



NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE **QUALITY INSTITUTE**

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



**KATE SHAMSZAD,
MS, MPH**

KATE SHAMSZAD, DIRECTOR OF THE MEDICAID POLICY CENTER

Alternative Payment Model Launching to Support Children and Families

At the Quality Institute, we support alternative payment models that move away from fee-for-service and toward better coordinated care that pays for better quality and outcomes. Most of the existing alternative payment models focus on chronic conditions or a specific event or surgical procedure and few are designed for children.

But what if we approached care differently for our youngest community members? What if we could better understand their physical and mental well-being at an early age — and support children and their families before small issues became unmanageable? Perhaps thinking about how to provide this care, and what the reimbursement model could look like, we can create positive change in the health trajectory of our youngest New Jerseyans.

Within this framework, the Quality Institute began working on the [New Jersey Integrated Care for Kids \(NJ InCK\)](#) project in the beginning of 2020. Over the last two years, the Quality Institute has been a co-lead NJ InCK team member, planning an innovative, preventive, population health-based model for children. Partnering with [Hackensack Meridian Health](#) and [VNA Health Group](#), and working

alongside [NJ FamilyCare](#), [New Jersey's Medicaid agency](#), we designed a Medicaid alternative payment model that supports a "wrap-around" program that begins this year for all NJ FamilyCare beneficiaries in Monmouth and Ocean Counties ages 0 through 20, about 145,000 children and youth. New Jersey is one of seven locations in the nation where the concept is being tested through a cooperative agreement with the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation \(CMMI\)](#), part of CMS...



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Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

Steven Kairys, MD, is Principal Investigator of [New Jersey Integrated Care for Kids \(InCK\)](#), a new pilot program in Ocean and Monmouth Counties, and a pediatrician at [Hackensack Meridian Health](#), a member of the Quality Institute. The NJ InCK pilot is led by Hackensack Meridian Health with the Quality Institute and [VNA Health Group](#) as co-leads.

Interview Sneak Peek: *How will this innovative model address some of the challenges faced by the children you see?*

Let's say we have a child who has a complex medical condition. Perhaps the child has inflammatory bowel disease or type 1 diabetes or has complicated epilepsy or developmental issues. And perhaps there's also behavioral issues because of all that, such as school difficulties. They would be identified as a family that could really benefit from additional services. Care Integration Managers working with this NJ InCK model reach out to the families to understand better what's happening and whether the family is being supported by any other care coordination or case management models. Then, with the family's permission, they'll assign them to a care team that will work with them to come up with a shared care plan that they work on together.

That plan may include having our community health workers, our family support specialist, or a child life specialist work with the families on breaking down some of the barriers that are preventing them from getting the kind of support they need. Maybe the challenges are transportation, day care, housing ... maybe food. Then we work together to find the resources the families need and try to empower the families to improve their capacity to provide care for those children. These are needs beyond what a pediatrician can typically manage in a busy practice, with a busy schedule of sick and well visits. The hope is that by improving care for the child using a family-centered care coordination approach, including community partners

in the plan, we will also reduce unnecessary ED visits, hospitalizations, and out-of-

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**PRIMARY CARE AS A
COMMON GOOD:**
PART 2 OF OUR VIRTUAL SERIES

**THE CASE FOR INCREASING OUR
INVESTMENT IN HIGH QUALITY
PRIMARY CARE**

Wednesday, February 23, 2022
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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Join us on Wednesday, February 23, for the second installment of our virtual *Primary Care as a Common Good* series focused on how states are choosing to invest in primary care to create a healthier and more equitable health care system. You'll hear from our keynote, [Chris Koller, President of the Milbank Memorial Fund](#), one of the authors of the National Academy of Sciences Engineering Medicine report, "[Implementing High Quality Primary Care](#)." You'll also hear from two panels of experts familiar with states already measuring, reporting, and setting targets to increase investment in primary care and how that may be accomplished through primary care payment transformation.

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OUR SPEAKERS



Keynote:
Chris Koller,
*President,
Milbank Memorial Fund*



Kate Harris,
*Chief Deputy
Commissioner, Life &
Health Policy, Colorado
Division of Insurance*



Sean Cavanaugh,
*Chief Commercial Officer and
Chief Policy Officer, Aledade,
Inc.*



Larry McNeely II,
MPA,
*Director of Policy,
Primary Care
Collaborative*



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For information on how to join, please contact Virginia Tesser at vtesser@njhcqi.org.

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