



NEW JERSEY
HEALTH CARE
**QUALITY
INSTITUTE**

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR 2023



Gold
Transparency
2024

Candid.



ABOUT US



Partner in Quality Awardees 2023:

Legacy Treatment Services, Summit Medical-Village MD, Fidelis Care NJ, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield New Jersey, and Saint Peter's University Hospital.

OUR MISSION

Improving the safety, quality, and affordability of health care for everyone.

PRESIDENT & CEO

As President and CEO of the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute, Linda Schwimmer, JD drives policies that advance health care safety, access, and affordability. She pursues change that improves the health care system and overall health and wellness for everyone. Under Linda's leadership the Quality Institute is committed to bringing together competing interests to collaborate and innovate for the greater good.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Quality Institute Members,

The past year was especially impactful at the Quality Institute across all three sectors of our work: policy, quality improvement, and community health. This Annual Report highlights our work and many of the accomplishments that will help New Jersey residents receive safer, higher quality health care, and improve access to care while strengthening the health of our communities.

As an organization, we had a lot of growth that we are excited to share. We added a new board member, Gary Mann of JASFEL Analytics, LLC; welcomed 10 new members; and brought on two new staff members.

We amplified our voices as we engaged and supported other organizations, both nationally and in New Jersey, by serving on their boards, commissions, and committees. We shared our expertise in critical areas from public health to quality measurements, and more.

We invite you to visit our website's far-reaching resources and landing page, where you can find in-depth but readable reports, opinion pieces, and assets we produced throughout the year to advance your work and provide leadership on the important health issues we face today.

Thank you for your membership, partnership, and support of the Quality Institute. We rely on you to advance our mission — and we look forward to another year of working with you to improve health care quality, safety, equity, and affordability for everyone.

Sincerely,

*Linda Schwimmer,
President & CEO, the Quality Institute*



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Suzanne M. Miller,
PhD
Board Chair**



**Fred M. Jacobs,
MD, JD
Board Vice Chair**



**Charlene Holzbaur,
MBA
Board Secretary**



**Donald Bryan,
JD
Board Treasurer**



**Kemi Alli,
MD**



**Robert Andrews,
JD**



**Mary Campagnolo,
MD, MBA**



**Mary Ann
Christopher, MSN,
RN, FAAN**



**Heather Howard,
JD**



Gary Mann



**Linda Sloan Locke,
CNM, MPH, LSW,
FACNM**



**Christine Stearns,
JD**



**Linda Schwimmer,
JD**

OUR WORK



POLICY

- Advanced the [Maternity Action Plan](#) (“MAP”), a holistic approach to combatting maternal mortality and morbidity. The MAP provides a directional path forward in four critical ways to address New Jersey’s maternal health crisis and eliminate disparities: Community Social Supports, Workforce, Payment, and Data. This work is supported by [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#).
- Implemented year four of [NJ Integrated Care for Kids \(NJ InCK\)](#) in partnership with NJ FamilyCare, Hackensack Meridian *Health*, and the Visiting Nurse Association of Central New Jersey. InCK employs community-based case management and screening for children and families who are at the highest risk for health complexity. This work is supported by the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#).

- Worked to amplify the [*Delivering Better Care: Midwifery Practice in New Jersey*](#) report, through the [*Maternal Infant Health \(MIH\) Hub*](#), a policy and learning collaborative created to strengthen midwifery practice and promote birth equity and justice in New Jersey. This work is supported by [*The Burke Foundation*](#).
- Implemented year two of the [*NJ FamilyCare Perinatal Episode of Care Pilot*](#). As a member of the Pilot Steering Committee, provided guidance to participating providers to improve the quality and equity of perinatal care.
- Convened multidisciplinary teams focused on mapping the long-term sustainability of innovative models of care like HealthySteps, CenteringPregnancy and CenteringParenting. This work is supported by the [*New Jersey American Academy of Pediatrics*](#).
- Updated the [*New Jersey Reproductive Health Access Project Provider Access \(NJ-RHAP\) Toolkit*](#).
- Provided recommendations in the [*White Paper on Short-and-Long-Term Solutions to Improve the Small Employer Insurance Market*](#), that were included in legislation Governor Murphy signed, A4294/S2824 and A5137/ S3480, to improve New Jersey's small group health insurance market.
- Co-led the [*Essential Jobs Essential Care \(EJEC\) coalition*](#) to support and grow the direct care workforce. This work stems from the [*Guidance Document to Recruit, Train, and Retain a Resilient and Diverse Health Care Workforce for New Jersey*](#) report. This work is supported by [*The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation*](#).



