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# NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE

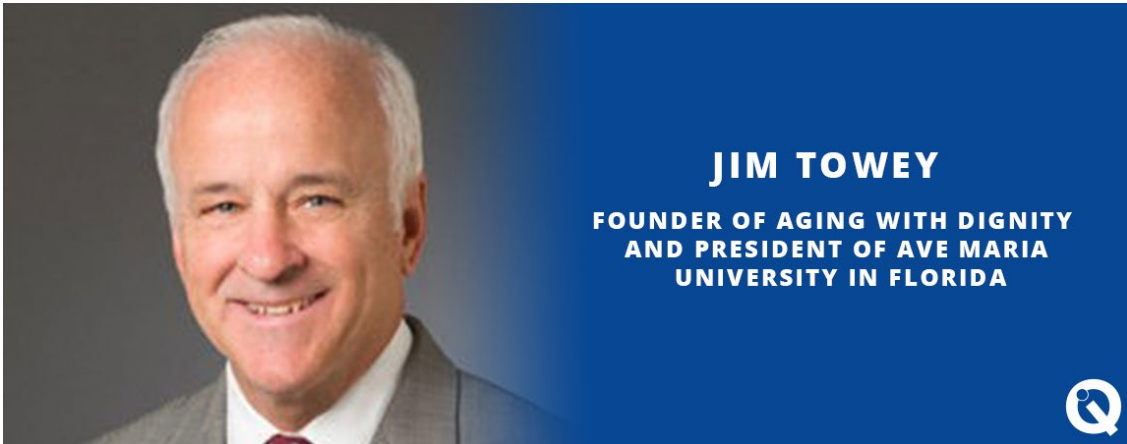
A BI-WEEKLY LOOK AT THE BUSINESS & POLITICS OF HEALTH CARE IN NEW JERSEY



## President & CEO, Linda Schwimmer Tackling Racial Bias in Health Care

We titled our Spring All Council Conference last week, “Racial Bias in Health Care: A Diagnosis and Treatment Plan.” Our audience — indeed, all of us in the room — did not always find the topic easy. No one who went into health care to help others wants to learn that their own biases could be harmful to patients. But as [Dr. Tiffani Johnson](#), a pediatrician and faculty member at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), told us: even unintentional biases can be detrimental.

[Dive into the Full Story](#)



## TAKE FIVE WITH JIM TOWEY

*Jim Towey, Founder of Aging With Dignity and President of Ave Maria University in Florida, will deliver the keynote address at the Conversation of Your Life (COYL) Quality Breakfast on June 13 (open to Quality Institute and COYL Task Force members only, including Mayors participating in COYL). Towey also is co-author of the Five Wishes document and served as Mother Teresa's legal counsel for 12 years. COYL is generously supported by [The Horizon Foundation](#) for New Jersey.*

[Register Now for COYL Quality Breakfast](#)

***Can you explain what motivated you to create the Five Wishes document, which is a living will and health care power of attorney?***

I was introduced to end-of-life care in Calcutta, India, in Mother Teresa's Home for the Dying. And when I went there, I was really struck that in this very broken city there was so much dignity and beauty in her home. And so that really startled me, because I, like most people from United States, did not expect that care in Calcutta was superior in any way to what we do here, where so often we isolate people who are dying. I met Mother Teresa and saw that people were loved and their dignity was affirmed. I eventually wrote Five Wishes.

***How is Five Wishes distinct from other advance directives?***

I also lived in a home for people with AIDS for a year and worked there for three and a half years. And I saw what people truly wanted at the end of life. But the typical advance care directive was all legalese, legalese ... basically unusable. The people I met wanted to talk about more than just their medical care. They wanted to talk about their dignity, their comfort, and how they wanted to be remembered. I talked to a lot of people and put Five Wishes in simple English and made it easy to use and to help families assert their rights. I think that's why Five Wishes has caught on and tens of millions are in use now.

[Get the Full Picture: Read the Next 3 Qs](#)

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**NEW MEMBER**

**Nurse-Family Partnership**



Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) empowers first-time moms to transform their lives and create better futures for themselves and their babies. NFP works by having registered nurses regularly visit first-time moms-to-be, starting early in the pregnancy, and continuing through the child's second birthday.



CONVERSATION OF YOUR LIFE

More than 600 New Jerseyans' lives were positively impacted through the COYL National Healthcare Decisions Day April awareness events. Event attendees received vital information on end-of-life care options and ways to both document and communicate their wishes. Thanks to all Quality Institute members and COYL Task Forces for your engaging participation continued support. A special thank you to [The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey](#) for their generous support of COYL. These important conversations will continue throughout the year in the following COYL counties: Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset, and Union.

Join the effort to improve end-of-life care in New Jersey: Share upcoming COYL events within your organization, promote them on social media and throughout the community, and/or volunteer to be a speaker. Together, we can impact more lives.

**COYL** National Healthcare Decisions Day Signing Events  
CONVERSATION OF YOUR LIFE

**Make a Difference. Start the Conversation.**

**Join Us At Upcoming COYL Events**



This newsletter is exclusively for members of the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute.

For information on how to join, please contact Virginia Tesser at [vtesser@njhcqi.org](mailto:vtesser@njhcqi.org).

To learn more about our current initiatives, please visit our website at [www.njhcqi.org](http://www.njhcqi.org).

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