



Membership Newsletter Summer 2024

UTAH ASSOCIATION FOR
HEALTHCARE QUALITY

uahq.org

Save the DATE

**UAHQ ANNUAL CONFERENCE:
IMPROVING YOUR PROFICIENCY
AS A QUALITY PROFESSIONAL**

**FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 27, 2024
8:30-4:30PM**

U OF U HEALTH SUGAR HOUSE HEALTH CENTER
1280 E STRINGHAM AVE, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84106

GET ON OUR LIST SO YOU DON'T MISS
OUT ON FUTURE EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITIES!

UTAH ASSOCIATION FOR HEALTHCARE QUALITY
Commitment . Leadership . Empowerment . Integrity

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JOIN US FOR OUR UPCOMING SUMMER WEBINAR SERIES!

**Quality Improvement Essentials:
Building Better from the Ground Up**

Are you new to the world of quality improvement? Join us for beginner-friendly webinars where we'll break down the essentials of starting and sustaining quality improvement projects.

**Free for Members or
\$25 per webinar/\$60
for all three!**

**[Register or
Join Now!](#)**

Speakers:

Emily Carlson, MBA
Quality Manager
University of Utah Health DPHM
UAHQ Past President

Chanda Sundara, MBA IHM
SQ Specialist
University of Utah Health DPHM
UAHQ Education Chair

Whether you're a healthcare professional, a manager, or just someone who wants to make things better where you work, this webinar series is for you!

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SERIES DATES

July 16:	Launching Your Quality Improvement Journey
August 20:	Mastering Quality Improvement Tools
September 17:	Ensuring Sustainable Quality Improvement

All Sessions held virtually 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
CE credits for CPHQ through NAHQ pending

UTAH ASSOCIATION FOR HEALTHCARE QUALITY
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Did you know that board meetings are open to all UAHQ members? Attending a board meeting is a great way to learn more about the association and have your voice heard.

Please contact us at contact.uahq@gmail.com if you would like to join us.



Maximizing your professional development in quality

As we approach mid-year, many of us are looking to the second half of 2024 to plan for all that is still possible to accomplish. Now is a great time for everyone to do a mid-year check on how you are investing in yourself and your professional goals – and whether you are maximizing professional development dollars your employer may offer.

- According to NAHQ research, when it comes to professional development, the majority of healthcare organizations cover a portion of expenses for their employees. But, are employees utilizing those dollars each year? Do they even know they have access to this professional development? 74% of individuals surveyed by NAHQ, which included physicians, nurses, directors, and managers, said they believe employers pay for some or all of their professional development, which could include membership dues, fees, trainings, certification exams and prep courses.
- Meanwhile, 92% of C-suite and VP-level leadership within healthcare organizations said they pay for all or some of their employees' professional development expenses.

Link to the article: [By Patty Resnik, NAHQ President](#)

UAHQ is listening to our members! Many of you asked for more webinars and CE learning opportunities. We are seeking your feedback on a possible **prep course for the Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ)** credential. Please respond with your interest and feedback today.

Scan the QR Code or [CLICK HERE](#)



Want to join us?

UAHQ is always looking for people to serve on our Education and Communication committees. The Education committee plans and promotes educational events. We're planning to hold more events in the future and would appreciate any extra support. The communication committee oversees communications and marketing to UAHQ membership.

Please contact us at contact.uahq@gmail.com if you would like to participate in committee.



UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE
UAHQ Annual Conference
Friday, September 27, 2024

[NAHQ Next, September 9-11, 2024](#)

[Healthcare Quality Week 2024, October 20-26, 2024](#)

[DNV 2024 Symposium Oct 21-25 in Charleston, SC](#)

[IHI Forum Dec 8-11th in Orlando, FL](#)

Potential CMS measure shows divide over quality training standards

BY MARI DEVEREAUX

Hospitals may soon be required to provide set quality training to staff as part of a Medicare reporting program, but health systems and advocacy organizations are split on whether the standardization of quality-related skill sets is necessary to improve patient care.

Healthcare workers in quality roles are generally expected to know how to comply with regulatory requirements, improve care outcomes and assess trends in patient safety data.

However, the [lack of formal training in care quality](#) has led to gaps in staff experience and different perceptions of their duties. As the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services considers a measure to standardize this training, some health systems already require staffers to seek specialized certifications while others keep quality training optional.

Many quality-focused staff positions were created on the fly in response to external mandates and regulatory requirements, so standards and expected skill sets for these positions vary widely from hospital to hospital, said Stephanie Mercado, CEO and executive director of the National Association for Healthcare Quality.

[Read more here](#)

EXAMINING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SUICIDE RISK SCREENING IN PRIMARY CARE

01/08/2024

By Craig J. Bryan, PsyD, ABPP, Professor, The Ohio State University College of Medicine

Since 2000, the U.S. suicide rate has risen by more than 35%.¹ Nearly half of suicide decedents visit primary care in the months immediately prior to their deaths.² Some researchers and suicide prevention advocates have therefore encouraged the adoption of universal suicidal ideation screening in primary care.^{3,4} The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)⁵ has noted there is insufficient evidence to support universal screening for suicidal ideation, however, especially among patients who are not diagnosed with a mental health condition or displaying other signs of increased risk.

