



Ohio Family and Children First

Governor's Office
Ted Strickland Governor

December 14, 2009

Cabinet Council

Department of Aging
Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services
Department of Education
Department of Health
Department of Job and Family Services
Department of Mental Health
Department of Developmental Disabilities
Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
Department of Youth Services
Rehabilitation Services Commission
Office of Budget and Management
Office of the First Lady

State Office

Governor's Office
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East Central
1680 Madison Avenue
Wooster, OH 44691
(330) 263-3632

South Central
1512 South U.S. 68
Suite B100
Urbana, OH 43078
(937) 484-1526

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,

On behalf of the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council, I am pleased to provide my 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.

As you know, the Ohio Family and Children First (OFCF) Cabinet Council consists of eleven state agencies and is chaired by the First Lady of Ohio. The OFCF Cabinet works to coordinate services, systems, resources, and policies so children and families can thrive and succeed in healthy communities. We believe this grant will aid in this purpose by building on successful, collaborative efforts to improve outcomes for children and their 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Sausser Short".

Angela Sausser Short
Director
Ohio Family and Children First