



# NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE

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



## **PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER**

### **[Nicholson Foundation Changed Lives by Strengthening Systems](#)**

I invite you all to read our Take Five with Jan Nicholson, President of [The Nicholson Foundation](#). The organization plans to commit its last grants next year and close its office in Newark at the end of 2021.

The Foundation will leave a legacy that cannot be easily measured — certainly not in brick and mortar structures or naming rights. The Foundation has instead changed lives by strengthening the systems, and the people, that serve New Jersey residents with the most challenging lives and the fewest resources.

The Foundation certainly changed my life. Six and a half years ago, The Nicholson Foundation urged me to join the Quality Institute — and then supported the Quality Institute's work to build coalitions to support community health. The Quality Institute's work with the Foundation continued to grow ever since. We are grateful for The Foundation's support of our [Medicaid Policy Center](#) and its precursor, [Medicaid 2.0: A Blueprint for the Future](#). Medicaid 2.0 brought together people from different disciplines and resulted in 24 recommendations to make Medicaid more effective and efficient. Many of these recommendations now are being turned into Medicaid policy.

The Nicholson Foundation also provided the seed money for the community coalitions that are now the Regional Health Hubs. These hubs are making a difference in the lives of people with many complex health and social needs. The Foundation's support created a new system —one that breaks down barriers and builds relationships so everyone in a community, from hospitals to city halls to social service providers, can work better together to help residents.

The Nicholson Foundation also brought national models to the Garden State, such as Project Echo. It's a collaborative

model of medical education and care management that empowers clinicians to provide better care to more people.

How do you measure The Foundation's success? I look at what would not have happened without The Foundation's catalyzing investments and vision, its insistence for timely action, and its unwavering commitment to New Jersey's most vulnerable residents.

I invite you to read our Take Five interview with Jan and share your own story of how The Nicholson Foundation affected you.

The Foundation's success may not be easily measured, but will be lasting.



## TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

**Interview Sneak Peek:** *The Nicholson Foundation's strategic approach has been to transform service delivery systems to better serve vulnerable populations. You've looked for partners here in New Jersey. Can you tell us how that model works?*

Well, our partners have been instrumental. The way we work is through partners who are serving both vulnerable populations in New Jersey, or who bring expertise or experience here. And we work in collaboration with intermediaries, such as the Quality Institute, the Center for Healthcare Strategies, Rutgers Center for State Health Policy, and the New Jersey Primary Care Association. Government is often our partner because government defines the framework. We have worked with the state departments of Health, Human Services, Children and Families and Education.

[Read Full Interview](#)

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## NEW MEMBER



**GARDEN STATE**  
D I S P E N S A R Y

[Garden State Dispensary](#)

At [Garden State Dispensary](#), we are privileged to serve New Jersey patients suffering from serious debilitating illnesses and provide them with compassionate relief through high quality, pharmaceutical-grade New Jersey-grown medical cannabis and cannabis-infused or derived products. As New Jersey's only unionized cannabis workforce at this time, our teams are led by eminently qualified professionals who put patients' needs first, including certified horticulturists, licensed pharmacists, a medical director, and PhD chemists. We are also participating in IRB-approved clinical research and doing our part to fill gaps in the literature and educate the community about medical cannabis.



Did you know that in July 2020 [NJFamilyCare](#), the state's Medicaid program, will eliminate payment to providers for deliveries that aren't medically necessary? Elective deliveries before 39 weeks of gestation can pose both short and long-term health risks for a newborn. This is just one of the many new maternity initiatives that NJFamilyCare will be rolling out in the upcoming year, designed to help ensure that moms and babies get the highest quality and safest care.

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



## MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN

 MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN<sup>®</sup>

**NEW JERSEY HEALTHY TOWN DESIGNATION APPLICATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!**



### Healthy Town Application

Applications for the New Jersey Healthy Town Designation are now available.

*The deadline to apply is January 31, 2020. [Register](#) for our **Healthy Town Webinar on December 10th at 2:00 p.m.** to learn more about this prestigious designation and how to apply.*

Members: We encourage you to share this notice and work with your local mayor to submit a Healthy Town Designation application.

[Learn More](#)



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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