

North Jersey Health Collaborative



health matters



2021

The NJHC thanks our 2020 Chairs for their dedication to our work. We welcome our 2021 Chairs.

Meet Our Leadership Team

We thank our Funding Partners and Board of Trustees for their ongoing support and look forward to working together on realizing our shared vision of Healthy People, Healthy Communities!

From Our President

We all look forward to new beginnings in 2021: to new initiatives that will move us all forward in a positive direction. The North Jersey Health Collaborative is here to support you, our partners, in continued establishment of strong collaborative relationships to support the health and wellness of the communities in which we live and work. We are here to support and align our partners' missions with the mission of the Collaborative as we all recover from the Covid -19 Pandemic. We have been an organization that has focused on collecting data, which will continue, but we are also an organization focusing on taking action steps to support you and our local health departments. We will all be more successful and stronger working together.



I have been involved in the North Jersey Health Collaborative from its beginning. The Collaborative provided me with establishing relationships with other clinical and community members to support more impactful work with my affiliation with the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA.

The Union County Task force on Chronic Disease was developed from the initial CHIP of Union County. The work has taken time to develop strategic initiatives, collaborate together and then re-evaluate what we are doing and make adjustments.

The Union County Task Force on Chronic Disease announces a Virtual Symposium- *Diabetes and Hypertension Standards of Care: Linking Clinical to Community* to be held on April 14, 2021. Rescheduled from

March, 2020 due to Covid 19, this Symposium hopes to educate participants as well as link clinical to community resources.

Registrants will have the opportunity to receive 5 CEU's for a fee of \$35.

It has been a privilege to work with Patrice Paoella from Atlantic Health, Karen Ensle from the Rutgers Cooperative Extension, and all of the other partners to develop this Symposium.

The benefit of this virtual symposium is that it is taking us outside the Union County "walls" and making this an opportunity for many more clinicians and community resources to participate. Help us to spread the word.

Continue the work...it is hard but so rewarding..

Sheri Cognetti
President of the NJHC

Join us by [REGISTERING HERE](#).



**Diabetes and Hypertension
Standards of Care: Linking
Clinical to Community**

Cross Collaborative Meetings address the CHIPs (Community Health Improvement Plans) and Health Equity

The NJHC has been hosting virtual meetings across all 5 Counties and surrounding areas, to address Mental Health and Substance Use, Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity, Chronic Disease, Healthy Aging, and The Social Determinants of Health.

These meetings are a forum where organizations share information and best practices, and create opportunities to network and collaborate across sectors, and across counties.

Please check our [website calendar](#) for a schedule of these meetings. If you would like to join any of these meetings, please email info@njhealthmaters.org.

The NJHC is Proud to Partner with ScreenNJ

ScreenNJ is a collaborative project, led by Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Health and organizations throughout New Jersey, to improve colorectal and lung cancer outcomes.



We have partnered with ScreenNJ to conduct workshops throughout the NJHC catchment area, particularly for those with severe or persistent mental health conditions, developmental disabilities, the LGBTQ community and those lacking insurance. Educational workshops will cover the importance of colorectal and lung cancer screenings, who should get screened, and where

they can be screened.

Health Educator MaryEllen Zung of Morris County will provide these educational workshops with NJHC Executive Director Laura O'Reilly Stanzilis RN.

If you would like to attend or schedule a free webinar for your organization or community please email maryellen@njhealthmatters.org.

Visit our [Resource Library](#) to learn about ScreenNJ services, how cancer screenings can save your life, and where to get screened.



For the most current information on COVID-19 visit [New Jersey COVID-19 Information Hub \(nj.gov\)](#) or contact your County or Local Health Department.

NJ Department of Health Opens Call Center to Help with Vaccine Questions, Pre-Registration and Scheduling

A vaccine call center to help individuals with the vaccination process is being finalized to open the week of January 25. The call center – available at 855-568-0545 – will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week.

Over 250 trained individuals will staff the call center initially with plans to add additional agents to meet call volumes. The call center will be staffed with a mix of English and Spanish-speaking agents as well as an interpretation service to support Chinese, Portuguese, Tagalog, Italian and other languages prevalent in New Jersey.

With the expansion of eligibility into more categories, there are now many more people who are eligible to get vaccinated but vaccine supply is still very limited.

Staff will be available to answer questions regarding the registration and scheduling process and can provide information on where to get the vaccine. Agents can pre-register anyone who lives, works or studies in New Jersey for the vaccine and will be able to assist in scheduling appointments in the [New Jersey Vaccine Scheduling System](#) when appointments are available.