COMMUNITY HEALTH

- [**Mayors Wellness Campaign \(MWC\):**](#)
Hosted a workshop focused on [*data-informed community health*](#) to explore best practices using local data to inform programming. This work is supported by [*Fidelis Care NJ*](#).
- Provided six Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training courses to 77 community partners. During MHFA trainings participants learn how to assist someone experiencing a mental health crisis and where to turn for professional help. This work is supported by [*The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey*](#).
- Awarded \$127,500 to 10 Mayors Wellness Campaign committees throughout New Jersey to support local programs focused on addressing mental health. This work is supported by the [*Walmart Foundation*](#).

[**Conversation of Your Life \(COYL\):**](#)

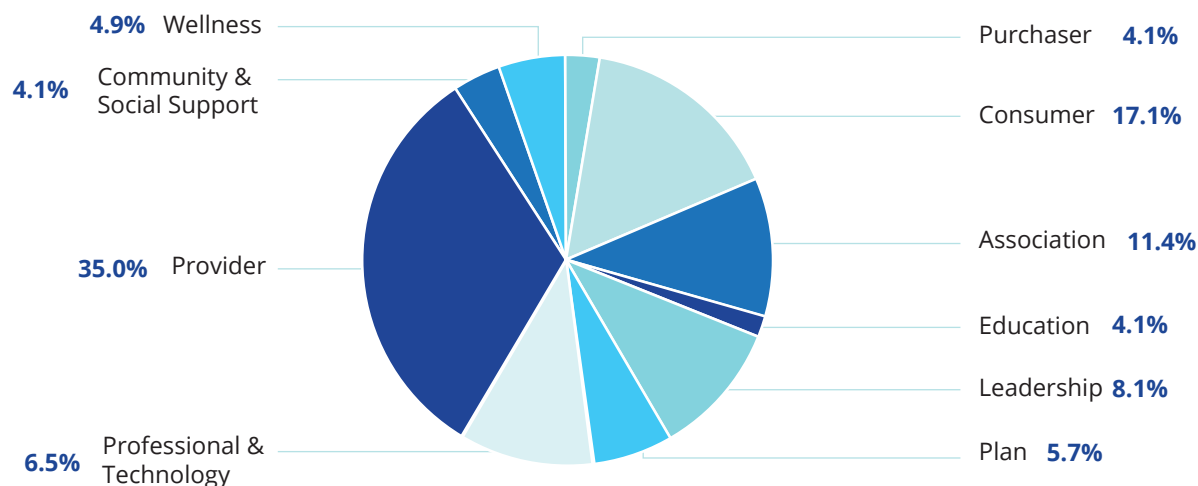
- Developed and updated COYL resources including community messaging toolkits, COYL bookmarks, Media Clubs and the [*COYL toolkit*](#). These tools equip partners and community leaders to both facilitate meaningful programs as well as raise awareness about end-of-life topics. This work is supported by the [*The Y.C. Ho/Helen & Michael Chiang Foundation*](#).



QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

- Expanded [TeamBirth NJ](#) to include 4 additional hospital sites: Saint Peter's University Hospital and Mary V O'Shea Birth Center, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, and Virtua Mount Holly. This program is designed to improve patient and provider communications and thereby improve maternal and infant health outcomes and reduce inequities. We partner with Ariadne Labs and are supported by the [New Jersey Department of Health](#).
- Created a program to provide Perinatal Mental Health First Aid, which was approved for national use and provided trainings for over 175 doulas and other perinatal community-based participants. This work is supported by the [Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey](#).
- Achieved the highest participation rate in the country on the [Leapfrog Group's Annual Hospital Survey](#).
- Released two [Quality Briefings](#): one explaining the different health care ratings systems and another sharing best practices and tools for clinicians to use to return to pre-pandemic levels of preventive care.

PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERSHIP BY COUNCIL



122 member organizations
across **10** councils



10

NEW MEMBERS



BY THE NUMBERS



The [Maternity Action Plan \(MAP\)](#) has been downloaded **500+** times.



10

Welcomed **10** new [Quality Institute members](#).

The [Maternal Infant Health \(MIH\)](#) report, [Delivering Better Care: Midwifery Practice in New Jersey](#), has been downloaded **400+** times.

400+

Organized **10** [Conversation of Your Life \(COYL\)](#) events with **over 270** residents obtaining essential education and resources on advance care planning.

10



Awarded **38** NJ "Healthy Town" Awards for 2022 to Mayors Wellness Campaigns.

8



Hosted **8** in-person educational and networking Quality Institute events for members and partners.

LOOKING AHEAD

Release [*Primary Care in New Jersey: Findings and Recommendations to Support Advanced Primary Care*](#), a report on how to support and expand comprehensive primary care in New Jersey. This work is supported by the New Jersey Department of Human Services.



