



NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE

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



JULIE DESIMONE, LSW

**PROGRAM OFFICER,
MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN**

TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

As program officer for the Mayors Wellness Campaign (MWC), Julie DeSimone, LSW, provides mayors and community leaders with valuable tools and expertise to help residents live healthier lives.

Interview Sneak Peek: *Can you tell us about the wide-ranging experience that supports your work with the Quality Institute's Mayors Wellness Campaign?*

After finishing my Master of Social Work, with a concentration in Nonprofit and Public Management from Rutgers University, I worked as a program director at a nonprofit agency serving youth and their families in Somerset County. I was able to understand what families struggled with, and the complex needs of the community. I realized I wanted to affect change on a more macro level, and that led me to work in human services in Somerset County. I was able to see how when systems work successfully together residents benefit, and I also saw the barriers to getting the needs of the community met. At its best, local government can really be a catalyst for change.

[Read Full Interview](#)

Quarterly Quality Breakfast

[How to Prepare for the Expansion of Medical Marijuana in New Jersey](#)

Panel 1: *The Regulation of Medical Marijuana*
Moderated by Shereef Elnahal, MD, MBA



Shereef Elnahal, MD, MBA, University Hospital



Jeff A. Brown, Division of Medicinal Marijuana, NJDOH



Chris Nazarenus, MM411, Inc



Jackie Cornell, 1906 New Highs



Ruth A. Rauls, Esq., Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr

Panel 2: *Patient Safety and Prescribing*
Moderated by Kemi Alli, MD



Kemi Alli, MD, Henry J. Austin Health Center



Mary M. Bridgeman, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP, Rutgers



David Knowlton, CERI



George T. DiFerdinando, Jr., MD, MPH, FACP, NAMI



Raj Mukherji, Esq., CannTech & NJ General Assembly



Robert L. Alesiani, PharmD, BCGP, CAREKINESIS INC

How does the expansion of medical marijuana affect different types of providers and employers in New Jersey? What can the state and the medical marijuana industry do to help prevent adverse drug events like we're seeing with regards to vaping? What efforts are underway to bring Federal laws in line with states like New Jersey that have legalized medical marijuana?

Join the Quality Institute and our two panels of dynamic experts at our Quality Breakfast on **Thursday, November 14th, 8:30am – 11:30am** at the **Trenton Country Club**. Enjoy two vibrant, informative, and timely panel discussions on the Regulation of Medical Marijuana and Patient Safety and Prescribing, moderated by our Board members, Shereef Elnahal, MD, MBA, and Kemi Alli, MD.

This event is for members and invited guests only.

Register Now!

Quality Corner

Quality Data Briefing



New Release: The Quality Institute is excited to share our recently released Employer and Purchaser Update on Quality. This briefing focuses on maternity care measures, featuring data from The Leapfrog Group's 2019 Hospital Survey. It provides valuable patient safety information by hospital that your employees and members can use to make the best decision about where to receive care. **Quality Institute members, we encourage you to read the Quality Update for Employers below, and to share the Quality Update for Employees with your employees and members to educate them on the importance of choosing a hospital that delivers high quality maternity care.**

Questions? Please reach out to our Director of Quality, [Adelisa Perez-Hudgins](#).

Quality Update for
Employers

Quality Update to Share with
Employees



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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