The American Board of Pediatrics

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December 22, 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 Ms. Plouck,

I am very pleased to recommend the proposal that the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services will submit 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). As a member of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Subcommittee on Children's Healthcare Quality Measures for Medicaid and CHIP programs, I particularly look forward to the results of efforts to assess quality performance metrics through this proposal mechanism.

My day-to-day work focuses on improving the quality of children's healthcare and achieving improved outcomes for children. Various programs led by the Ohio partners have proved to be exemplar models as the American Board of Pediatrics develops a program that requires performance measurement and improvement for pediatricians to maintain their board certification.

I understand that Cincinnati Children's Hospital will collaborate with other state agencies and Ohio partners in the work of this proposal to achieve best in class outcomes for safety, prematurity, and children with behavioral and mental health conditions. From my experience in several improvement initiatives with colleagues at Cincinnati Children's, I can attest to their improvement expertise, innovative approach to complex issues, and commitment to improving healthcare for children. This proposal will provide a most strong foundation that will accelerate the work within Ohio to improve outcomes for children.

I strongly recommend the vision described in the Ohio proposal and support its funding. I am confident the Ohio partners have what it takes to get the job done. An investment in Ohio will not only build the state's capacity and capability to ensure and sustain quality healthcare and outcomes for children and families but will also provide lessons to inform other states' efforts. I am certain that your work will result in significantly improved care and outcomes for children.

Sincerely,

Paul V. Miles, MD, FAAP
Senior Vice President for Quality and Maintenance of Certification
American Board of Pediatrics