



## Ohio Chapter

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December 17, 2009

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

Dear Tracy,

I am pleased to provide my enthusiastic support for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' proposal in response to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services request for applications for the CHIPRA Quality Demonstration Grants. The Ohio proposal describes an excellent model that will establish and evaluate a national quality system for children's health care which encompasses care provided through the Medicaid program and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

The Ohio proposal aims to significantly and measurably improve care and outcomes for children in Ohio who are covered by Medicaid through working at multiple levels of the health care system to provide integrated systems and continuity that address children's and families' needs across the pediatric lifespan. The proposed model utilizes an existing infrastructure of networks within Ohio—successful collaborative efforts with primary care physicians, the children's hospitals, perinatal providers,—and involves state agencies, professional organizations, family advocacy groups, and researchers affiliated with state universities and children's hospitals. Through the systematic application of improvement science methods, this statewide collaboration seeks to achieve best in nation results for birth outcomes, developmental trajectories, and safe hospital care for children. And, as mandated in the CHIPRA legislation, the proposal also involves experimentation and evaluation of several promising ideas to improve the quality of children's healthcare and demonstrate improved outcomes.

The Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (OAAP), represents over 2,900 pediatricians and pediatricians in training who are committed to the health and well-being of Ohio's children, and these members stand willing and ready to assist the state in developing a system in Ohio that will bring about quality improvement all the way from the hospitals down to the practice level. This work is critical to ensuring all of Ohio's children have access to quality healthcare, with access to their special needs and services. The OAAP has worked with your department and the state on various quality improvement efforts over the past three years, and we are pleased to continue our efforts of collaboration.

You have assembled a group that has the skills, experience, passion, and dedication to work effectively to measurably improve care and outcomes for children and families. I strongly recommend the vision that your group has developed and believe it will build capacity and capability to ensure quality healthcare and outcomes for children covered by Medicaid in Ohio. You have my support, and the support of the pediatric community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Wervy Arnold".

Melissa Wervy Arnold  
Executive Director