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## What's Included In This Edition:

**Schwimmer Script** - Guest author Julie DeSimone, LSW, Quality Institute's Director of Community Health

**Upcoming Events** - 3/31 - New Jersey Worker Benefits & Protections Information Session

4/1- *Toothache: The Painful Truth About Oral Health Care Inequity* Documentary Screening & Panel Discussion

4/2 - Maternity Action Plan Virtual Work Session

4/3 - Conversation of Your Life Partner Meeting

**Member Breakfast Round-Up**

**What We're Reading**

A graphic for the 'Schwimmer Script' section. On the left is a circular portrait of Julie DeSimone, a woman with long brown hair, smiling. To the right, the text 'Schwimmer Script' is written in a large, bold, dark blue font. Below this, 'Julie DeSimone, LSW' is written in a smaller blue font, followed by 'Director of Community Health' in an italicized blue font. A stylized blue pen icon is positioned to the right of the text. In the bottom right corner is the Quality Institute logo, which includes the text 'NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE' and a small 'Q' icon.

## Advancing Health and Wellness in Your Community

Imagine living in a town where fresh produce is easily accessible, fitness classes are available for all ages, and mental health support is just around the corner. Across New Jersey, communities are making this vision a reality. The Quality Institute recently recognized towns that are stepping up in big ways to improve the health and wellness of their residents.

Through the **Mayors Wellness Campaign** (MWC), local leaders are offering programs that make healthy living more accessible and enjoyable. This year, an impressive 32 towns earned the "Healthy Town" designation, while many more were recognized as "Healthy Towns to Watch" and "Healthy Towns Up-and-Coming." To see the full list, check out the **Healthy Town Press Release**.

These programs benefit from engagement with local health care systems, providers, and community-based organizations. If you or your organization would like to get

involved with a Mayors Wellness Campaign or just learn more, please fill out the [MWC Partner Form](#) today...

[Read Full Story](#)



## UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS

**New Jersey Worker Benefits & Protections Information Session - March 31st - 12-1 p.m.:** [Essential Jobs Essential Care Coalition](#) and [New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development](#) will host an informative session on worker benefits and protections, including the new Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights. [Register Now.](#)

**Toothache: The Painful Truth About Oral Health Care Inequity Documentary Screening & Panel Discussion - April 1st - 7-9 p.m.:** [The KinderSmile Foundation](#), in collaboration with [Partners for Health Foundation](#) and the [Montclair Public Library](#), is hosting a screening of their award-winning documentary that examines the disparities in oral health care faced by families across New Jersey. Join us for a panel discussion following the screening with featured speakers. [Register Here.](#)

- **Linda Schwimmer**, President & CEO, New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute
- **Dr. Nicole McGrath-Barnes**, Founder & CEO of KinderSmile Foundation
- **Dr. Michal Herman**, COO, KinderSmile Foundation
- **Nashon Hornsby**, Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Community Health Services, New Jersey Department of Health
- **Mary Otto**, Washington, D.C.-based independent journalist and author

**[Maternity Action Plan \(MAP\) Virtual Work Session - April 2nd - 12-2 p.m.:](#)** Learn about preeclampsia prevention and maternal health equity in New Jersey alongside featured speakers. [Register Now.](#)

- **Robyn D'Oria**, Chair of the Board of Directors at Preeclampsia Foundation and Chief Executive Officer at Central Jersey Family Health Consortium
- **Christine Ivery**, Program Officer at New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute
- **Trashaun Powell**, Patient Advisory Council Member at Preeclampsia

Foundation and Course Faculty at MoMMAs Voices

- **Natasha Dravid**, Chief Strategy Officer at Camden Coalition
- **Shakira Williams-Linzey**, Director of Maternal Infant Health in New Jersey/New York for March of Dimes

**Conversation of Your Life (COYL) Partner Meeting - April 3rd - 12-1 p.m.**: In honor of National Healthcare Decisions Day, this session will explore the importance of advance care planning, including sharing your health care wishes, designating a health care proxy, and understanding Medical Aid in Dying (MAiD) as part of end-of-life decision-making. [Register Here.](#)

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## Member Breakfast Round-Up

A big thank you to attendees across our membership and our host, [Bergen New Bridge Medical Center](#), for participating in our March 5th Member Breakfast. Members heard updates from Quality Institute staff on our community health, quality improvement, and policy work and were able to network with peers. It was wonderful to see everyone.



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## WHAT WE'RE READING



**Op-Ed: Time for transparency in crisis pregnancy centers in New Jersey**, *Hudson County View*: In this op-ed, Assemblywoman Jessica Ramirez (D-32) addresses crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs) and the introduction of a bill she sponsored, [A5418](#), aimed at establishing consumer protections. This legislation mandates that CPCs display clear signage in both English and Spanish in their waiting and examination rooms.

**Why Medicaid cuts put adult dental care on the chopping block**, *Axios*: Maya Goldman discusses the potential effects of Congress cutting Medicaid funding to states to extend tax cuts, particularly on adult dental care. As budgets shrink, legislators may prioritize other areas, leading uninsured individuals to seek treatment in hospitals. Melissa Burroughs from the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health warns, "Without coverage, many will delay care or turn to emergency rooms, increasing health care costs and worsening outcomes."



For information on how to join, please contact Virginia Tesser at [vtesser@njhcqi.org](mailto:vtesser@njhcqi.org).

To learn more about our current initiatives, please visit our website at [www.njhcqi.org](http://www.njhcqi.org).

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