Continue to advance the [Maternity Action Plan](#) (MAP), including virtual and [in-person workshops](#), a doula-hospital workgroup to create model guidance, and other direct partnerships with community based organizations to improve birth outcomes and equity. This work is supported by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Work with Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASC) in New Jersey to increase their participation rate in the [Leapfrog Group ASC Survey](#).

Continue to bolster the direct care workforce through the Essential Jobs Essential Care (EJEC) coalition. Priorities include increasing access to training and increasing the pipeline of workers. This work is supported by The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation.



Work with [Mayors Wellness Campaign](#) towns to address [mental health needs](#) in their communities. This work is supported by The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey and others.

Continue to host [Perinatal Mental Health First Aid trainings](#). This work is supported by the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey.



Expand [TeamBirth NJ](#) to at least 6 more hospitals. This work is supported by the New Jersey Department of Health.

Launching an initiative to advance birth equity called [Raising the Bar](#).

Provide veteran focused [Mental Health First Aid training](#). This work is supported by The Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation.

LIST OF QUALITY INSTITUTE MEMBERS BY COUNCIL

Leadership Council

Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling at Rutgers University
Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield New Jersey
Medical Society of New Jersey
New Jersey Department of the Treasury
NJ State Chamber of Commerce
NJ State League of Municipalities
NJ State Nurses Association
Parker Health Group
Planned Parenthood of Northern, Central & Southern NJ
RWJBarnabas Health*

Association Council

American Physical Therapy Association of NJ
Garden State Pharmacy Owners
Health Care Association of New Jersey
Hospital Alliance of New Jersey
National Association of Benefits and Insurance Professionals (NABIP-NJ)
New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians
New Jersey Chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses
NJ Association of Health Plans
NJAMHAA
NJ Association of Nurse Anesthetists
NJ Dental Association
NJ Family Planning League
State and Local Government Benefits Association

Community & Social Support Council

Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers
Central Jersey Family Health Consortium
Greater Newark Health Care Coalition
Health Coalition of Passaic County
Partnership for Maternal and Child Health
Southern NJ Perinatal Cooperative
Trenton Health Team

Consumer Council

AARP of New Jersey
American Cancer Society
American Heart Association
Dress for Success Northern NJ
Goals of Care Coalition of NJ
Housing and Community Development Network of NJ
KinderSmile Foundation
March of Dimes
Medina Community Clinic
Mental Health Association in NJ
New Jersey Immunization Network-NJIN

New Jersey Policy Perspective
New Jersey Public Health Association
NJ YMCA State Alliance
North Jersey Health Collaborative
Northern NJ Chapter of the Hospice and Palliative Nurse Association
Parker Family Health Center
Partnership for a Drug-Free NJ
Princeton Senior Resource Center
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
The Burke Foundation

Education Council

Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine
Rutgers Center for State Health Policy Rutgers
Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy
Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Rutgers School of Nursing
St. George's University

Plan Council

AmeriGroup
AmeriHealth Caritas
AmeriHealth
Clover Health
Humana
UnitedHealth Employer and Individual
Fidelis Care NJ

Professional & Technology Council

Community Health Law Project
Conventus Inter-Insurance Exchange
Family Health Initiatives
Findhelp
Fox Rothschild LLP
Navvis
Teladoc
Unite Us

Provider Council System Level

(System Level memberships include multiple hospitals and other facilities.)

Atlantic Health System
Capital Health
Hackensack Meridian Health
Inspira Health Network
Jefferson Health
St. Joseph's Health
Virtua Health

Provider Council

Acenda
Aledade
AtlantiCare Health Solutions
Axia Women's Health
Bergen New Bridge Medical Center
CarePlus NJ
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton
Centerview Health
CentraState Medical Center
Children's Home Society of New Jersey
CompleteCare Management
DaVita
Englewood Health
Forge Health
Hackensack Meridian Carrier Clinic
HealthySteps
Henry J. Austin Health Center, Inc
Holy Name Medical Center
Legacy Treatment Services
Lifeline Medical Associates
Nemours Children's Health
Nurse-Family Partnership
Partnership Health
Penn Medicine Princeton Health
Preferred Behavioral Health Group
Quest Diagnostics
Regional Cancer Care Associates LLC
Rutgers Behavioral Health Care
Saint Clare's Denville
Saint Peter's University Hospital
Samaritan Life-Enhancing Care
Shore Medical Center
Summit Medical Group
The Center for Great Expectations
University Hospital
Vanguard Medical Group
VNA Health Group

Purchaser Council

NJ Education Association

Wellness Council

Bayer
Genentech
Merck & Co. Inc.
Novo Nordisk
Pfizer
Sanofi

As of December 23



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