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What's Included In This Edition:

Schwimmer Script - Strategies to Drive Mission in Challenging Times

Take Five Interview - Michael Schmidt, LCSW, M.A., Executive Director & CEO of The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey

What We're Listening To



Strategies to Drive Mission in Challenging Times

Recently I was asked to speak to a gathering of nonprofit leaders and address, *Sustainability Planning in the Current Climate*. The thoughts I shared have applicability, beyond the nonprofit world, to those working in health care or related fields during this time of tremendous upheaval and uncertainty.

For the last decade, much thought, training, and investment has gone into considering how health care is delivered and how that care impacts people of differing socio-economic and demographic backgrounds. Health systems and government agencies have collected and stratified data to identify where some groups of patients have better outcomes than others and have been working on solutions to address these disparities. In addition, the health care sector has come a long way in acknowledging and understanding its role in identifying patients' social needs, such as safe housing, nutritious foods, and how these factors affect health outcomes. As a country, however, we remain in the early stages of implementing health care quality improvements that reduce, not increase, outcome disparities.

But today, these important efforts are under attack. Many who want to continue the work cannot afford to do so with federal funding threatened. It's against this backdrop that I share my thoughts on how nonprofit organizations, and other entities working in health care, can inspire and support each other in this time of uncertainty. While there is no substitute for the freedom and funding to pursue your

mission, some strategies may help you move through these rough waters:

1. **Stay authentic to your underlying mission** by continuing the essential work on behalf of those you serve. The organizations that have the latitude or resources to be bolder today should do what they can to continue forward and help those that are not in their position...

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TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Michael Schmidt, LCSW, M.A.,
*Executive Director & CEO,
The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey*



Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

[The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey](#) is a generous funder of the Quality Institute's work on [Perinatal Mental Health](#).

Interview Sneak Peek: *The Foundation supported the Quality Institute's development and launch of the first Perinatal Mental Health First Aid program. How does this initiative align with your mission?*

We were proud to support this initiative because perinatal mental health is a critical issue. Many frontline health care workers — doulas, nurses, and community health workers — lack formal training in identifying and addressing perinatal mental health concerns.

This program ensures that those who work closely with pregnant individuals can recognize warning signs and connect them to care. Once trained, these professionals incorporate this knowledge into their practice, creating long-term impact. This initiative also helps reduce stigma surrounding mental health and expands access to crucial services. We are thrilled that this model, first funded in New Jersey, has gained national attention and is being replicated in other states...

[Read Full Interview](#)

WHAT WE'RE LISTENING TO



In the latest episode of the *Listening In (With Permission)* podcast by [Catalyst for Payment Reform](#), former Quality Institute Senior Policy Advisor, Patricia Kelmar, Senior Healthcare Campaigns Director for [U.S. PIRG](#), discusses the growing impact of facility fees on health care affordability. She explains how consolidation in the health care industry can drive these costs, highlights state-level efforts, and shares how consumers and employers can push for transparency and reform.

[Listen to the Episode](#)



For information on how to join, please contact Virginia Tesser at vtesser@njhcqi.org.

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