



NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE **QUALITY INSTITUTE**

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](#)



KEVIN D. WALSH,
ACTING NEW JERSEY STATE COMPTROLLER



TAKE FIVE INTERVIEW

Interviews with members, influencers, and noteworthy people

The [Office of the State Comptroller](#) 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.)

Interview Sneak Peek: 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 [Steve Adubato’s](#) interview with [Linda Schwimmer](#) on New Jersey’s need for greater investment in primary care.

A promotional graphic for a live interview. It features a blue background with a white starburst icon in the top left corner. The text "LIVE" is in a red box. The main title is "One on One with Steve Adubato". Below this, two circular portraits are shown: Steve Adubato on the left and Linda Schwimmer on the right. The names "Steve Adubato" and "Linda Schwimmer" are written in white text around the portraits. Below the portraits, the title "The Shortage of Primary Care Physicians in New Jersey" is written in white. At the bottom right, the Quality Institute logo is displayed, consisting of a blue starburst icon and the text "NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE".

LIVE One on One with Steve Adubato

Steve Adubato Linda Schwimmer

The Shortage of Primary Care Physicians in New Jersey

NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE
QUALITY INSTITUTE

[Watch Now](#)

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.

MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN

2024-2025 Sponsorship

The Mayors Wellness Campaign (MWC) is a statewide community health initiative of the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute in partnership with the New Jersey State League of Municipalities. The MWC provides mayors and community leaders with technical assistance, guidance, and resources to improve the health and wellness of their communities.

MWC towns participate in activities and events throughout the year as part of their journey to provide residents with healthier places to live, work, and play.

Your sponsorship enables us to engage and support MWCs throughout New Jersey. The Journey starts with mayors taking the pledge, education on the MWC and the Healthy Town applications, training on using local data, MWC tool usage, and culminating in the applications, and Healthy Town awards recognizing the great efforts made to improve the health of communities. Your support ensures more New Jersey residents live in communities with strong Mayors Wellness Campaigns.¹

By Supporting the MWC's Journey to Becoming a Healthy Town Your Organization will:

- Be recognized as a partner in your commitment to community health and wellness.
- Enable the delivery of more technical assistance and resources to New Jersey communities to improve the health and wellness of their residents.
- Be highlighted for your support of the MWC in our communications with every mayor and other local 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.

¹ NJHCQI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your donation is tax deductible as allowed by law.

2024 Journey to Becoming a Healthy Town

September

- Starting the Journey with a Pledge to "Put Your Town on the Map"
- Mayors commit to improving the health and wellness of their communities and sign the annual MWC pledge of participation.

October

- Recognize "MWC Champions of Health"
- Mayors nominate individuals making a difference within their communities. Recognizing team members supports becoming a Healthy Town.

MWC In Action

- Laura Farrell, Community Wellness Coordinator was named our Champion of Health. She supported Wildwood Crest's Journey to a Healthy Town through a wide range of programming covering both physical and mental health. [2023 Health Champions](#)

November

- 2024 NJ Healthy Town Applications Open
- League of Municipalities Conference "Bringing Health to Your Community With the MWC" panel presentation featuring previous Healthy Town designers.
- MWC staff invite cities and towns to join the program and apply to become a Healthy Town.
- Towns receive resources including the MWC MWC Handbook which outlines the steps to becoming a Healthy Town.

MWC In Action

- Abigail O'Brien, Mayor of Deerfield Township, shared examples of how they leverage MWC resources to fit the needs of their small rural community.

December

- Healthy Town Technical Assistance.
- A webinar to provide guidance on preparing a successful Healthy Town application.

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

MATERNITY ACTION PLAN

Virtual Work Session on
MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

12 to 2 p.m.



#MAP4NJ

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, [Mental Health Association in NJ](#) (MHANJ); Carolyn Flynn, LPC, CD, IMH-E®, Director, Infant and Early Childhood Relational Health, [The Center for Great Expectations](#); and [Armonie Pierre-Jacques](#), MPH, Program Officer, [New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute](#).

[Register Now](#)



MATERNAL INFANT HEALTH HUB'S
POLICY SPOTLIGHT
A FOCUS ON FEDERAL MIDWIFERY LEGISLATION, POLICY, AND INITIATIVES
MONDAY, JUNE 24 | 12-1 PM

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 vtesser@njhcqi.org.

To learn more about our current initiatives, please visit our website at www.njhcqi.org.

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