



March 2025

**Quality Improvement Program - New Jersey
(QIP-NJ) Announcements & Updates**

Dear QIP-NJ Program Participants,

The Department of Health (DOH) encourages hospitals and other interested parties to review this newsletter to help ensure your teams stay up-to-date on important news and announcements regarding QIP-NJ. As always, all newsletters will be posted to the QIP-NJ Documents & Resources webpage within approximately one week of distribution. If you have any questions, concerns, or to unsubscribe from this newsletter, please email QIP-NJ@pcgus.com. Thank you!

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DOH Corner

We are now approximately three months into MY 5 of QIP-NJ, which began in January and will run through the end of the year. DOH continues to appreciate all the time, effort, and resources that participating hospitals are putting into QIP-NJ and looks forward to seeing continued quality improvement for both the maternal health and BH populations.

As a reminder, DOH, in collaboration with the Department of Human Services, is still actively working to secure the necessary federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approvals. More information regarding CMS approvals will be released once it becomes available.

As always, should participating hospitals have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the QIP-NJ Team via email at QIP-NJ@pcgus.com.

Learning Collaborative Updates

Complete Learning Session 3 Evaluation Form & Credit Claiming

Thank you to the Learning Session 3 (LS3) attendees for your active participation in LS3! Your efforts are truly appreciated. If you need to claim CEU credits for the session, please complete the LS3 evaluation form: <https://pcgus.jotform.com/250785360291156>

If you have completed the survey but have not received your certificate within 7-10 days of completing the form, and/or have any additional questions or concerns regarding CME accreditation, please directly contact the Rutgers team via email at cce@ubhc.rutgers.edu.

NOW AVAILABLE: Learning Session 3 on 3/26 and 3/27 from 10AM to 1PM EST

LS3 was held on March 26 and 27, 2025. The materials from the session are hyperlinked below and available on the Program Materials page of the SDOHLC portal (under the Participant Tools tab):

- LS3 Day 1 [recording](#) & [slides](#)
 - Introduction **0:00**
 - Patient Story **4:33**

- Resource Fair
 - [Breakout Room 1](#): Leveraging Technology and Data – Findhelp, Camden Coalition, and Family Health Initiatives
 - [Breakout Room 2](#): Patient Engagement and Staff Resourcing – Ren Pelley, HEART Manager, Peer Specialist, Oaks Integrated Care
 - [Breakout Group 3](#): Discussion with local NJ-based CBOs – Interfaith Food Pantry Network & GRACE
- LS3 Day 2 [recording](#) & [slides](#)
 - Welcome & Data Recap **0:00**
 - PDSA Reflection **8:38**
 - QI Case Studies **20:02**
 - Introduction to MOCHA Model: 5 Drivers of Sustainability **25:53**
 - Role of Executive Leadership in Sustaining SDOH Initiatives & Q&A – Julia Orlando, VP of Integrated Services, Bergen New Bridge Medical Center **40:45**

Upcoming Request for Video Submissions for Highlight Video

The SDOHLC faculty plans to create a highlight video recapping the important work accomplished throughout the SDOHLC. Hospitals can submit brief videos on their successes throughout the Collaborative to be included in the highlight video. You can find the submission guidelines below, and in a Word document [here](#). You can find this information on the Participant Communications page of the SDOHLC portal as well.

Prompts

While creating your video, the SDOHLC faculty wants you to consider these questions:

- **What are you most proud of in your work with the Collaborative?**
- **How have your partnerships evolved over time? What successes have you seen as a result?**
- **What areas for improvement have you seen the most growth?**

Choose at least 1 of the following prompts or provide your thoughts extemporaneously.

- *Participation in the Collaborative helped my team achieve...*
- *I knew we had made a difference when...*
 - Could include success cases or non-PHI patient anecdotes
- *I'm so proud of the strides we've made towards...*
- *Last year... and this year...*
- *We strengthened our relationships in the community by...*

Show an example of a new script, workflow, or process that you are proud of.

Emma, the SDOHLC Senior Advisor created [example video 1](#) and [example video 2](#) to show how simple your videos can be. Teams can submit their videos using this form: <https://forms.gle/Yi4hG1QvVXDhY85x6>

The SDOHLC faculty understands how busy each team member is and appreciates your active participation in the Collaborative. Thank you for your dedication to this important work! If you have any questions about the request, feel free to reach out to the SDOHLC faculty at QIP-NJ@pcgus.com.

