



Office of the Vice President

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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,

As Vice President of the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists and an OB/Gyn who has practiced in Ohio for the past 35 years, 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--the children's hospitals, perinatal providers, successful collaborative efforts involving primary care practices—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.

I have served on the Executive Committee of the Ohio Perinatal Quality Collaborative (OPQC), one of the proposed grant projects. Using standardized improvement science methods, OPQC has produced some dramatic changes in care for pregnant women and newborns in Ohio since its inception September, 2008. This example of an outcomes-focused, intensive, multi-institutional improvement collaborative shows that, clinicians, state government, improvement experts and families, working together on a statewide basis, can improve health outcomes.

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 strong support.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of J. Craig Strafford MD MPH in black ink.

J. Craig Strafford, MD MPH

Vice President

American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists

cc:

Edward F. Donovan, MD

Ohio Perinatal Quality Collaborative