



NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE **QUALITY INSTITUTE**

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



PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER **Making Contraceptive Care More Accessible for All**

At the Quality Institute, we believe everyone has the right to make safe, well-informed decisions about their reproductive health. For years, New Jersey has been a leader in supporting access to contraception and reproductive health care. But more must be done to not only increase awareness of these rights, but to make access more equitable.

In 2020, we worked with experts in health care and reproductive justice to release the [RHAP Toolkit](#). The toolkit offers guidance and resources to health care providers on delivering high quality contraceptive care and counseling, including how to best bill and be paid for the devices and medications they provide to their patients. We are also partnering with the New Jersey Family Planning League, with support from the New Jersey Department of Health, to provide education this fall on [reproductive health basics](#). We encourage you to access and share these resources and training opportunities so that more services will be offered, in more settings, to more people.

Beyond training providers, it's just as important to make sure that Garden State residents are aware of recent changes that may increase their access to contraceptive care, including:

- The right to one-time dispensing of up to a 12-month supply of birth control.
- A law creating a program where New Jersey pharmacists can dispense self-

administered birth control (i.e. pills, patches, rings) without a separate prescription from a physician or provider.

- Recent FDA approval for access to an OTC progesterin-only birth control pill...

[Read Full Story](#)



TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

[Brigitte Johnson, Esq., President and CEO, Care Plus NJ](#). The organization provides mental health, addiction treatment, and social support services and is a member of the Quality Institute's Provider Council.

Interview Sneak Peek: *You have been with Care Plus NJ since 1998 and now replace CEO and founder Joe Masciandaro, who retired after 40 years. What are your priorities for the future of Care Plus NJ?*

Your question is timely because we recently had an extensive board retreat. We had sessions on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging and we also looked at our mission, values, and strategic priorities. Our priorities are to continue improving the client experience ... streamlining access to services, especially our self-referral online process, ease of website navigation and improvement of our communications.

Our strategic priorities also include plans to improve the physical plant of some of our existing sites. We are also looking to expand geographically, particularly where there are health care disparities, and access to care needs, that we can help address.

[Read Full Interview](#)

MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN Stigma-Free Ambassador Award

Join us in congratulating our Director of Community Health, [Julie DeSimone](#), as one of the 6 recipients being honored with the [Stigma-Free Ambassador Award](#) from [New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies \(NJAMHAA\)](#). In giving the award, the association said, "These remarkable individuals have dedicated themselves to erasing the stigma around mental health, creating a more compassionate world for all."

At the Quality Institute, we also thank Julie for her dedication and commitment to making a positive impact on mental health advocacy. Julie's role as our Director of Community Health, and her dedication to promoting a stigma-free society, have made a significant impact. Thank you, Julie, for your invaluable contributions!



OPEN POSITIONS AT THE QUALITY INSTITUTE

Communications Associate + Program Officer

We are excited to announce two opportunities to make a meaningful impact by advancing the Quality Institute's mission. We're seeking a passionate Communications Associate and a dedicated Program Officer to join our dynamic team. If you know someone ready to contribute to advancing health care quality, safety, and access, we want to hear from them. The positions are posted on our Quality Institute Job Board. Quality Institute members may post their job openings on our job board by contacting [Virginia Tesser](#) at vtesser@njhcqi.org.

[View & Share QI Job Openings](#)

[Post a Job Opening \(QI Members-Only\)](#)

PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE CARE

A Primer for Sexual + Reproductive Health

The [New Jersey Family Planning League](#) is hosting a comprehensive care event which focuses on sexual and reproductive health. This is a great opportunity for CMEs, CHES, CPHs, and nurses to learn, engage, and receive continuing education credits (CE). Please share this opportunity with those who could benefit.

[View & Share Event Information](#)

**A PRIMER FOR SEXUAL + REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH:
PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE CARE**





Sexuality is an important part of health and affects many aspects of our lives. It is essential for health care professionals to have the up-to-date information they need to understand sexual and reproductive health (SRH) care. This full-day in-person training provides a comprehensive overview of important SRH topics and strategies to improve access to care. Having a deeper understanding of SRH will help you feel more comfortable and better able to support the overall health of your clients.

6 CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) CREDITS PROVIDED FOR CME, CHES, AND CPH; 7.2 FOR NURSES.

Register by August 31 at PrimerForSRH.eventbrite.com
*Registration limited to first 50 participants.

