



TED STRICKLAND
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

January 4, 2010

Tracy Plouck
State Medicaid Director
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Office of Ohio Health Plans (Medicaid)
50 West Town Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Director Plouck:

On behalf of Governor Ted Strickland's office, I am pleased to support the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' proposal for a CHIPRA Quality Demonstration Grant through the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Ohio's proposal offers an innovative approach that will create a replicable quality system for children's health care provided through the state's Medicaid program and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

The proposal builds on an infrastructure already in place in Ohio and will expand state/local and public/private partnerships between six children's hospitals, perinatal providers, primary care practices, professional associations, family advocacy organizations, university and children's hospital affiliated researchers, and state agencies. And, as required by the CHIPRA legislation, the proposal will focus on experimentation and evaluation of several promising approaches to improve overall healthcare quality and demonstrate positive outcomes for children.

We are especially pleased with the proposal's support for the newly created Center for Early Childhood Development within the Ohio Department of Education. The Ohio Department of Education and the Governor's office are working collaboratively on the center to provide young children with the best chance for success in life by accessing quality health care for their full development. In addition, we are pleased that the grant will assist in improving behavioral health care among children and adolescents in Ohio's school system.

Ohio's CHIPRA grant project team possesses the needed experience, skills and commitment to ensure the success of the project. We urge the United States. Department of Health and Human Services to favorably consider this grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John D. Stanford".

John D. Stanford
Executive Assistant for Education Policy

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