[Read the article here](#)

THE CONTINUOUS EVOLUTION OF LEADING QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement

“Quality leaders can be catalysts for improving patient outcomes tied to quality, patient safety, and patient experience.”

James Moses, MD, MPH, is keenly aware that the world of health care is ever evolving. During a recent interview with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), the Chief Quality, Safety, and Experience Officer of Corewell Health (Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA) listed some of the many challenges faced by health care leaders in recent years: COVID, financial pressures, health equity, and artificial intelligence (AI) just for starters.

“We’re not living in a static world,” he said. This has meant chief quality officers (CQOs) like him have had to “constantly develop expertise and skills we didn’t have when he started.”

Moses cited the potentially transformative power of AI as an example. “I think AI can be a tool to uplift quality and patient safety outcomes,” he said. He pointed to AI’s potential to meaningfully address broken and unnecessarily burdensome workflow processes that contribute to clinician burnout.

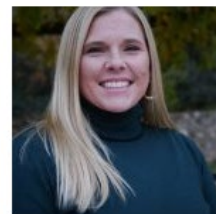
[Read the full article](#)



The 2024 UAHQ Board

President **Adrienne Brown- CPHQ, Quality Program Manager Molina Healthcare**

Adrienne has worked in healthcare quality for almost 18 years. Adrienne is married with two girls (ages 7 & 11) and two dogs. She grew up as a competitive figure skater and had the opportunity of a lifetime to skate in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.



President Elect **Jessica Hackwell- CPHQ, Quality Consultant Intermountain Health**

In 2005, she became a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality. Her background includes developing processes, policies, and auditing to prepare for NCQA accreditation. She has extensive experience in population health, managed care, home care, and regulatory compliance. Her dream is to make healthcare available, safe, and accessible for everyone. She believes that health care quality leads the charge in making this dream a reality. When not at work, she enjoys spending time with her husband, children, and family.



Immediate Past President **Emily Carlson- MHA, LSSGB, PCMH, CCE
Quality Manager University of Utah Community Physicians Group**

Emily has worked in quality improvement in various roles since 2005. When Emily is not working she enjoys spending time with her husband and 3 kids all of whom are in the thick of afternoon activities, sports, and a packed social calendar, which in turn keeps Emily busy playing chauffeur and sports enthusiast.



Secretary **Lindsay King - BA Psy, Quality Improvement Specialist, Health Choice Utah**

Lindsay has held several roles in her healthcare career ranging from behavioral health to primary care, Inpatient and Outpatient settings as well as managed care and population health. She enjoys the relationships made along the way with providers and patients and truly impacting social determinants of health. On weekends, you will find her outside either hiking, kayaking or attending her kids sports events.



Treasurer **Brittany Siebenhaar- MPH, CHES, Quality Interventions Manager Molina Healthcare**

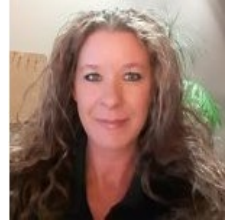
Previously, Brittany has worked in in clinical settings, for an international non-profit, and for state and local health, departments promoting public health. She joined the UAHQ board to meet other excellent quality-minded individuals and promote this important work. She loves people, traveling, all things beach/ocean, and sprinter triathlons





Member at Large

DeAnn Andreason- CPC, Quality Improvement Specialist Health Choice Utah
Her main role is working to improve quality of care and outcomes for patients as well as education for providers. She is known to geek out over data and is a wizard with spreadsheets and pivot tables. She is a certified professional coder and has work experience with billing, coding and HEDIS abstraction. On the weekends she can be found in the desert rock hounding or enjoying a mystery or fantasy novel.



Education Chair Person

Chanda Sundara- MBA HM, PCMH, CCE, LSSBG Quality Improvement Specialist University of Utah CPG
Chanda has worked in healthcare quality for over 18 years. When not busy helping staff and providers improve patient care, Chanda has her hands full with her vibrant two-year daughter. Chanda enjoys spending her weekends with her husband and daughter taking walks and cooking.



Communication Chair Person

Shelly Rives- MSHS, CPHQ Accreditation Specialist University of Utah Health
Shelly works to help staff maintain important accreditation standards and certifications. She has worked in the Quality field for 16 years. Prior to this Shelly held a role as a Clinical Exercise Specialist working with patients to recover from cardiac events. On the home front, she is married, has two kids and two grandchildren, loves to ski and camp.



Call for Newsletter Information

Our goal is for this newsletter to be meaningful to our members. If you have something to contribute to this newsletter please email us at contact.uahq@gmail.com. We would love to share your events, publications, favorite articles, successes and lessons learned in quality, or anything else that you feel would be beneficial to the healthcare quality community. We appreciate your support and love to hear from the members!

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR FAVORITE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT WEBSITES!



ACCELERATE

