



NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE

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



PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER **Conversation of Your Life (COYL) Observes Healthcare Decisions Day**

[Healthcare Decisions Day](#) is April 16th of each year. The day exists to raise awareness around the importance of having conversations and planning if you have a serious illness or medical emergency and can't speak for yourself about your preferences for life-sustaining care.

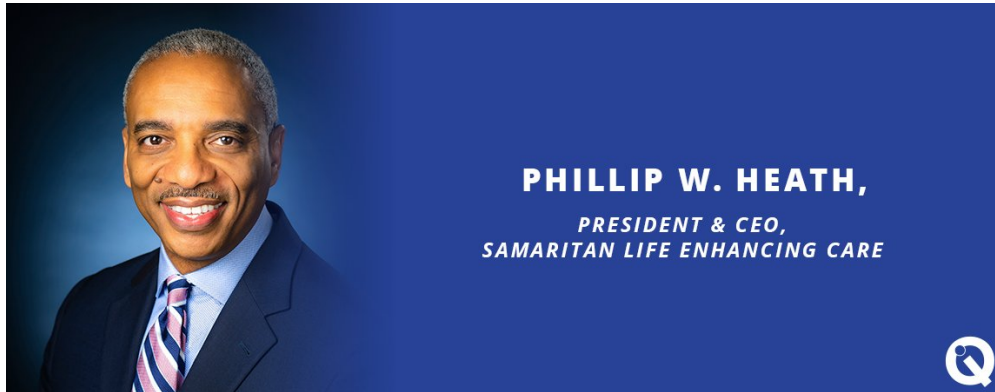
At the Quality Institute, we're using the occasion to kick off a new season of [Conversation of Your Life \(COYL\)](#) events through our [Mayors Wellness Campaign](#). For instance, on April 19 an expert will be at the Princeton Senior Resource Center to provide information on how to create your advance directive. On the same day, in Franklin Lakes, there will be an event at the Ambulance Corps Building called, "Driving Your Health Care Journey: Empowering Your Health Care Choices." [More events are coming throughout the spring and summer.](#)

We started COYL in 2014 to encourage mayors and local leaders to provide their communities with education and resources on how to share their wishes for care and what they need to know about picking a health care proxy. At the core of all this work is the conversation. At COYL gatherings, participants learn about advance care planning, the various legally recognized documents, the steps to take, and how to discuss an often-difficult topic with their medical team, or the people in their lives that matter to them.

We recently received a grant from the [Y.C. Ho/Helen & Michael Chiang Foundation](#) to strengthen our COYL program. To help expand COYL, we would like to hear from you about your interest in this work. We are surveying our supporters, members, and existing COYL volunteers about their interest in the work as well as anyone who

would like to get involved or bring COYL to their community. Please take and share [the survey](#) with others who may share our passion for enabling everyone to have the care they want, no more and no less.

Finally, I invite you to read our Take Five, below, with Phillip W. Heath, President & CEO of Samaritan Life Enhancing Care. Phillip has 30 years of experience in hospice care and a valuable perspective we are proud to share.



TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

Phillip W. Heath, President and CEO of [Samaritan Life Enhancing Care](#), the not-for-profit health care provider offering hospice care, grief support, palliative medicine, and primary care at home. The organization is a member of the Quality Institute's Provider Council.

Interview Sneak Peek: *About a year ago, your organization changed its name from Samaritan Health Care & Hospice to Samaritan Life Enhancing Care. What is behind the change?*

We have expanded our services beyond hospice and palliative care and now also provide primary care services at home. We do blood draws, podiatry ... the full complement of services. We have physicians and nurse practitioners who provide house calls, eliminating the inconvenience and stress associated with frequent trips to the primary care office and improving the overall health care experience...

[Read Full Interview](#)



Join us in person on **Wednesday, May 17 from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** for the Quality Institute's Spring All-Council Conference, *Breaking Down the Barriers to Integrating Primary and Mental Health Care*.

We will highlight the challenges of stigma, as well as policy and payment issues. We'll feature payers, providers, and employers that are offering integrated models and discuss how these models could be scaled and supported in New Jersey.

After the conference, join us from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm for a networking happy hour.

This event is for Quality Institute members and invited guests.

[Register Now](#)



MATERNAL INFANT HEALTH HUB Policy Spotlight

The [Maternal Infant Health Hub](#) will host its **inaugural Policy Spotlight on May 3 from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** in honor of International Day of the Midwife, which is on May 5th. Join **Magda Schaler-Haynes, JD, MPH** to learn about state-based regulation on the practice of midwifery. **Professor Schaler-Haynes** will provide an overview of research related to professional licensure, provider supply constraints, and current approaches to evidence-based midwifery policy innovation. New Jersey's current midwifery landscape will be reviewed in the context of national trends in maternal and reproductive health policy. There will be opportunity for a Q&A and discussion at the end of the presentation.

Please submit any questions for the Q&A segment in advance to Armonie Pierre-Jacques at apierrejacques@njhcqi.org.

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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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