

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR 2021



Gold
Transparency
2022
Candid.

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 is committed to change that improves health care for every person in New Jersey. Under Linda's leadership, the Institute focuses on collaboration and innovation to accelerate policies that make health more person-centered, transparent, and equitable.

BOARD MEMBERS



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



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



**Donald Bryan,
JD
Board Secretary**



**Ian Ruegg,
MBA, CEBS
Board Treasurer**



**Kemi Alli,
MD**



**Robert Andrews,
JD**



**Mary Campagnolo,
MD, MBA**



**Mary Ann
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RN, FAAN**



**Shereef Elnahal,
MD, MBA**



**Charlene Holzbaur,
MBA**



**Heather Howard,
JD**



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



**Christine Stearns,
JD**

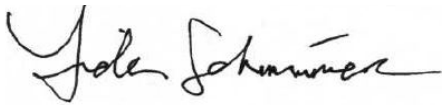
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Quality Institute Members,

The past two years, perhaps more than any time in memory, have taught us the importance of relationships and collaboration. At the Quality Institute, we value our relationships with our [members](#) and others committed to our mission to advance health care safety, quality, and affordability for everyone. Much work remains ahead, especially in our efforts to improve our health care and public health systems.

Our partnerships with all of you propel this work. We are proud of our shared accomplishments, energized for the future, and look forward to our progress in 2022 and beyond.

Sincerely,
Linda Schwimmer



**We value our
relationships with
our members and
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advance health
care.**



OUR WORK



EDUCATION

- Hosted [virtual learning opportunities](#) for members and the public throughout the year on topics ranging from addressing health equity through primary care, to insights for caregivers, to bridging public health and health care systems.
- Created the following [resources](#) to help Quality Institute members, mayors, and the public navigate the pandemic:
 - The [Mayors Wellness Campaign Reducing Social Isolation Toolkit](#), with support from [Amerigroup](#), to help mayors address the issue of social isolation in their communities and get people connected.
 - A [Vaccination and Immunization](#) resource to provide information for increasing vaccination rates in local communities.
 - Working with the NJ Department of Health and others, we developed the [Pregnancy During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) set of 7 consumer resource tools including checklists and FAQs to support pregnant individuals.



POLICY

Medicaid Policy Center (MPC):

- Convened 30 expert stakeholders, in partnership with NJ Medicaid, to establish recommendations and detailed requirements of a Perinatal Episode of Care (EOC). The Episode has officially launched, with interested and eligible providers signing on for the first year of the model. The pilot period will open April 2022 and run through June 2023.
- Implemented, in partnership with NJ FamilyCare, the alternative payment model to support [NJ Integrated Care for Kids \(NJ InCK\)](#), a model that emphasizes community-based case management and screening for children and families who are at the highest risk for health complexity.

Released [Emerging From COVID-19: An Action Plan for a Healthier State](#), a joint effort by the Quality Institute and [BioNJ](#), the life sciences trade association for New Jersey. The Action Plan includes 24 consensus-driven recommendations, informed by the experiences of nearly 100 health care leaders during the pandemic, to strengthen our health care and public health systems.

Supported several items included in the FY22-23 State budget:

- Increased funding to improve prenatal care for people with undocumented status.
- Expansion of post-partum coverage under Medicaid from 60 days to 365 days.
- Funding for [NJ InCK](#). This innovative pilot program screens every child in Ocean and Monmouth Counties who is insured through NJ FamilyCare. Based on their needs, the child will receive wrap-around care from an integrated health care team and connection to community-based social services.
- Connecting Primary Care and Local Public Health. The budget will fund the Department of Health in concert with other agencies and boards to establish and publicize best practices, including funding mechanisms, for local boards of health to actively engage with local primary care physicians and nurses to address public health at the local level and further public health campaigns.
- Understanding Primary Care Spending. The State will now require disclosure and will annually report on the percentage of total medical expenditures that were spent on primary care services.
- Designing a High-Quality Team Based Primary Care Model. The State, through a collaboration of several departments, will conduct a market scan of State-funded, team-based primary care models currently in use in markets in the State that are funded in any part with State revenue.



COMMUNITY HEALTH

Mayors Wellness Campaign (MWC):

- Hosted 19 focus groups, with 78 community leaders, in 57 towns, to learn how the MWC can best support mental health efforts at the community level.
- Trained 30 community partners through 2 Mental Health First Aid Trainings (MHFA). MHFA trainings teach participants to assist someone experiencing a mental health crisis; how to identify risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns; and trains them on strategies for how to help someone in both crisis and non-crisis situations, and where to turn for professional help.

