



December 31, 2009

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

DELIVERY VIA EMAIL

Dear Ms. Plouck:

On behalf of my members, which include Akron Children's Hospital – I am writing to express our support for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' proposal to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for pediatric quality improvement resources through federal CHIPRA Quality Demonstration Grants.

The Ohio proposal aims to significantly and measurably improve care and outcomes for children in Ohio covered by Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Ohio's proposed model utilizes an existing infrastructure of networks within Ohio throughout the entire spectrum of children's health care. These networks include our world class children's hospitals, pediatricians, perinatal providers, state agencies, professional organizations, family advocacy groups, and researchers. This is a group that has already delivered proven results through similar efforts and has the skills, experience, passion, and dedication to work effectively to measurably improve care and outcomes for children and families.

The proposed program 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 by achieving the best birth outcomes in the country, national developmental trajectories, and making Ohio the safest place in the country for children to receive health care. And, as mandated in the CHIPRA legislation, the proposal also involves experimentation and evaluation of several promising new ideas to improve the quality of children's health care and demonstrate improved outcomes.

As demonstrated by our work on the current Solutions for Patient Safety and Ohio Perinatal Quality Collaboratives, we here at Akron Children's are committed to improving children's healthcare in the State of Ohio. We strongly support the vision your team has developed and believe it will build capacity and capability to ensure quality health care and outcomes for children covered by Medicaid in Ohio. You have our strong support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael W Bird".

Michael W Bird, MD, MPH
VP Medical Services/Patient Safety Officer
Akron Children's Hospital