



For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Nicole Whittam

nicole.panzica@kindersmile.org

973-744-7003 Ext. 209

Dr. Nicole McGrath-Barnes of KinderSmile Foundation Named To Medicaid Policy Center Advisory Committee

***Will Offer Support and Council to Advance Solutions
To Improve New Jersey's Medicaid Program***

BLOOMFIELD, New Jersey —February 7, 2019 — Nicole McGrath-Barnes, DDS, FACD, the President and CEO of [KinderSmile Foundation](http://www.kindersmile.org), has been named to the Advisory Board of the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute's new Medicaid Policy Center (MPC).

Dr. McGrath-Barnes will join select national health and social science innovators offering support and counsel to the MPC, which was launched to advance the quality and cost effectiveness of New Jersey's Medicaid program.

The [Medicaid Policy Center](http://www.mpcnj.org) (MPC) will deliver independent research, analysis and policy solutions to improve health outcomes while also controlling costs. MPC will work in partnership with other organizations and the state government agencies that operate the New Jersey Medicaid program, including the Department of Human Services - Office of Medicaid Innovation. This new DHS Office provides a unique platform for collaboration with the MPC to improve the quality, delivery and cost of care. Common focus areas include developing alternative payment models and purchasing strategies that drive improvement in patient outcomes.

“We are excited to have Dr. McGrath-Barnes' insight and perspective as we work to advance solutions to strengthen our state's Medicaid program. Our advisory committee members bring deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities ahead and will help guide us in this critical work,” said Linda Schwimmer, President and CEO of the Quality Institute.

Dr. McGrath-Barnes' experience in the private and public fields of dentistry gives her valuable insight on the Medicaid program from both the provider and patient perspectives. She looks forward to contributing to MPC in order to help increase access to oral health care for children across the State.

New Jersey Medicaid provides health coverage for nearly 1.8 million of the State's residents, including forty percent of the State's children. The MPC will serve as a resource to both public and private institutions.

The MPC is funded by a grant from The Nicholson Foundation, and is among the handful of independent research centers around the nation exploring ways to improve Medicaid in partnership with governments.

The Advisory Committee also includes Niall Brennan, MPP, President and CEO of the Health Care Cost Institute; Dianne Hasselman, Deputy Executive Director, National Association of Medicaid Directors; Meg Murray, CEO, Association of Community Health Plans; Chad Shearer, Vice President for Policy, Medicaid Institute at United Hospital Fund of New York; Kathleen Noonan, CEO of the Camden Coalition; and Dr. Pauline Chen, a physician who has written about end-of-life care issues.

“We are thankful for the national health care leaders who have joined our advisory board—all experts in their fields and true innovators,” said Matt D’Oria, a Quality Institute staff member. D’Oria will lead the MPC along with Kate Shamszad, who served as Clinical Director of Child Life and Integrative Care at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center.

“The expert advice and perspective of our advisory board members will be invaluable as we work to improve Medicaid for today and for the years ahead,” D’Oria said.

About KinderSmile Foundation

KinderSmile Foundation, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) founded by Dr. Nicole McGrath-Barnes in 2007, envisions a future where every child has access to a dentist and dental disease is eradicated. Its charitable mission is to provide underserved children with access to comprehensive dental care and educate children and their families on the importance of dental hygiene. Headquartered in Bloomfield, New Jersey, KinderSmile Foundation gives kids a “dental head start in our community” of Essex, Union, Morris and Passaic Counties of New Jersey, as well as abroad through annual mission trips. Over the past 12 years, KinderSmile Foundation has provided more than \$3 Million of in-kind/donated dental services and impacted over 15,700 low-income families in NJ and seven developing nations, in order to eliminate the #1 epidemic of economically disadvantaged children—dental disease.