after the individual mandate failed to pass.

09.04.2018 | [NJSpotlight.com](#) / [New Jersey Expands Medicaid Coverage for End-of-Life Planning](#)

Hundreds of thousands of New Jersey residents could benefit from healthcare that better aligns with their final wishes — and help to curb growing medical costs over time — thanks to changes officials are making to the state's Medicaid program.



Industry Events

09.16.2018 | [Panel Discussion and Luncheon: The Role of Community Partners In Health Care](#). Join the Medina Community Clinic for their luncheon and panel discussion **featuring Linda Schwimmer, the Quality Institute's President & CEO**, Dr. Shereef Elnahal, the Commissioner of the NJ Department of Health, and Mary Grace Billek, the Director of Human Services of Mercer County. RSVP Required: www.medinahealthcare.org. For sponsorships and more information, please call: 609-270-5067.

09.20.2018 | [The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce's Bi-annual Women Leaders in Innovation Reception and Award Ceremony](#). The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that, at this reception, they will be presenting their Alice H. Parker Women Leaders in Innovation Award to Assemblywoman Nancy Muñoz and to Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter.

09.24.2018 | [Diabetes Management in Primary Care: Beyond the ABCs](#). [Register](#) for this free event, which is funded by a grant from the NJ Department of Health.

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Industry Events

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