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NEW JERSEY
HEALTH CARE
**QUALITY
INSTITUTE**

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



PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER

In the Wake of the Pandemic, Opportunities Exist

Just over 100 years ago, an especially virulent influenza ignited a cataclysmic pandemic that killed an estimated 50 million to 100 million people around the world. The pandemic of 1918 also ushered in new ways of understanding and delivering health care. Advances that followed the pandemic included a national disease reporting system, employer-based health insurance, infection control policies, international cooperation on health, and a reevaluation of government's role in preventing and treating illness.

Today we stand at a similar moment to create a new way forward in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have opportunities and momentum now to create a stronger health care system that works better for everyone. To make that happen, and with a focus on our own state, BioNJ and the Quality Institute partnered to bring together experts from all sectors of our health care system to form the COVID-19 Work Group, which created "Emerging From COVID-19: An Action Plan for a Healthier State."

The Action Plan outlines 24 consensus-based recommendations, which fall into four areas of greatest need:

- Building, supporting, and expanding a diverse health care workforce.
- Expanding new models of care and payment — with an emphasis on changes to telehealth, primary care, and long-term care.
- Addressing Social Determinants of Health to achieve greater health equity.
- Redesigning and investing in our public health infrastructure.

Past Issues
I hope you will read and share the Action Plan, which focuses on our state, but has implications beyond our borders. The focus is not only on government. Change can be driven by the private sector as well. State government does not have the capacity to fix everything. But we do need government leadership to align strategies and investment. We entered the pandemic with a flawed health care system. We cannot emerge from pandemic with the same flawed system. All of us together can create a new path forward.

[Read & Share Covid-19 Action Plan](#)



TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

[Kate Shamszad](#), MS, MPH, Director of the Medicaid Policy Center, a program of the Quality Institute.

Interview Sneak Peek: As the new Director of the [Medicaid Policy Center](#) (MPC), what are your short and long-term priorities for the program?

It's been a really busy last year with the onset of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Maintaining high quality health care amid such changes will remain a focus of ours from a short-term perspective. How do we transition to a normal state of health care, particularly as we see the Medicaid program expanding? From a long-term perspective, since we launched the Medicaid Policy Center we have clearly seen that health care has no bounds. So we're looking at how quality care is provided more broadly. How does quality and access to health care affect everyone in New Jersey, whether they have Medicaid, private insurance, or no insurance? That is at the core of the work of the Quality Institute. Our focus is ensuring that the health care experience is equitable, of high quality, accessible, and affordable for everyone, regardless of the person's insurance.

I have worked closely with [Matt D'Oria](#), the previous director of the MPC, for three years and am so thankful for all that I have been able to learn from his expertise about Medicaid and health care in New Jersey. Though he will be transitioning from this role, I am glad that we will still have his expertise. Matt is now a Senior Policy Advisor for the Quality Institute and will continue to work on projects with us, including the [Integrated Care for Kids \(InCK\)](#) program.

[Read Full Interview](#)

ALL-COUNCIL CONFERENCE

TELEHEALTH EQUITY – BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Wednesday, May 19th
from 2:45pm to 5:00pm



Join us on May 19th for
our members-and-
invitees-only conference.



Our All-Council Spring Conference should not be missed. On Wednesday, May 19th from 2:45pm to 5:00pm we'll come together to discuss *TeleHealth Equity – Bridging the Digital Divide*. Our keynote speaker will explore the use of telehealth, how to achieve digital equity, and ensure quality care. Our keynote speaker will be announced soon.

We'll hear from a dynamic panel of multi-stakeholder Quality Institute members who will discuss the benefits of telehealth and digital technology as well as how to address barriers to access and use. The panel will focus on actions to achieve equity for those on the wrong side of the digital divide due to age, language, or access to equipment or broadband. The Conference will conclude with live Jazz music to feed our souls. "See" you there.

Members and Invitees, Register Now



Sophia Chang MD, MPH, Chief Clinical Informatics Officer, [Clover Health](#)



Elizabeth Cherot, MBA, MD, FACOG, Chief Medical Officer, [Axia Women's Health](#)



Drew A. Dyson, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer, [Princeton Senior Resource Center](#)



Susan Loughery, Director of Operations, [Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton](#)

NEW MEMBER



Partnership Health Centers

[Partnership Health Centers](#) manages health plans through onsite health centers for employees and their dependents. Partnership Health Centers are not open to the public, but they provide a medical "home base" for employees and their dependents with robust primary care and wellness services coupled with overall health plan care coordination.



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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