



NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE

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



PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER **Improving Health Care Post-Election 2020**

Blog Sneak Peek:

President-Elect Biden ran on three ideas about improving health care: dropping Medicare eligibility age; adding a public option to the health care exchanges; and giving Medicare the power to negotiate prescription drug prices.

“The chances of getting those three ideas through Congress with the political situation we will have in 2021 are improbable. They’re not impossible, but they’re improbable,” former U.S. Representative Rob Andrews told our audience.

But Rob was clear we should not lose hope that we can improve our health care system, and he said the work of provider institutions, payers, employers and catalyzing groups like the Quality Institute will become even more important. The Biden administration can also create significant administrative changes to strengthen the ACA and support health care.

[Read Full Story](#)



TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

Darwin K. Hayes, DDS, MHA, FAGD. Dr. Hayes is the State Dental Director in the New Jersey Department of Health.

Interview Sneak Peek: *How has COVID-19 changed the way patients receive dental care?*

COVID has presented some unique challenges, many that we in the dental community have been prepared for. Back in the 80s, we had the AIDS HIV epidemic, and it changed how we practice dentistry — as it relates to universal precautions and infection control. Forty years later, we have another type of infection that dentists are relatively well equipped to handle. We've been utilizing Personal Protection Equipment — masks, gloves, gowns — for decades. Some efforts have changed and we follow CDC guidelines. We may not be able to see as many patients as we typically would because of the potential for airborne transmission. We also have to spend some more time in between patients, disinfecting or decontaminating the room, and the air. We've been doing all this...though now we have to spend more time on these efforts.

[Read Full Interview](#)



MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN

ROUND UP:

MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN - NJ LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES CONFERENCE

 NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE
QUALITY INSTITUTE



MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN



Panelists from our *Bringing Wellness to Your Community with the Mayors Wellness Campaign* webinar during the conference.

This year's [New Jersey League of Municipalities](#) Annual Conference (November 16 – November 19) went virtual, which didn't stop our [Mayors Wellness Campaign \(MWC\)](#) from making an impact. Over 70+ towns and cities signed the [MWC 2021 Pledge of Participation](#).

We hosted two **successful webinar panels**, where we convened municipal leaders, officials, and staff members to share and discuss important subjects, such as *Chat with Local Health Care Leaders*, which shared COVID-19 updates from the New Jersey Department of Health. And our second panel, [**Bringing Wellness to Your Community with the Mayors Wellness Campaign**](#), showcased presentations from the mayors of the City of Paterson and Wildwood Crest Borough, as well as local officials from Montclair Township.

We officially launched the **MWC Statewide Survey**, which helps us to collect important data about our community partners. And our [**2020 Healthy Town Applications**](#) became available. Communities are recognized for their commitment to improving the health and wellness of their towns, and **we encourage all New Jersey towns to apply!** Stayed tuned for our 2020 Healthy Town Webinar on December 10th and the announcement of the 2020 [**MWC Health Champion**](#) on December 14th!

UPCOMING QI EVENT

[**Best Practices for Quality Improvement and Staff Mental Health During COVID-19**](#)

Please join us on **Wednesday, January 27th, from 12:00pm-1:00pm** for the fourth virtual Quality Institute event in our member-only series *Stronger Together: Improving the Safety, Quality, and Affordability of Health Care for Everyone: Best Practices for Quality Improvement and Staff Mental Health Support During COVID-19*.

Leah Binder, President and CEO of The Leapfrog Group, will discuss maintaining quality improvement during COVID-19 as well as updates to the 2021 Leapfrog Hospital and ASC Survey. Participants will also hear from Quality Institute member Donald Parker, MSW, President and CEO of Hackensack Meridian Carrier Clinic, on their experiences and outcomes delivering Behavioral Health services to their staff during the pandemic.

Registration to open soon.

[**Learn More**](#)



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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Our mailing address is:

New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute
P.O. Box 2246, Princeton, New Jersey 08543

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