



Dear Quality Institute Members,

Throughout 2025, the Quality Institute advanced meaningful solutions to improve health care safety, quality, and affordability in New Jersey. We pursued this work with many of you.

We remain guided by our core belief that lasting change is built on trust, collaboration, and accountability. As 2026 begins with new state leadership and significant challenges from federal health policy changes, our mission remains clear and urgent. We are committed to partnering with our members, community leaders, and policymakers to improve health care quality and access for everyone.



Our 2025 accomplishments reflect the strength of our collaborations and the shared dedication of those who work alongside us. We look forward to advancing our mission together. Thank you for your support and partnership.

Linda Schwimmer

POLICY UPDATES

Continuing to lead the safety and quality of maternal health in New Jersey through our [Maternity Action Plan](#) (MAP). Funding provided by *The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*.

Continuing to co-lead the Essential Jobs Essential Care (EJEC) coalition, comprised of 90+ organizations and individuals across New Jersey working together to advocate for policy changes to support and grow the direct care workforce. Launched the coalition's website: www.EssentialJobsNJ.org. This work is supported by *The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation*.

Leading a comprehensive landscape analysis of the children's mental health system to identify gaps, barriers, and duplications in services in order to make policy recommendations to improve access to mental health care for children. Funded by the *New Jersey Department of Children and Families*.

Implemented year six of [NJ Integrated Care for Kids \(NJ InCK\)](#) in partnership with NJ FamilyCare, Hackensack Meridian Health, and the Visiting Nurse Association Health Group. This work is funded by the *Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)* of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATES

Supported health systems pursuing [Advanced Certification in Health Care Equity](#). Created a [Quality Briefing](#) that highlighted the success AtlantiCare, Hackensack Meridian Health, and Bergen New Bridge Medical Center did in achieving [The Joint Commission \(TJC\)](#) Health Equity Certification.

Implemented year two of [Raising the Bar for Maternal Health Equity and Excellence](#) (RTB). We are partnering with Penn Medicine Princeton Medical Center and Capital Health on this first-in-the-nation community-focused initiative to build sustainable improvements in maternal health care that can serve as a model for others. This work is supported by *The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*.

COMMUNITY HEALTH UPDATES

Provided [Mental Health First Aid \(MHFA\) training](#) courses for community partners and community health workers throughout the state. This work is supported by *The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey* and *The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey*.

Launched the MWC's digital Community Health Hub to connect municipal leaders, streamline communication, celebrate community health achievements, and provide information and resources.

ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **New Board Chair and Officers:** **John Leyman, Chair; Gary Mann, Vice Chair; Andrea Martinez-Mejia, Board Secretary; and Don Bryan, Treasurer.**
- **Four new team members:**
 - Emily Davies, MPA, *Policy Fellow*
 - Maxilia Desir, *Program Officer*
 - Annelise Slater, MPH, CHES, *Program Officer*
 - Isabella Tyszka, *Communications Associate*

Awards & Recognitions:

- **Linda Schwimmer appointed to Governor-Elect Mikie Sherrill's Transition Action Team, Affordable Healthcare: Addressing Washington's Medicaid Cuts.**
- **NJBIZ, Health Care Power List, Linda Schwimmer**
- **NJBIZ, Health Care Hero in Education, Quality Institute Perinatal Mental Health First Aid Trainings**
- **March of Dimes, South Jersey Salute to Women of Achievement, Christine Ivery**
- **Sheila Y. Oliver Legacy Brunch, Health Policy Honoree, Linda Schwimmer**
- **BINJE, Health Care Hero, Linda Schwimmer**
- **ROI Influencers: Health Care 2025, Linda Schwimmer**

By the Numbers

Awarded 55 NJ "Healthy Town" Awards to Mayors Wellness Campaign towns and cities.



200+



Convened 200+ Quality Team members from hospitals throughout New Jersey to share strategies to advance health equity.

Organized 12 Conversation of Your Life (COYL) events.



Launched [TeamBirth](#) in 12 New Jersey Hospitals:

- Atlantic Health Medical Center: Overlook
- Capital Health Medical Center - Hopewell
- Hackensack Meridian Health - JFK Medical Center
- Hackensack Meridian Health - Riverview Medical Center
- Holy Name Medical Center
- Inspira Medical Centers: Mullica Hill & Vineland
- Penn Medicine Princeton Medical Center
- RWJ Barnabas Health - Community Medical Center
- RWJ Barnabas - Trinitas Regional Medical Center
- St. Joseph's University Medical Center
- The Valley Hospital

Welcomed 7 new members



2025 QUALITY INSTITUTE REPORTS



[Navigating Obstacles: The Complex Journey of Perinatal Care in New Jersey](#)



[Looking at NJ Medicaid Oral Health Quality Performance for Children: A Secret Shopper Survey](#)



[Actionable Strategies to Advance Health Equity](#)



[Mayors Wellness Campaign Mental Health Initiative Mid-Year Highlights](#)



[Voices of the Quality Institute: Health Care Priorities for 2025 and Beyond](#)



[Quality Institute's Top Health Care Priorities and Recommendations for the Next Governor](#)



Maternal Child Health Policy Impact Briefs:

- [CenteringPregnancy](#)
- [CenteringParenting](#)
- [HealthySteps](#)
- [Doula Care](#)
- [Midwifery](#)

PARTNER WITH US

