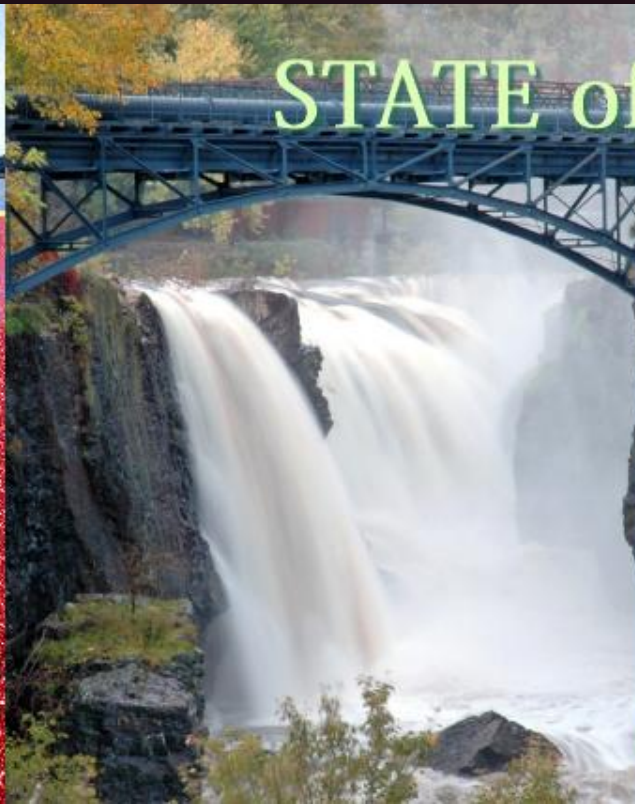


Making the Most with Less

A Legislator's Perspective
State Senator Joseph Vitale (NJ-19)



Disclosures

- No relevant financial relationship exists.
- I am not a medical professional.

Milestones of Stroke Care in NJ

- 2004: New Jersey enacted the “Stroke Center Act” requiring the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services to designate licensed general hospitals that meet certain standards as either Primary or Comprehensive Stroke Centers

Milestones of Stroke Care in NJ

- 2005: The Department issued a Request for Application for the Stroke Center Designation Grant.
- 2006: The Department proposed new rules that applied to all designated Stroke Centers to maintain a database that supports evaluation of outcomes and continuous quality improvements.

Milestones of Stroke Care in NJ

- 2007: The Department began receiving licensing applications from hospitals for Stroke Center Designation.
- 2007: The Department launched the Stroke Data Registry project.
- 2008: The Department convened its first Stroke Advisory Panel meeting.

Lessons Learned

- Be inclusive - Ensure the policy initiative does not exclude/limit the number of hospitals that could apply for designation.
- Utilize strong Brain Attack Coalition Guideline language and do not compromise on key components
- Involve key stakeholders, such as the Hospital Association, American Stroke Association and Department of Health early in the process.
- Include an appropriation in the legislation to help hospitals with grants to secure the equipment needed for designation. Keep the appropriation amount low by rolling it out in phases, realizing all hospitals will not need funding support in the first year. Negotiate financial requirements where appropriate.

Lessons Learned

- Utilize information from other states on reduced rehabilitation / treatment costs due to improved initial outcomes.
- Utilize story telling – involve survivors -or- family members of those who were lost to stroke. Do not underestimate the power of the patient.
- Clinical perspectives are invaluable.
- Include language for data collection for evaluation and ongoing quality improvement

NJ Nursing Initiative

A RECENT LEGISLATIVE STUDY

NJ Nursing Initiative

- Identified Stakeholders
- Stakeholders Developed Strategic Plan
- Stakeholders Worked in Groups to Advance Elements of Strategic Plan
- Gather Semi-Annually to Evaluate Plan and Implement Changes



Sound Familiar?

The steps involved in advocating for the NJ Nursing Initiative mirror the goals of NECC in pursuing systemic change to stroke care and prevention.

Critical Elements of Success

- Involve both traditional and nontraditional stakeholders.
- Remain focused on the goal: to improve patient care!
- Be adaptable and creative in how you pursue your goal.
- Work with your champions to elevate the issue within your state.



STATE of NEW JERSEY

Thank you!

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