

The 2009 Picker Award for Excellence® in the Advancement of Patient-Centered Care

* Organizational Award: Institute for Family-Centered Care

“In recognition of the success of the Institute for Family-Centered Care in advancing patient- and family-centered care in all settings where individuals receive care and support.”

The Institute for Family-Centered Care, a non-profit organization, works in partnership with patients, families, and health care professions, and provides essential leadership to advance the understanding and practice of patient- and family-centered care. By promoting collaborative, empowering relationships among patients, families, and health care professionals, the Institute facilitates patient- and family-centered change in all settings where individuals and families receive care and support.

* Individual Award: Margaret E. O’Kane

“In recognition of her leadership of the National Committee for Quality Assurance and her lifetime achievement in improving patient-centered health care through measurement, reporting and accountability.”

Margaret O’Kane is the founding president of the National Committee for Quality Assurance and a leading advocate for measurement, reporting, and accountability to improve health care quality. In 1999, the Institute of Medicine elected Margaret a member; she is the recipient of the CDC’s *Champion of Prevention* award, and is often on the *Modern Healthcare’s* list of the *100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare*. She is the co-chair of the National Priorities Partnership of the National Quality Forum.

* Individual Award: Dr. Bill Thomas

“In recognition of his outstanding achievements in envisioning and implementing a new paradigm for long-term care that focuses on nurturing and sustaining a meaningful life for the aging.”

Bill Thomas is the first recipient of an individual Picker Award in the field of long-term care. An internationally known expert on geriatric medicine and eldercare, Bill, along with his wife, Judith Meyers-Thomas, developed the Eden Alternative – that offered a “creative way to change the culture of nursing homes by bring life and laughter into the lives of elders” and fundamentally changed the relationship between staff and management. Later, Dr. Thomas developed a new approach to long-term care known as the “Green House” which is being replicated nationwide.

Learn more about the [Picker Institute](#) and the [Picker Principles](#).