

[View this email in your browser](#)



What's Included In This Edition:

Special Edition Take Five Interview on Linda Schwimmer's 10-Year Anniversary as the President & CEO

Building a Comprehensive Vaccine Strategy for New Jersey

Highlighting Our Members' Work - Social Isolation: Samaritan Working to Rebuild Community Connection

Event Recap - The MAP Forward: Raising the Bar for Maternal Health Equity



Special Edition Take Five Interview on Linda Schwimmer on Her 10-Year Anniversary as the President & CEO of the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute

Interview Sneak Peek: *You just marked ten years as President and CEO of the Quality Institute. With a background in law, health insurance, and government, what inspired you to join the Quality Institute, and what continues to motivate you today?*

The Quality Institute excels in two areas critically important to me: connecting people and making things better. When my predecessor and friend Dave Knowlton approached me about coming to the Quality Institute, he asked, "How'd you like to have the best job in health care?" A good opener. But what closed the deal for me was my own interactions with the Quality Institute when I worked in the legislative and executive branches of State government and, later, in the health insurance industry. I knew being CEO of the Quality Institute was an enviable job, focused on improving health care for everyone — not just one sector or group. And most importantly, I could spend my time making a difference in people's lives. That goal drew me to the Quality Institute and keeps me motivated today.

Looking back over the past decade, what accomplishments of the Quality Institute are you most proud of?

First, I am proud of my hard-working, dedicated, and talented team. Everyone tells me what a great team I have and they are right.

I'm also proud that the Quality Institute has taken on challenges that span the entire lifespan, from birth through the end of life. We champion care that is safe, respectful, not over-medicalized — and that is responsive to what truly matters to people. I wish we could claim more success on strengthening primary care, but I am not giving up. Our country and state are way off course on how much money we spend on health care and how we spend those dollars...

[Read Full Interview](#)



BUILDING A COMPREHENSIVE VACCINE STRATEGY FOR NEW JERSEY

With all of the confusing messages from DC, states need to be prepared to protect their residents and public health. The Quality Institute has consistently led on this issue, urging policymakers to take action grounded in science. In a recent op-ed in [NJSpotlight](#), our President & CEO, Linda Schwimmer, together with Dr. Eddy Bresnitz and former board member and State Health Commissioner Heather Howard, called on the state to look to trusted medical organizations and the Vaccine Integrity Project for vaccine information and guidance.

- [Read the Executive Directive](#)
- [Read NJDOBI Press Release](#)

[Read the Op-Ed](#)

SOCIAL ISOLATION: SAMARITAN WORKING TO REBUILD COMMUNITY CONNECTION



Join our member, [Samaritan](#), on October 14 for a gathering as part of [The Social Isolation, Loneliness, and Connection Collaborative](#) hosted by [Acenda Integrated Health](#) in Glassboro, New Jersey, led by Erika Thomas, MPA, Director of Social Connections at Samaritan. This event will unite health care professionals, community leaders, and caregivers to discuss strategies for combating social isolation and loneliness, including funding resources and insights from grant writing experts and the [New Jersey Department of Human Services](#).

For more information, contact Erika Thomas at EThomas@SamaritanNJ.org.

EVENT RECAP - THE MAP FORWARD: RAISING THE BAR FOR MATERNAL HEALTH EQUITY



Thank you to everyone who attended our event, [***The MAP Forward: Raising the Bar for Maternal Health Equity***](#), on September 10. This gathering highlighted our Maternity Action Plan and the Raising the Bar for Maternal Health Equity and Excellence initiatives. Attendees had the opportunity to engage with leaders, providers, and community members from across New Jersey through panel discussions and breakout sessions.

Special thanks to our keynote speaker, Iris Jones, Executive Director of the [Office of Women's Health](#) at the [New Jersey Department of Health](#), as well as all of our distinguished speakers for generously sharing their expertise and time with us.



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.
Copyright 2025 * | NJHCQI, All rights reserved.*

Our mailing address is:

New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute
P.O. Box 2246, Princeton, New Jersey 08543

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).