Conversation of Your Life (COYL):

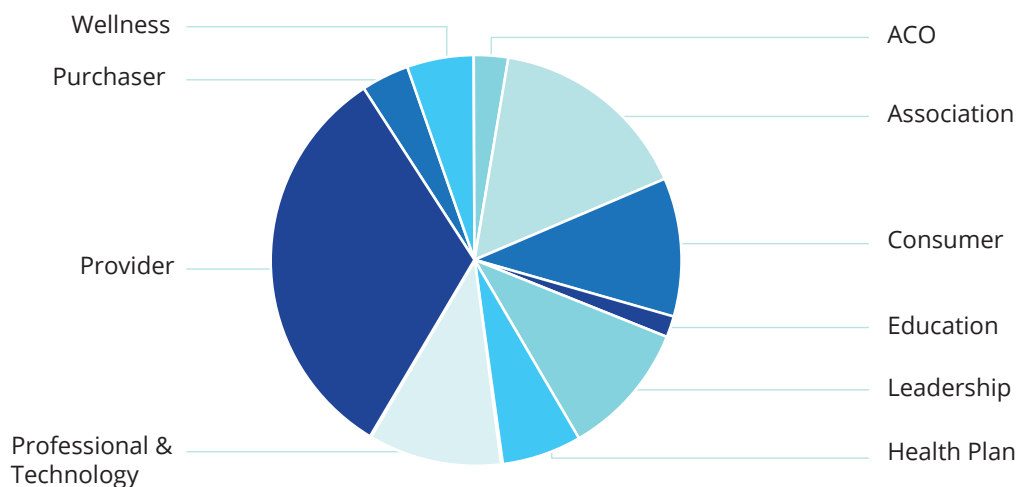
- Partnered with the State Health Benefits Program to provide crucial advance care planning information to State employees and their family members using workshops and other resources.
- Worked with Rowan University and the New Jersey Division of Aging Services to provide advance care planning training sessions for employees and volunteers of the Division's NJ Aging Network. These sessions covered topics such as options for medical care, how to have conversations with program participants, and advance directive forms.
- Held 20 virtual events for different communities, such as veterans, and in languages including Spanish, Urdu, and Chinese.



QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

- Proudly supported our New Jersey hospitals to achieve 100% participation in the [Leapfrog Group's annual Hospital Survey](#).
- Concluded the [Rutgers Project ECHO](#), in partnership with the NJ Department of Health, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and Trinitas Regional Medical Center, which actively recruited over 200 nursing homes in New Jersey to join an interactive training program to advance improvements in COVID-19 preparedness, safety and infection control, and nursing home resilience.
- Released a [Quality Briefing](#) by the Medicaid Policy Center about [maternity programs to support pregnant people](#). This helpful resource includes information about coverage for group prenatal care, coverage for doulas, use of the perinatal risk assessment, and health benefits coverage for non-medically indicated early elective deliveries.

OUR MEMBERS



121 member organizations
across **10** councils



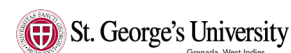
NEW MEMBERS



CooperSurgical®



Humana



TESTIMONIALS



ELIZABETH CHEROT, MBA, MD, FACOG,
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, AXIA WOMEN'S HEALTH

"Axia Women's Health came to the Quality Institute because of the innovative work being done to improve education and access to reproductive health services and to prepare pregnant people for the impact of COVID-19 on their care. We are invested in our membership through this great work and the connections we've made to industry experts and policymakers across the state."



JULIE MASCARI, MHA

REGIONAL PRESIDENT FOR THE NORTHEAST, HUMANA

"Humana joined the Quality Institute's multi-stakeholder membership because of their proven track record of tackling challenging policy issues to improve the safety, quality, and affordability of health care for everyone. As we expand our presence in New Jersey, we decided to join the Quality Institute because its mission and work closely aligns with Humana's commitment to helping our older adult members live their best lives."



ROBERTO MUÑIZ, MPA
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF PARKER HEALTH GROUP

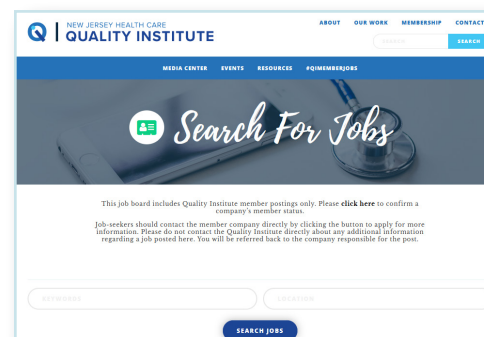
"At Parker, we believe that age is much more than just a number. Our mission is to discover ways to make aging manageable, relatable, and enriching for all of society. We chose to partner with the Quality Institute to help achieve this mission because of the wide array of community health programs they offer members that focus on the entire lifespan of our elders, and supporting them to live their best lives."



NEW MEMBER BENEFITS OFFERED

QI Job Board

On our Quality Institute Job Board, members can post a job on our job board to hire top talent in the health care industry.

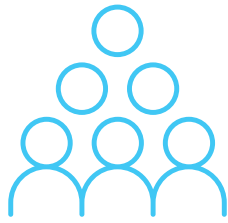


QI Speakers Bureau

Quality Institute members get priority access to our Speakers Bureau for their events. Quality Institute staff hail from a variety of professional backgrounds, hold advanced professional degrees, and are experts in health-related topics and disciplines.



