



NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE

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



PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER

First-in-the-Nation Mental Health First Aid Training Customized for Perinatal Community Health Care Workers

At the Quality Institute, several of our staff members are trained trainers in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), which is sometimes dubbed “CPR for mental health.” We’ve been training people throughout the state to recognize and help those experiencing a mental health crisis. Attendees range from police and fire officials to teachers, school staff, and local volunteers.

Through our trainings as well as our work in maternal infant health, and after reading the recently published [NJ Maternal Mortality Report](#), we were motivated to customize a MHFA training for perinatal community health workers, who support pregnant people during the prenatal, delivery, and postpartum period. We are grateful to [The Health Care Foundation of New Jersey](#), which shared our vision and is now supporting our efforts to provide these trainings and to create and pilot the first-in-the-nation customized MHFA scenarios for perinatal community health workers.

The need is urgent. The NJ Maternal Mortality Review Committee found that the leading underlying cause of pregnancy-associated deaths is mental health conditions. Leading contributing factors include mental health complications and lack of care coordination, provider-patient knowledge, and a lack of standardized policies and procedures. The Committee also determined that nearly all these deaths were preventable. That is why it is so critical to provide MHFA training to the community health workers and others who are in closest contact and who are trusted by the pregnant person. With this training, they’ll be better equipped to recognize signs of mental health distress and steer their clients to the help they

need...

[Read Full Story](#)



ROY LEITSTEIN, MS

CEO, LEGACY TREATMENT SERVICES

TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

Roy Leitstein, MS, is the CEO of Legacy Treatment Services, a New Jersey-based nonprofit behavioral health and social services provider. Leitstein will speak at the [Quality Institute's Spring All-Council Conference on May 17](#).

Interview Sneak Peek: *How do the continuing barriers to integrating physical and mental health care harm patients?*

Quite simply, if patients don't feel like the environment is one that's conducive to discussing their mental health or addiction challenges, then they won't discuss it. In those circumstances, we piecemeal behavioral health care treatment.

We need integration of care. We know that a substantial portion of psychotropic medication is prescribed by individuals who do not have an expertise in behavioral health and mental health or addiction treatment. So, when you go to a primary care doc — or I use the example of an OBGYN who prescribes an antidepressant for postpartum depression — the patient is missing a significant component of treatment, especially if the initial pharmacological intervention isn't successful...

[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](#)

QUALITY BRIEFING

Health Care Ratings Comparison Chart

NEW RESOURCE



Do you know where to find information about the care provided by a health care facility? Check out our newest [Quality Briefing](#) comparing different health care rating systems. Health care rating systems offer crucial information about the safety and quality of health care facilities.

No two ratings systems are alike. See how they differ in what they measure, their process, and their level of transparency. We encourage you to share this Quality Briefing.

[Read Quality Briefing Now](#)

MATERNAL HEALTH & EQUITY DISCUSSION

Moving the Needle on Maternal Health Equity

Join [Raising the Bar](#) and the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) for a conversation on ways healthcare provider institutions can implement actions focused on maternal health equity beyond care delivery—including quality measures, payment reform, demographic data collection, and more.

This event is connected to our [maternity work](#), including the [Maternity Action Plan \(MAP\)](#), [TeamBirth](#), the [Maternal Infant Health \(MIH\) Hub](#). If you've participated in our past events and work, or are interested in learning more, this event is a great way to do so.

When: Tuesday, May 16; 2-3 p.m. ET

Where: Register [here](#) for the online event.

Who:

- **Sinsi Hernández-Cancio, JD** – National Partnership for Women & Families (Moderator)
- **Patty Graham** – HealthPartners (MN)
- **Abike T. James, MD, MPH** – Penn Medicine
- **Joshua Traylor, MPH** – Health Care Transformation Task Force

Please contact [Raising the Bar](#) with any questions.

[Register Now](#)



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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