March 2025 Data Submission due on April 18, 2025

The next SDOHLC data submission, for the March 2025 data, is **Friday, April 18, 2025 at 5PM EST**. The link to the monthly data submission is copied below, and is available on the Program Materials page of the SDOHLC portal: <https://pcgus.jotform.com/242065631394153>

Teams may find it helpful to review the following materials when planning how to collect data for the SDOHLC monthly data submissions:

- July 31, 2024 data submission webinar materials (July 31, 2024 [recording](#) and [slides](#))
- Collaborative Measurement Review, Dak Ojuka and Christina Southey (45:32 in LS1 Day 2 [recording](#))

- Learning Session 2 Measurement Session, Dak Ojuka and Christina Southey (42:04 in the LS2 Day 2 [recording](#))
- Learning Session 3 QI & Sustainability session (recording)

Late Data Submissions from Previous Months Allowed & Encouraged!

The SDOHLC faculty is encouraging and allowing late submissions for previous months' data. If you need an extension to submit your **February 2025 data** (originally due on March 14), or retroactively submit data from September to December, please reach out to the SDOHLC faculty at QIP-NJ@pcgus.com.

Schedule a 1:1 Coaching Call with Christina During Action Period 3!

Christina Southey, the SDOHLC improvement advisor, is available for 1:1 coaching calls with SDOHLC teams during Action Period 3 (March 2025 to May 2025)! The meetings are an opportunity to ask targeted questions and receive specific feedback on your team's SDOHLC strategy. If you would like to meet at any time during Action Period 3, please reach out to the SDOHLC faculty at QIP-NJ@pcgus.com.

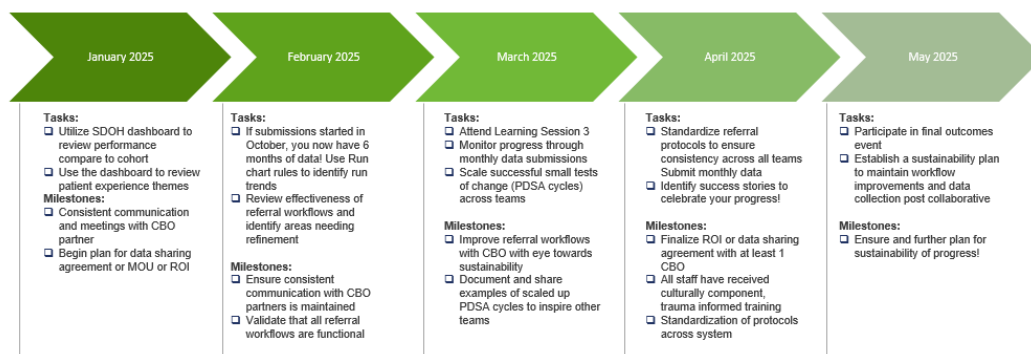
Extended Period & 1:1 coaching	March 2025 to May 2025
April Coaching Call	April 30, 2025, 12 - 1PM, register here
Final Outcomes Event	May 28, 2025, 12 - 1PM

SDOHLC Event Calendar

Extended SDOHLC Roadmap and April Focus

The extended roadmap below outlines key milestones and activities over the course of the SDOHLC. A large version of the image is also included in

the Measurement Strategy. This is not a strict timeline; teams may use this roadmap as a resource to guide their progress.



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In April 2025, teams should plan to:

- **Review insights from in Learning Session 3:** After attending LS3, share your insights with your team to refine your tests of change and sustainability plans. Identify key areas where additional resources may be needed.
- **Standardize workflows:** Ensure consistency across your workflows, especially as you plan for the spread of your team's best practices at your hospital and/or within your system.

MY4 Attribution Pending

Following receipt of MY5 Letters of Intent, DOH and DHS are verifying hospital-provided Medicaid IDs and NPIs. These IDs will be used to tabulate MY4 Attribution totals following MY4 claims runout. Thereafter, DOH will provide hospital-specific and aggregate cohort attribution totals.

MY4 and MY5 Databook, SRT, and VSC Updates

The MY4 Databook, Standard Reporting Template (SRT) and SRT Guide, and Value Set Compendium (VSC) are currently posted on the QIP-NJ [website](#). These documents will be necessary for MY4 reporting later this year.

MY5 draft versions of the Databook and VSC have also been published to the QIP-NJ website. Those will be required for MY5 reporting. For all these updates, the QIP-NJ Team recommends reviewing the change logs of each of each as a starting point.

MY5 Preprints

DOH and the Department of Human Services (DHS) submitted the MY5 Preprints under 438.6c for QIP-NJ to CMS in December 2024. DOH and DHS have been providing supplemental analyses in response to clarifying questions from CMS. DOH will provide regular updates as our team works with CMS to secure necessary approvals.