**Atlantic
Health System**

Click [HERE](#) to view the Community Events Calendar of The NJHC's Catalyst Partner, Atlantic Health System.

Pre-registration is required for all virtual classes and programs. To register, visit atlanticealth.org/events or call 1-800-247-9580. For all inquiries regarding Community Health or to contact us, visit atlanticealth.org/communityhealth or call 1-844-472-8499.

Winter brings Active Code Blue Season This Year



New Jersey

As the state's Homeless Hotline, NJ 211 is responding to callers throughout the year who are in need of shelter.

When temperatures drop below freezing, and conditions pose a threat to individuals who are homeless, a network of agencies throughout New Jersey help people obtain shelter. During times such as these, County Offices of Emergency Management together with municipal government will often initiate and communicate a Code Blue Alert which enables authorities to make shelter arrangements for homeless adults and families. The shelter arrangements may include the opening of warming centers for this specific need. NJ 211 maintains a listing of Code Blue activations and warming centers on its website based on the notifications they receive from individual counties.

Throughout the year it is the responsibility of county offices of social services to assist families and individuals who are experiencing homelessness. But, when county offices are closed (on weekends, holidays and after 4:30pm Monday – Friday in most counties) it is NJ 211 staff who answer the call for help. NJ 211 keeps track of the number of Code Blue declarations each year by counting both the number of nights and the number of counties with active declarations. (For example, if all 21 counties declared a Code Blue tonight, NJ211's statistics would reflect that as 21 Code Blues.) The first Code Blue this season was activated on October 30, 2020. Since then and through January 6, 2021 NJ211 has responded to 542 Code Blue declarations. Last winter there were a total of 786 declarations. The season started on November 7, 2019 and continued through May 12, 2020.



MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN.

One way to help to improve the health of your community and your county is to make wellness a way of life in your municipality. Talk to your Mayor and governing body, and your town's recreation department and get involved.

Has Your Community Made the Wellness Pledge?

The Mayors Wellness Campaign (MWC) is a statewide community health initiative that provides evidence-based tools and strategies for mayors and

community leaders to help their residents achieve healthier lifestyles and to improve overall health and wellness in their communities. For information visit [NJHCQI](#) or email Julie DeSimone, LSW, Program Officer, Mayors Wellness Campaign, New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute at jdesimone@njhcqi.org.

News From Our County Partners

MORRIS



The **North Jersey Health Collaborative** is a proud Member of the **Morris County Chamber of Commerce**.

The Chamber's **Wellness Committee**, led by Kathy D'Agati, owner of *Back to Basic Wellness*, (learn about the Committee and its Thought Leaders at thrivemorris.com), meets monthly to promote a healthy way of living within the public and business community. Professionals in the health and wellness sectors find peers and potential collaborators.

Many of these professionals have lent their time and talents to the work of the North Jersey Health Collaborative and other non-profit organizations in Morris County, under Kathy's inspirational leadership and ability to bring people together to serve the community with passion!

UNION

Union County Library Wants to Work with You

Union Public Library invites community partners to help educate and encourage a healthy lifestyle and good health. Working with the National Library of Medicine, the Links, Atlantic Health Systems, Trinitas Hospital, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County, AARP, and others, they have presented programs such as:

- How to get a good night's sleep;
- Heart health;
- Meditation and yoga;
- Build your emotional toolbox
- Five Pillars of Brain Health;
- The Mediterranean Diet; and
- How to talk to your doctor

Many of these programs are taped and available to anyone on the library's Facebook page.

During the Pandemic, "we are especially eager to find innovative and creative ways to serve the public and hope to vastly expand our collaborative network." For more information, contact Debbie Walter at dwalter@uplnj.org.

MORRIS - PASSAIC - WARREN

The Family Support Center (FSC) is a free supportive program for families that struggle with a loved one's addiction. Specialized FSC staff members

provide families with individual ongoing support, education, and coaching to assist them in helping their loved one towards or through recovery. The FSC uses the CRAFT model with families providing them with tools, skills, and strategies that both empower and support families in helping their loved one change. The FSC offers families one-on-one and/or group support. This is a grant funded program - there is no fee for services. FSC staff is able to work virtually or telephonically with families at this time. For more information, please contact Jennifer Haggis, LAC at (201) 937- 1765 or jenniferh@careplusnj.org.
<https://careplusnj.org/service/family-support-center/>

We would love to hear from you! Please share your news with Laura O'Reilly Stanzilis, RN, MSM, Executive Director, North Jersey Health Collaborative at Laura@njhealthmatters.org

Are we on your schedule?

Stay tuned to our activities and our partners' events by checking our calendar frequently:

[NJHC Meeting and Events Calendar](#)



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