



# NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE **QUALITY INSTITUTE**

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

**KATE SHAMSZAD,  
MS, MPH**

*POLICY DIRECTOR*



## **Op-Ed: NJ Medicaid Must Knock Down Barriers to Mental Health Care**

For this week's blog, we are sharing an Op-Ed written by Kate Shamszad, Director of Policy, which was recently published in NJ Spotlight News. Kate calls for changing NJ Medicaid policies to allow Licensed Clinical Social Workers and other qualified behavioral health clinicians to bill for care in Medicaid. Read how this simple change would significantly increase access to care, which is greatly needed...

[Read Full Story](#)



**CHRISTINE IVERY, MPH, CHES**

*PROGRAM OFFICER,  
NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE  
QUALITY INSTITUTE*



## TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

### Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

Christine Ivery, MPH, CHES, has joined the Quality Institute as a Program Officer. Ivery brings deep experience as a public health leader and educator dedicated to health equity.

**Interview Sneak Peek:** *What will be your initial areas of focus at the Quality Institute?*

I'll be amplifying the voices of community members and patients, as well as working closely with hospitals and partners. One focus is creating spaces so members from all our communities will be at the table for critical conversations. A first focus will be maternal child health. I'll be working on [TeamBirth NJ](#), a unique program that creates a culture of shared decision-making and advocacy while opening lines of communication among patients and providers...

[Read Full Interview](#)



Please join us at our Winter All-Council Conference, *A Framework for an Age Friendly New Jersey*, on **December 12, 1:30 p.m.**, at [Cobblestone Creek Country Club in Lawrenceville](#).

Our **keynote speaker**, [Lina Walker, PhD](#), Senior Vice President for Global Thought Leadership at [AARP](#), will share her insight regarding, "Global Aging: Lessons from Around the World to Support Healthy Aging in America." Her keynote will be followed by expert panel discussions. Speakers to be announced soon. A networking cocktail reception will close the event.



*This event is for Quality Institute members and invited guests only.*

[Register Now](#)

# LEAPFROG GROUP'S 2023 FALL SAFETY GRADES ARE OUT

## 24 NJ Hospitals earn an "A"

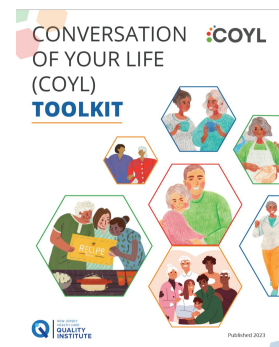
We are proud to announce that 76 percent of New Jersey hospitals graded received an A or B in The Leapfrog Group's 2023 Fall Safety Grades. New Jersey also had the highest rate of participation (98.6 percent) in the country for the 2023 Leapfrog Hospital Survey. The latest grades are the first to reflect post-pandemic hospital performance and show that New Jersey's averages for three hospital acquired infections have improved.

[Read & Share Press Release](#)



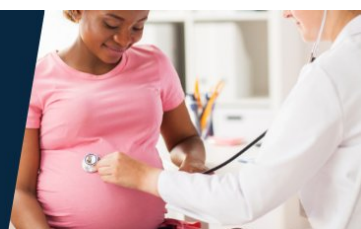
## NEW TOOLKIT FOR CONVERSATION OF YOUR LIFE :COYL

Just released – Our Mayors Wellness Campaign (MWC) team created a Conversation of Your Life (COYL) Toolkit to meet the needs of New Jersey communities looking to incorporate advance care planning into their programming. The COYL Toolkit supports community efforts to make communities more age friendly. It is written for use by Mayors Wellness Campaigns and their partners including social service agencies, religious organizations, health care providers, schools, and residents.



[Read & Share COYL Toolkit](#)

## MATERNAL INFANT HEALTH HUB MIDWIFERY COLLABORATIVE MEETING



Join the [Maternal Infant Health Hub's Midwifery Collaborative](#) on **Monday, November 20, from 1-2 p.m.** to discuss the importance of leveraging social media to raise awareness around midwifery and maternal health. Hear from our guest speaker, [Dr. Nastassia Harris, DNP, RN, IBCLC, Founder and Executive Director, Perinatal Health Equity Initiative](#). Midwives, midwifery students, doulas, health care workers, and community leaders are encouraged to attend.

[Register Now](#)



For information on how to join, please contact Virginia Tesser at [vtesser@njhcqi.org](mailto:vtesser@njhcqi.org).

To learn more about our current initiatives, please visit our website at [www.njhcqi.org](http://www.njhcqi.org).  
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