Other State Initiatives and Programs

- The **Maternal Mortality & Morbidity Advocates (MoMMAs Voices)** is offering a training webinar focused customizing a pregnancy plan to meet the needs of patients with SUD on April 16th. This is a provider focused course that was designed by patients to improve care and patient experience. Register [here](#).
- Additionally, **the MoMMAs team has created a comprehensive resource hub**. This hub includes valuable information from healthcare systems, Perinatal Quality Collaboratives (PQCs), non-profits, and quality improvement initiatives to support maternal health efforts. Teams can find resources on national and local SUD support, as well as information on opioid, alcohol, cannabis, tobacco, and stimulant use. It also covers best practices for screening and reporting, along with patient education and advocacy. You can access the hub [here](#).
- The **CDC's Million Hearts® Hypertension in Pregnancy Action Forum (HPAF)** is a national collaborative for clinical, public health, and community-based partners to exchange best and promising practices, identify solutions to common obstacles, and share resources related to improving hypertension management for women during and after pregnancy. This program has ongoing forum sessions that can promote new knowledge and share best practices nationally. Additionally, the program website has some resources that QIP-NJ maternal health teams might find useful, including resources for treating hypertension in the prenatal period and some resources for postpartum blood pressure monitoring.
- The **Ancient Song Give Away** is a monthly event where caregivers can receive free diapers, wipes, and baby essentials. The next giveaway is on April 19th, from 10 AM to 2 PM, at 50 Church St., Montclair, NJ 07402, on the 1st floor. These events recur every 3rd Saturday of the month.



- **Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO)** training is an evidence-based training used by birthing providers and interprofessional maternity care teams to handle obstetric emergencies. NJ DOH encourages teams to look into the components of the training. You can find more information on the training program [here](#).
- **Alma Program for Southern Jersey Hospitals: Nurture NJ** has announced the availability of the Alma Program, a free, evidence-based, peer-to-peer mentoring program designed to help make the parenting journey a little easier. The program connects expecting mothers and recently postpartum moms experiencing feelings of depression, anxiety, and stress with trained professionals that have faced similar challenges. Through weekly meetings, participants receive support and share skills that have the potential to make a big difference as they step into a new chapter in their lives.

The Alma program is currently offered in South Jersey but has plans to expand to Central and North Jersey later this year. To learn more about the Alma Program, to enroll, or to refer a mom, visit www.snjpc.org/alma.

- The **Nurture NJ Strategic Plan**, which aims to make NJ the safest and most equitable place in the national to deliver and raise a baby. Please check the [Nurture NJ website](#) for more information and to discover new ways to become engaged.
- The **NJ Maternal Care Quality Collaborative (NJMCQC)** has transitioned to the **New Jersey Maternal Health Innovation Authority (NJMIHIA)**. Please visit their [website](#) for updates and additional information. The NJMIHIA is governed by a 15-member Board and an appointed President and Chief Executive Officer and support staff. The Board will adopt recommendations for action to reduce maternal mortality, morbidity, and disparities from the NJMCQC. The Board also coordinates with a Community Advisory Committee to support and inform its work. The 11-member Community Advisory Committee will represent diverse community groups with relevant experience as providers or recipients of maternal, infant, and child health services.
 - NJMIHIA's meetings are open to the public and the last meeting was held on February 26th from 10am to 12pm ET. Additional information, including meeting materials, will be published on the [NJMIHIA website](#), so please continue to check back regularly. For additional information about the NJMIHIA, please feel free to email the team at info@njmihia.gov.
- Funded by DOH, **NJ Quit Centers** provide residents of New Jersey with resources and support to stop or reduce their use of tobacco including e-cigarettes, disposables, pouches, and other related products. Quit Centers can and do play an integral role in helping clinical facilities meet their goal of advancing statewide quality improvements for BH under QIP-NJ Measure BH8: Substance Use Screening and Intervention Composite. More information regarding Quit Centers, including contact information for the Inspira Quit Center and RWJ Barnabas Health Institute for Prevention and Recovery (IFPR) Nicotine and Tobacco Recovery Program, can be found here: <https://www.tobaccofreenj.com/quit-smoking>.
- **DHS' Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)**, which serves as the Single State Agency (SSA) for Substance Abuse and the State Mental Health Authority (SMHA), as designated by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), also oversees NJ's adult system of community-based BH

services. Please [check DMHAS' website](#) for more information and discover new ways to become engaged.

- **DHS' Episode of Care (EOC) Pilot** is a three-year pilot to test a new alternative payment model for prenatal, labor, and postpartum services statewide. More information regarding the EOC Pilot can be found on DHS' [website](#) at the link below. Performance Period 1 (15 months) of the EOC Pilot ran from April 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Performance Period 2 (12 months) ran from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Performance Period 3 (12 months) began on July 1, 2024 and will run through June 30, 2025. For more information about the EOC Pilot, please visit DHS' website at: [Episode of Care Pilot \(nj.gov\)](#). For questions, please send an email to the DHS team at mahs.maternityepisode@dhs.nj.gov.

