



NEW JERSEY
HEALTH CARE
**QUALITY
INSTITUTE**

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



PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER
Break Down Barriers to Integrating Primary and Mental Health Care

We all need to care for both our physical and mental health. Unfortunately, our health care system puts up payment, licensing, and other regulatory barriers to delivering and receiving whole person care. Many of these barriers are rooted in the destructive stigma that still surrounds mental health. These barriers lead to fragmented care and poorer outcomes for patients. They also reduce the supply of mental health providers, which harms us all.

The time for change is now. Our [**Spring Conference**](#) on May 17 will focus on this topic: ***Breaking Down the Barriers to Integrating Primary and Mental Health Care.*** Experts will guide us through the policy and payment issues that hinder integration in New Jersey. We'll feature payers, providers and employers that are offering integrated models of care and discuss how these models could be scaled and supported in New Jersey. There will be opportunities for attendees to ask questions and share their thoughts.

The conference will set out a roadmap for concrete policy and payment changes needed to integrate primary and mental health care in our state. We hope it will catalyze action on changes including integrated licenses to deliver and bill for

primary and mental health care in one common setting, which many of our members have been [calling for over the years...](#)

[**Read Full Story**](#)

[**Register for Spring Conference**](#)



TARA CHALAKANI, PSYD

*CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
PREFERRED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GROUP*



TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

Tara Chalakani, PsyD, CEO of [Preferred Behavioral Health Group](#). The organization is a member of the [Quality Institute's Provider Council](#).

Interview Sneak Peek: *There is so much work to be done in the behavioral health space right now, what are your top priorities as you settle into your new role?*

We provide mental health and substance abuse education, prevention, support, and treatment to over 30,000 people every year. My first priority is to raise awareness of who we are and what we do. We serve 14 counties, run 70 programs, and employ over 400 people. The more people know about us, the more people we can help.

[**Read Full Interview**](#)



MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN. 2022 NEW JERSEY HEALTHY TOWN DESIGNEES

HEALTHY TOWN

- BOROUGH OF BAY HEAD
- BOROUGH OF WILDWOOD CREST
- CITY OF ASBURY PARK
- CITY OF PATERSON
- CITY OF PLAINFIELD
- Evesham Township
- FREEHOLD BOROUGH
- HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP

HEALTHY TOWN TO WATCH

- BELLEVILLE
- BERNARDSVILLE
- BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD
- BOROUGH OF BRADLEY BEACH
- BOROUGH OF CRESSKILL
- BOROUGH OF FORT LEE
- BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN LAKES

HEALTHY TOWN UP-AND-COMING

- ATLANTIC CITY
- BERKELEY HEIGHTS TOWNSHIP
- CLARK TOWNSHIP
- CRANBURY
- HANOVER TOWNSHIP
- TOWNSHIP OF DENVILLE
- TOWNSHIP OF MAPLEWOOD

- JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP
- MUNICIPALITY OF PRINCETON
- SCOTCH PLAINS TOWNSHIP
- TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON - MERCER COUNTY
- VERNON TOWNSHIP
- WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP

- BOROUGH OF GLEN ROCK
- BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
- BOROUGH OF ORADELL
- BOROUGH OF RUTHERFORD
- DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP
- HIGHLANDS BOROUGH
- MORRISTOWN
- NORWOOD
- STAFFORD TOWNSHIP
- TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH BRUNSWICK



Our [Mayors Wellness Campaign](#) designated 38 New Jersey Healthy Towns for 2022. The winning Healthy Town Applications highlight how these Mayors and their committees are making their communities healthier places to live, work, and play. Learn more about this year's winners in our [press release](#).

[Press Release](#)

MEMBER BREAKFAST & ENGAGEMENT EVENT

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

Join the Quality Institute for our Member Engagement Event in Northern New Jersey on **March 30, from 8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.** at the Hackensack Meridian Center for Discovery and Innovation (CDI), 111 Ideation Way, Nutley, NJ.

Network with other Quality Institute members over breakfast. Meet local leaders and health care decision makers. Get updates on health policy, quality improvement, and community health from Quality Institute staff. Learn about an innovative partnership in tech-driven patient safety from [Hackensack Meridian Health](#) and [Quest Diagnostics](#).

Register today. This event is for members and invited guests only.

[Register Now](#)



MATERNAL INFANT HEALTH HUB Midwifery Collaborative

Join the [Maternal Infant Health Hub](#)'s next Midwifery Collaborative on Thursday, **April 13th from 1-2 pm**. In honor of Black Maternal Health Week (April 11th-17th), at this virtual convening, we'll discuss how midwives improve and support Black Maternal health. We'll hear from Black health care leaders and discuss the historical importance of midwifery in Black and BIPOC communities and the importance of supporting the midwifery model of care across all settings.

[Register Now](#)



Join us in person on **Wednesday, May 17th from 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm** 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](#)

NEW MEMBER



RUTGERS SCHOOL OF NURSING

Rutgers University School of Nursing, a nationally top-ranked institution, is a leader in education, research, and scholarship to improve health equity and outcomes. As educators, scientists, and health advocates, its faculty members are influencing change globally. Close to 1700 students are enrolled at campuses in Newark, New Brunswick, and Blackwood, NJ.



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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Our mailing address is:
New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute

P.O. Box 2246, Princeton, New Jersey 08543

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