



NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE

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



PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER

Our Take Five interviews share insight from health care leaders making a difference in the state and the nation. Take Five is one of the most popular features of our newsletter and explores topics critical to our mission to improve the safety, quality, and affordability of health care for everyone.

Recently we've run what we are calling Legacy Take Five interviews with a cross section of our longstanding members. Our first [Legacy Take Five interview featured Dr. Alfred Tallia](#) of Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, a national leader in medical education and primary care. Today we're sharing our interview with Kevin Conlin, President & CEO of Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, the state's largest health insurer.

Kevin Conlin's interview focuses on the value of the company's long-time membership in the Quality Institute and our ability to bring together people from all corners of health care — a critical element to the on-going transformation of how we deliver and pay for care. He makes the point that no single player in health care — not insurers, not providers, not government — can do it alone. We need the perspective of all our members.

We enjoy engaging with you and connecting you with each other. It's those connections that are essential to achieving our mission. Enjoy reading the interview with Kevin, below, and learn how Horizon supports its members beyond the traditional role of the health insurer.

LEGACY TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

This week's newsletter includes our second Legacy Take Five interview. Throughout the year, we'll interview some of our longstanding members who will share how their partnership with the Quality Institute helps them advance the mission we all share: improving the safety, quality, and affordability of health care for everyone.

Kevin Conlin, President & Chief Executive Officer of Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey.

Interview Sneak Peak: *As you look out over the next decade, what innovations do you believe will make the greatest improvements in patient outcomes?*

Innovations that unleash the power of all the data we have about individuals and populations and make the data actionable are going to have a very significant impact. Horizon is already providing intuitive tools that help physicians stratify and identify patient populations across a number of segments. They can see, for example, all of their patients with a particular condition — identify those who are managing their health well, and identify those who aren't doing so well and then presumably take action. We'll soon have advanced analytics to identify the treatments that work most effectively for a particular patient with a specific condition.

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NEW MEMBER

1906

1906 supports medical cannabis research and invests a percentage of its revenue in clinical trials and education. The organization also invests in corporate social responsibility, specifically targeting employment opportunities for those formerly incarcerated for low-level drug offenses. 1906 brings the benefits of cannabis and plant medicines to patients and health conscious adults by combining great taste, superior ingredients, and rapid delivery formulations in a range of experiences



On June 30, Governor Murphy signed the Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations Act into law, which went into effect the next day. The Medicaid Policy Center is most impassioned about several items that will provide a direct, positive benefit to Medicaid beneficiaries throughout New Jersey, including:

- **\$14M to extend post-partum coverage** for 6 months to women who received Medicaid during pregnancy but otherwise are not eligible for the program;
- **\$3M for Regional Health Hubs (RHH)** in the state to continue to support and expand their work;
- **\$1M for Medicaid doula coverage** for women during pregnancy and delivery.

[Read Our RHH Paper](#)

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

Congrats to the New Jersey Department of Human Services on the announcement of their new Medicaid Director, Jennifer Langer Jacobs. The Quality Institute is excited to be working again with Jennifer, who has a wealth of experience and talent. Thank you to former Director Megan Davey; it was a delight working with you and best of luck in your future endeavors.

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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.

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

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