Event Information

- ✓ **Date:** September 14, 2023
- ✓ **Time:** 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
- ✓ **Location:**
Crowne Plaza
900 Scudders Mill Rd,
Plainsboro Township, NJ 08536

Speakers



Amber Eisenmann, MS, Director of Training Programs, Essential Access Health

Sandra Abarca, MS, Senior Trainer + Spanish-Language Access Essential Access Health



Kate Shamszad, Director of Policy, New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute

By Attending This Event, You Will Be Able To:

- Describe the human reproductive systems using inclusive language
- Identify trauma-informed practices to integrate into patient visits
- Explain the menstrual cycle and when a pregnancy can/cannot occur
- Describe basic sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention, screening + treatment
- List birth control methods and explain how they work to prevent pregnancy
- Explain the historic roots and relevance of reproductive justice
- Review federal and New Jersey laws and policies that relate to access + confidentiality of reproductive health care



Who Should Attend?

- Nurses
- Medical or Nursing Assistants
- Medical Residents
- Health, Sexuality, or Peer Educators
- Other Students and Trainees
- Other Family Planning Workers or Counselors

CME: Essential Access Health is accredited by the California Medical Association (CMA) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. Essential Access Health designates this Live Activity for a maximum of 6.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)SM. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.
Nursing: Provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider #CEP12241 for up to 7.2 contact hours earned.
CHES/MCHES: Essential Access Health, a designated provider of continuing education contact hours (CECH) in health education by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. This program is designated for Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES) and/or Master Certified Health Education Specialists (MCHES) to receive up to 6.0 total Category I contact education contact hours. Maximum advanced-level continuing education contact hours available are 0. Continuing Competency credits available are 0. Provider ID#98021
CPH: This event was sponsored by Essential Access Health, an approved provider of CPH Recertification Credits by the National Board of Public Health Examiners for 6.0 credits.

Questions? Contact Kelly Kimbo at kelly@njfpl.org.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

ACROSS NEW JERSEY

The [New Jersey Birth Equity Funders Alliance](#) is now accepting applications for funding that aims to transform maternal and infant health outcomes. Each year, eligible individuals and groups are encouraged to apply for support for events, short-term projects, and long-term initiatives through our sponsorship and grant programs. This giving occurs in cycles, with applications accepted during the periods outlined on their website.

[View Opportunities](#)

CONGRATULATIONS, CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

Congratulations to [The Children's Home Society of New Jersey](#) on receiving a \$631,500 grant, championed by U.S. Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman. The grant will help train community doulas for Spanish-speaking mothers and offer doula training and services to additional diverse populations, including Black/African-American women, Muslim/Arabic-speaking women, and Eastern European women. The grant will support 24 Trenton and Mercer County women to participate in doula training in Spanish and English and also offers training to help doulas manage their businesses and make the profession more sustainable. These federal funds build on five years of grant support from the Burke Foundation, which launched the AMAR doula program.

“Community doulas play a crucial role in the fight to end New Jersey’s intolerable racial and ethnic disparities in maternal and infant health,” said Atiya Weiss, executive director of the Burke Foundation. “We are proud to celebrate the work of Children’s Home Society to help pregnant women receive the high-quality health care they want, need, and deserve.”

[Read More](#)

A promotional banner for a "MEMBER BREAKFAST & ENGAGEMENT EVENT". The text is in bold blue letters. Below the title is a dark blue button with the text "REGISTER NOW" in white, with a white mouse cursor icon pointing at it. On the right side, there is a circular inset image showing a group of diverse professionals in business attire clapping. At the bottom of the banner, there are logos for "NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE" and "Parker" with the tagline "we make aging part of life".

MEMBER BREAKFAST & ENGAGEMENT EVENT

REGISTER NOW

NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE
QUALITY INSTITUTE

Parker
we make aging part of life

Join the Quality Institute for our upcoming in-person Engagement Event in Central New Jersey.

Wednesday, September 27 from 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. at [Parker Health Group](#), 15 Dellwood Lane, Somerset, New Jersey.

Attend this event to:

- Network with other Quality Institute members and invited guests over breakfast.
- Meet local leaders and health care decision makers.
- Get updates on health policy, quality improvement, and community health from [Quality Institute staff](#).

These events are for members and invited guests only.

[Register for Engagement Event](#)



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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