



# NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE **QUALITY INSTITUTE**

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



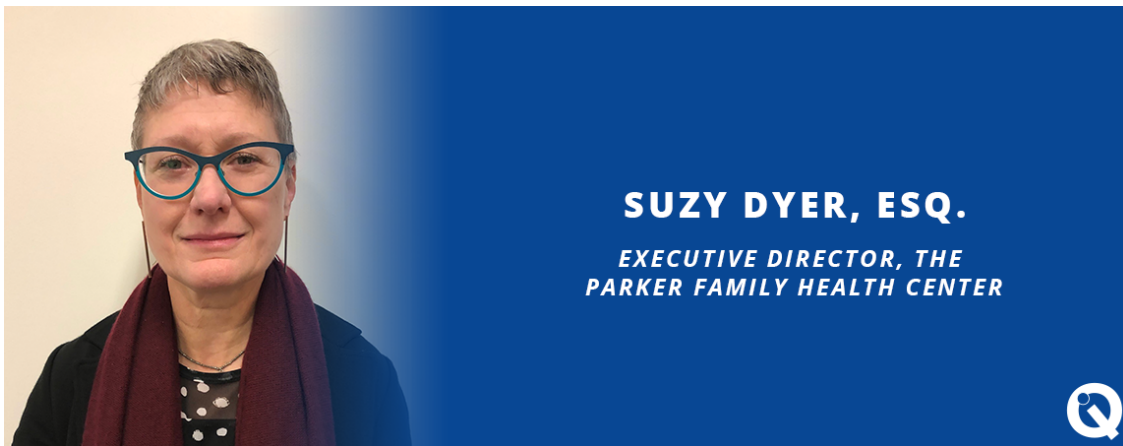
## **PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER**

### **Two Towns, Two Different Approaches to Local Boards of Health**

Last Saturday, I Zoomed into my first New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association (NJLBHA) meeting. The group focused on the critical topic of school re-openings during the COVID-19 pandemic. One member, a researcher and public health physician, presented the latest studies on school re-openings. Then we heard two opposite examples of how public health boards can be engaged in local decision making — or be shut out entirely.

In the first instance, the chair of a local board of health (BOH) shared how last spring he reached out to the chair of his local board of education (BOE) to discuss how to handle school safety during the pandemic. The two boards had not interacted in years. But the chair reached out because the State advises school re-opening committees to work closely with local health departments to develop plans that address health and safety. His outreach was well received, and the two boards discussed their goals and concerns. A school physician became a liaison to the BOH, connecting the two boards. They all agreed that transparency throughout the process would help build trust. The BOH and BOE held community forums, as well as forums just for teachers. The health board worked hand-in-hand with the education board and was available to address community and staff fears, explain the plans, and answer questions. The process worked well.

In another city in a neighboring county, the story was starkly different..



## TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

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

Suzy Dyer, Esq., is Executive Director of the Parker Family Health Center, a member of the Quality Institute's [Consumer Council](#).

**Interview Sneak Peek:** *Your clinical staff members are predominantly volunteers. Can you tell us what kinds of services you provide and how the service works?*

At Parker, we are fortunate to have more than 150 doctors, nurses, interpreters, and administrative volunteers who donate their time and talents to support Parker's mission. We offer primary care, pediatrics, pediatric dentistry, chronic disease management, and counseling. We also offer social services, a pharmacy assistance program, a women's health program and immunizations. We are fortunate to also have a number of specialists, including those in endocrinology, nephrology, cardiology, neurology, rheumatology, gynecology, pulmonology, and orthopedics. These specialists volunteer at our clinic. If they can't get to our clinic, these specialists will see our patients in their offices free of charge. We are always looking for more volunteers.

[Read Full Interview](#)

## MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN<sup>®</sup>

MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN,

### 2020 NEW JERSEY HEALTHY TOWN DESIGNEES

#### HEALTHY TOWN

- ASBURY PARK
- EVESHAM TOWNSHIP
- MONTCLAIR
- PATERSON
- PLAINFIELD
- SCOTCH PLAINS
- WILDWOOD CREST
- WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP

#### HEALTHY TOWN TO WATCH

- BAY HEAD
- BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD
- DENVILLE
- FRANKLIN LAKES
- HILLSBOROUGH
- JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP
- JERSEY CITY
- NORWOOD
- VERNON

#### HEALTHY TOWN UP-AND-COMING

- HIGHLANDS BOROUGH
- LAWRENCE
- MORRISTOWN
- PRINCETON
- WILLINGBORO TOWNSHIP

We are happy to announce the 2020 [Mayors Wellness Campaign](#) (MWC) Healthy Town Designees. This year, eight MWC communities were named 2020 Healthy Towns; nine were designated as 2020 Healthy Towns to Watch; and five were designated as 2020 Healthy Town Up and Coming.

Each year, communities participating in the MWC complete a comprehensive application outlining the research they've done to identify their community's health needs, explain how they organized their local MWC committee, and highlight the actions they've taken to make their communities healthier places to live, work, and play.

This year, towns used the application to showcase efforts to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and their ability to continue to offer health and wellness activities throughout the pandemic.

[Learn More - Read Press Release](#)

## NEW MEMBER



### Health Coalition of Passaic County

The [Health Coalition of Passaic County](#) strives to create a thriving and sustainable community coalition dedicated to significantly improving the health and overall quality of life for residents of the Greater Passaic County area by specifically addressing social determinants of health. HCPC values grassroots engagement and the elevation of diverse voices from across the community to become the bridge between clinical needs and community resources.



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).

*Copyright 2021\* \*|NJHCQI, All rights reserved.*

**Our mailing address is:**

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

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).