



# ACCESS TO QUALITY CARE ACTION TEAM MEETING

## MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 10, 2025

## ATTENDANCE

Karen Acker	Elizabeth Hill	Maria Baron
Rina Dhopeshwarkar	Erika Lobe	Camilla Comer-Carruthers
Melissa Fox	Wendy Sheay	Loretta Kelly
Melissa Hernandez		

## MEETING

The Action Team members introduced themselves by including their names and organizations in the chat.

Camilla reviewed and responded to the comments and questions submitted in the chat from the previous meeting about the objectives and strategies, and then guided Action Team members through a review of each objective, strategy, and related resources for the Access to Quality Care priority areas:

1. Strengthen the availability and equity of primary care services statewide,
2. Eliminate cost-associated barriers to care,
3. Improve quality and safety in healthcare settings, and
4. Collect and analyze data across key demographics that will address health disparities.

There was a question of whether programs proposed under NJ's Rural Health Transformation Program application (i.e. mobile health clinics, expansion of healthcare extender roles including community health workers, doulas, etc.) could help address access to primary care challenges. If funded, NJ's Rural Health Transformation Program would direct funding to support workforce development; primary care, behavioral health, and emergency medical services; telehealth, mobile health, and remote patient monitoring; preventive health; and investment in data integration to improve chronic disease treatment. It was noted that telemedicine not only addresses location-specific barriers to care but also helps people with disabilities. Deaf and hard of hearing individuals who want providers who are sign-fluent may use telemedicine instead of traveling long distances. The New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS) - Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing funds mobile audiology services in 14 counties for older adults who cannot travel or are in underserved areas.

Several resources related to the objectives and strategies were added to the chat.

- [Institute for Healthcare Improvement](#)
- [NJ Innovation Institute](#) and associated programs
  - [NJ Health Information Network \(NJHIN\)](#)
  - [Behavioral Health Promoting Interoperability Program \(BH PIP\)](#)

- [Substance Use Disorder Promoting Interoperability Program \(SUD PIP\)](#)
- [Merit-Based Incentive Payment System/MIPS Value Pathways \(MIP/MVPs\)](#)
- [Quality Improvement Program - NJ \(QIP-NJ\)](#)

Melissa Fox, Chief Operating Officer at Acenda Integrated Health, was announced as the Action Team Chair.

ACT members were asked to review and sign the HNJ Membership Manual and Confidentiality Agreement, if they have not already done so. They were also asked to email Camilla with existing resources that may not have been mentioned during the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:03pm. The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 1:00 pm.**

**Happy Holidays to all!**