BY THE NUMBERS



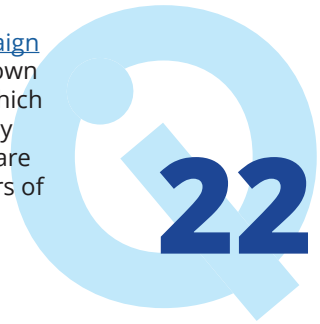
2,000⁺

Our [Covid-19 Action Plan](#) has been read, shared, and downloaded over **2,000⁺** times.



Welcomed **21** new [Quality Institute members](#).

Our [Mayors Wellness Campaign](#) awarded **22** 2021 Healthy Town Awards to communities in which mayors have made healthy lifestyles a top priority and are actively engaging all members of their community.



COYL released **3** public service announcements with the [NJEA](#), [PBA](#), and [CWA](#) for State Health Benefits Plan members to learn about advance care planning.



Hosted **17** [Quality Institute virtual events](#).



LOOKING AHEAD

25

The [MWC](#), with support from [The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey](#), will create a community Mental Health Pilot and Toolkit that includes education and training for community leaders and residents to increase understanding of mental health issues, deployment of evidence-based strategies to address stigma, and Mental Health First Aid trainings to create a base of leaders and residents to carry forward the work.

The Quality Institute will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2022. Thank you for 25 years of partnering with us to improve the quality, safety, and affordability of health care for everyone.



The [NJ InCK](#) model officially launched January 3rd, 2022, allowing the pilot region of Monmouth and Ocean counties and the nearly 145,000 children ages 0 through 20 to be able to access this unique pilot program.



The [MPC](#), with support from the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#), will create a policy playbook, a Maternity Action Plan (MAP), that will serve as a companion to the NurtureNJ strategic plan to align and elevate the plan toward sustainable policy change in the state.

Maternity



The Quality Institute, with support from the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#), will implement recommendations 1 and 2 of the [Covid-19 Action Plan](#) to create and support a resilient and diverse health care workforce for the future.



LIST OF QUALITY INSTITUTE MEMBERS BY COUNCIL

Leadership Council

Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling at Rutgers University
Horizon BlueCross BlueShield of NJ
Medical Society of New Jersey
New Jersey Department of the Treasury
NJM Insurance Company
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*

ACO Council

Aledade
Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers
Greater Newark Health Care Coalition
Health Coalition of Passaic County
Partnership Health Centers, LLC
Trenton Health Team

Association Council

American Physical Therapy Association of NJ
Garden State Pharmacy Owners
Health Care Association of New Jersey
Hospital Alliance of New Jersey
New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians
New Jersey Chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses
NJ Association of Health Plans
NJ Association of Health Underwriters
NJ Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies
NJ Association of Nurse Anesthetists
NJ Business & Industry Association NJ Dental Association
NJ Doctor-Patient Alliance
NJ Education Association
NJ Family Planning League
Partnership for Maternal and Child Health
State and Local Government Benefits Association

Consumer Council

AARP of New Jersey
American Cancer Society
American Heart Association
Goals of Care Coalition of NJ
Housing and Community Development Network of NJ
KinderSmile Foundation
March of Dimes
Medina Community Clinic

Consumer Council (Cont.)

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

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 University School of Nursing
St. George's University

Plan Council

AmeriGroup
AmeriHealth Caritas
AmeriHealth New Jersey
Clover Health
Humana
UnitedHealth Employer and Individual WellCare

Professional & Technology Council

Brach Eichler
Community Health Law Project
Conventus Inter-Insurance Exchange
Cooper Surgical
Family Health Initiatives
Findhelp
Fox Rothschild LLP
Teladoc
Unite Us

Provider Council

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

Atlantic Health System*
Hackensack Meridian Health*
Inspira Health Network*
Jefferson Health*

Provider Council (Cont.)

St. Joseph's Health*
Virtua Health*
AtlantiCare Health Solutions
Axia Women's Health
Bergen New Bridge Medical Center
Capital Health Medical Center - Hopewell
CarePlus NJ
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton
CentraState Medical Center
Cooper University Hospital
DaVita
Englewood Health
Hackensack Meridian Carrier Clinic
HealthySteps
Henry J. Austin Health Center, Inc
Holy Name Medical Center
Legacy Treatment Services
Lifeline Medical Associates
Nurse-Family Partnership
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
St. Francis Medical Center
Salem Medical Center
Samaritan Life-Enhancing Care
Summit Medical Group
Trinitas Regional Medical Center
University Hospital
VNA Health Group

Purchaser Council

Bankers Cooperative Group
Northeast Carpenters Funds
Tabula Rasa Healthcare

Wellness Council

Bayer
Cannabis Education and Research Institute
Genentech
GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)
MM411
Novo Nordisk
Pfizer
Sanofi

As of March 2022



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