



# NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE

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



## **PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER** **Perinatal Policy Work Becomes Personally Meaningful**

At the Quality Institute, we have a wealth of experts on our staff, including our [Director of Quality, Adelisa Perez-Hudgins, MSN, RN](#). A Registered Nurse, Adelisa brings over a decade of clinical experience to our quality improvement, transparency, and community wellness initiatives, including [The Leapfrog Group](#) and [Conversation of Your Life](#). Today, I'm turning my blog over to Adelisa to share information about our [New Jersey Perinatal Care During COVID-19 Workgroup](#), and her personal connection with this critical project.



In April of last year, I joined the workgroup bringing experts together to create guidance for providers and facilities on perinatal care during the COVID-19 pandemic. These were the early days of the pandemic and they were frightening for all of us, and I knew the uncertainty would weigh especially heavy on someone who was pregnant. Pregnancy during a pandemic was uncharted territory.

The Quality Institute led the New Jersey Perinatal Care During COVID-19 Workgroup at the request of the State of New Jersey and several foundations, and we brought together more than 40 experts to provide guidance and recommendations. We were all committed to supporting high quality, safe, and equitable perinatal care in New Jersey...

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## TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

### Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

Triste A. Brooks, MS, AASECT, is President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Northern, Central and Southern New Jersey, Inc. The organization is a member of the Quality Institute's Leadership Council.

**Interview Sneak Peek:** *What are some of the most common barriers your patients in New Jersey face in accessing reproductive health care?*

At Planned Parenthood, we believe that access to care shouldn't depend on who you are, your income, your insurance status, or your immigration status. Yet even in New Jersey, our patients face barriers to care. Medically unnecessary regulations in place in our state inhibit the availability of reproductive health care services, including restrictions that prevent qualified health care providers from providing abortion care, and limits on the types of medical settings in which an abortion can be performed.

Additionally, our patients often face financial barriers to care, many of which have been worsened by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, a couple came to our Shrewsbury health center. The mother and father both lost their jobs, and they had several kids at home. They really wanted to maintain their form of birth control. We don't turn people away due to an inability to pay, so of course we saw and helped them...

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The pandemic has highlighted the importance of discussing and documenting health care wishes before a medical emergency or serious illness occurs. Through our [Conversation of Your Life \(COYL\)](#) statewide health initiative, we provide support and education on how to ensure preferences for care are followed through advance care planning. In 2020, COYL Task Forces held many informative events, such as [Having the Conversation: The Heart of the Veteran and Advance Care Planning](#), where we discussed the impact of military culture and experiences on veterans' preferences for treatment.

[View Previous Webinars & Resources](#)

You can also view yesterday's COYL webinar, entitled, *Planning Ahead for a Medical Emergency: What Are My Options?* where we discuss the importance of preparing for the unexpected and understanding treatment options. Featuring subject matter experts:

- **Adrian Allotey**, End of Life Doula, Owner of [You're Not Alone Elder Care, LLC](#).
- **Mindy Fry**, Director of Patient Relations & Network Development, [Serenity Hospice](#).
- **Jodi-Gail Duncan, MSW**, Director of Patient Relations & Network Development, [Serenity Hospice](#).

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Thank you to [The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey](#) for their generous support of COYL.



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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**Our mailing address is:**

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

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