



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 Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, 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.

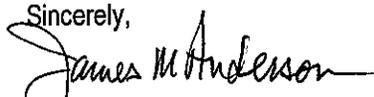
The Ohio proposal aims to significantly and measurably improve care and outcomes for children in Ohio covered by Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Ohio's proposed model utilizes an existing infrastructure of networks within Ohio throughout the entire spectrum of children's health care. These networks include the eight children's hospitals in Ohio, 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.

Cincinnati Children's is dedicated to providing a leadership role in this grant and help build a lasting infrastructure in Quality improvement capability among providers and systems through out Ohio. Cincinnati Children's has been deeply invested in delivery system transformation for the past decade, yet we continue to learn everyday new ways to achieve results and imbed them in our healthcare culture. This grant is an important step to build on what has already been accomplished through other state and federal funds and private entities like the Cardinal Health Foundation and the Ohio Business Roundtable. The vision is to achieve unprecedented state wide improvements in outcomes, cost and value. Cincinnati Children's is committed to helping Ohio build a long-term sustainable system which will provide the right care, at the right time in the appropriate environment to give us measurable results and prove there is a business case for providing quality care to our children.

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,


James M. Anderson,
President and CEO


Michael Fisher,
President and CEO Elect