

A BI-WEEKLY LOOK AT THE BUSINESS & POLITICS OF HEALTH CARE IN NEW JERSEY



# PRESIDENT & CEO, LINDA SCHWIMMER Championing Responsible Spending on Health Care

Our recent Quality Institute **poll** found that New Jersey residents are deeply worried about rising health care costs, which outpace wage growth.

Health care is essential to a healthy life. Yet rising health costs crowd out public investment in other life essentials: safe housing, education, social services, clean water, reliable transportation, and parks. We rely on government support for these services. Thus, it is imperative that state and local policy makers spend every tax dollar on health care wisely.

Employers also have an important role to play as they insure over half of our residents. As health spending increases, salaries suffer as employers respond to the financial pressures of providing health benefits for their employees and their families. When employers sponsor a health benefits plan, they have a legal fiduciary duty under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) to prudently select and monitor the vendors they use to supply those benefits in the best interests of their employees...

**Read Full Story** 



#### TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

## Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

The <u>Office of the State Comptroller</u> investigates misconduct by government employees and officials and advances accountability and transparency across government on behalf of taxpayers. (In full disclosure, the spouse of Linda Schwimmer, President and CEO of the Quality Institute, works within the Comptroller's Office as Director of the Division of Medicaid Fraud.)

<u>Interview Sneak Peek:</u> Can you explain to our readers how your office impacts health care quality, safety, and affordability?

The office is an independent watchdog agency that looks out for fraud, waste, and abuse across government. With respect to New Jersey's Medicaid program, we have recovered almost \$1 billion in improperly spent Medicaid funds over the past decade.

In addition to saving the State money, our work also impacts care. When Medicaid money is siphoned away from patient care and into providers' pockets, there is a direct impact on the care Medicaid recipients receive.

For instance, in nursing homes, if the money that would have paid for nurses instead goes into the pocket of the owners of a related entity, care is harmed. Or, in the pharmacy context, pharmacists who claim to have dispensed medicine that wasn't dispensed — patient care is affected. We also see providers of durable medical equipment that claim to provide equipment that the Medicaid beneficiary never receives. When care has been paid for but not provided, it almost certainly leads to worse health outcomes...

Read Full Interview

## REMEMBERING LEAPFROG FOUNDING CEO SUZANNE DELBANCO



Suzanne Delbanco, keynote speaker at the 2018 Quality Institute Spring All-Council Conference

At the **Quality Institute**, we mourn the loss of Suzanne Delbanco, founding CEO of the Leapfrog Group and founder of the Catalyst for Payment Reform. We worked closely with Suzanne at both organizations and admired her courage, intellect, and dedication to high value health care. "Suzanne's tenacity and commitment to improving health care inspired us all," said Quality Institute President and CEO Linda Schwimmer. David Knowlton, former Quality Institute CEO, added, "Suzanne 'disrupted' the entire U.S. health care system and we are all the better for it. I will truly miss her." You can read more about Suzanne **here**.

#### IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Check out <u>Steve Adubato's</u> interview with <u>Linda Schwimmer</u> on New Jersey's need for greater investment in primary care.





### IMPROVING HEALTH & WELLNESS ACROSS NJ

### **Supporting the Mayors Wellness Campaign**

Please consider sponsorship to support our 2024 MWC Healthy Town initiative. As a sponsor:

- You will enable the delivery of more technical assistance and resources to New Jersey communities to improve the health and wellness of their residents.
- You will be recognized for your support of the MWC in our communications with mayors and other officials in New Jersey, as we thank you in our emails, social media, newsletter publications, and press releases celebrating the 2024 journey to becoming a MWC Healthy Town.

Contact Virginia Tesser at **vtesser@njhcqi.org** to learn more about our sponsorship opportunities.



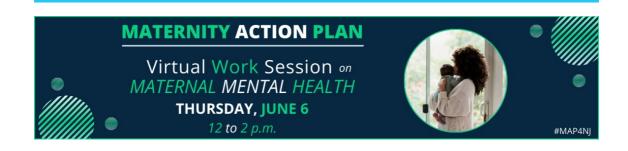
For More Info

### **CONNECT WITH US** ON THREADS



The **Quality Institute** joined **Threads**. Follow us on this new social media platform to stay up to date with our latest news, events, and initiatives. Join the conversation and connect with us as we continue to advance our mission of improving the safety, quality, and affordability of health care for everyone.

**Connect with Us** 



**TODAY**, please join the **Quality Institute** for this virtual work session focusing on maternal mental health information and resources beneficial to your community, clients, or patients.

The session will feature Jaime Angelini, MA, DRCC, AMTP, Statewide Director of Suicide Prevention, Crisis Response, and Special Projects, <u>Mental Health Association in NJ</u> (MHANJ); Carolyn Flynn, LPC, CD, IMH-E®, Director, Infant and Early Childhood Relational Health, <u>The Center for Great Expectations</u>; and <u>Armonie Pierre-Jacques</u>, MPH, Program Officer, <u>New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute</u>.

**Register Now** 



The **Quality Institute** and **The Burke Foundation's Maternal Infant Health (MIH) Hub** will provide an overview on federal midwifery legislation, policy, and initiatives, and its impact on maternal health. This Policy Spotlight is an invitation for all midwives, midwifery students, and other health care stakeholders to learn and discuss key policy and maternal child health care issues.

**Guest speaker:** Jill Wodnick, MA, LCCE, IMH-E(II), Maternal Health Policy and Early Relational Health, Montclair State University

**Register Now** 











For information on how to join, please contact Virginia Tesser at <a href="wtesser@njhcqi.org">wtesser@njhcqi.org</a>.

To learn more about our current initiatives, please visit our website at  $\underline{www.njhcqi.org}$ . Copyright 2024\* \* | NJHCQI, All rights reserved.

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