



Mercy Children's Hospital

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Toledo, OH 43608
(419)251-3592

December 10, 2009

Mercy St. Anne Hospital

Mercy St. Charles Hospital

Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center

Mercy Children's Hospital

Mercy Hospital of Defiance

Mercy Tiffin Hospital

Mercy Willard Hospital

Mercy Medical Partners

Tracy Plouck
State Medicaid Director
Ohio Dept. of Job & Family Services
Office of Ohio Health Plans (Medicaid)
50 W. Town
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Ms. Plouck:

I am writing on behalf of Mercy Children's Hospital to express our support for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' proposal to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services resources for pediatric quality improvement through the federal CHIPRA Quality Demonstration Grants.

Mercy Children's Hospital is a unique partnership among the area's premier medical facilities, St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center, the University of Toledo College of Medicine and the University of Michigan's C.S. Mott Children's Hospital. Mercy Children's offers the most comprehensive pediatric care for children in our area and is the only pediatric facility in the region to offer teaching, research and patient care in one location. It is a regional referral center for pediatric emergency trauma cases, as well as cancer, burn, neonatal, and critical care.

The Ohio proposal aims to significantly and measurably improve care and outcomes for children served by Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program in Ohio. The proposed model utilizes an existing infrastructure of networks within Ohio that delivers the entire spectrum of children's health care. These networks include children's hospitals, pediatricians, perinatal providers, state agencies, professional organizations, family advocacy groups, and researchers, and have demonstrated the capacity and expertise to measurably improve care and outcomes for children and families.

The proposal builds upon past and current successful collaborative efforts among these organizations to create what we believe will become a national model for quality care for Ohio's youngest population. Through the systematic application of improvement science methods, the Ohio collaboration seeks to make Ohio a leader in positive birth outcomes, optimal childhood development and safe care for children. As mandated in the CHIPRA legislation, the proposal also involves scientific evaluation of several promising new practices to improve the quality of children's health care and deliver improved outcomes.

We strongly support the vision your team has developed and believe it will build capacity to ensure quality health care and outcomes for children covered by Medicaid in Ohio. You have our strong support.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John T. Schaeufele

John T. Schaeufele, MD, FAAP
President & CEO