



TED STRICKLAND
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

December 30, 2009

Mr. David Greenberg
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Dear Mr. Greenberg,

As the Governor of the State of Ohio, I am pleased to provide my full support for Ohio's proposal through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services for a CHIPRA Quality Demonstration Grant. For the past three years, my Administration has worked to expand access to care and improve the quality of care for Ohio's children and families.

The title of Ohio's proposal is **BEACON...Best Evidence for Advancing Childhealth in Ohio NOW.**

Our approach represents a fundamental shift in how public policy is designed and implemented. Ohio's proposal will utilize a collaborative governance framework and rely upon 'improvement science' with rapid feedback to achieve quality improvement. We believe that Ohio can provide a national model for quality care for Ohio's children.

Our priority is to achieve the best birth outcomes in the country, to set a national example for developmental screenings and collaborative practice with pediatricians, improve the quality of mental health care for children, and to provide the safest, most cost effective specialty hospital care for children. We have a strong focus on mental health as an integral part of health care for children and young adults. This builds upon the priorities of my administration, as we have developed an early care and development system that addresses the needs of the *whole* child.

The State of Ohio has an excellent history of working with our partners. This proposal engages a rich network of stakeholders, physicians and other providers, universities, business leaders and other key community leaders. Today this network includes the involvement of primary care practices including more than 700 physicians, the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Ohio's nationally recognized Children's Hospitals, many child and family advocacy groups, and researchers from several of Ohio's universities, along with pertinent cabinet level agencies. Finally, 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.

Page Two
December 30, 2009
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You will find that we have assembled an exceptional group of experts who have the skills, experience, passion, and dedication to work effectively to demonstrate improvements in care and outcomes for Ohio's children. My office is ready to assist this effort to reach our vision of ensuring quality healthcare and improving outcomes for the children and young adults we serve through our Medicaid and CHIP program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Strickland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "T" and "S".

Ted Strickland
Governor, State of Ohio