



**Board of Directors
2009-2010**

Sherry Shamblin, Chair
Cindy Birt, Vice Chair
Dave Hunter, Treasurer
Sue Meeks, Secretary
John Costanzo
Don Cooley
Doug Debrick
Liana Flores
Sue Johanson
Noriko Kantake
Karen Montgomery-Reagan
Dawn Murray
Pam Ramage
Brandie Nance

Ex-officio Directors
Kendall Brown-Cloviss
Jane Hamel-Lambert, President
Heather Reed
Robert Stewart

Contact us:
Sherry Shamblin, Chair
sshamblin@tcmhcs.org

Jane Hamel-Lambert, President
hamel-lj@ohio.edu

John Borchard, Manager
Program Development
Borchard@oucom.ohiou.edu

December 11, 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,

Integrating Professionals for Appalachian Children (IPAC) is pleased support the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' application for the CHIPRA Quality Demonstration Grant sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This funding will provide Ohio with an excellent opportunity to establish and evaluate a national quality system for children's health care that encompasses care provided through the Medicaid program and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

As a rural health network composed of child-serving systems in Southeastern Ohio, we endorse Ohio's efforts to significantly and measurably improve care and outcomes for children in Ohio who are covered by Medicaid. We firmly agree that this is best accomplished through integration of multiple health care systems to provide the comprehensive and coordinated care that addresses children's and families' needs across the pediatric lifespan.

Working collaboratively toward integrated care for children is a goal highly consistent with IPAC's vision to ensure healthy development for all children in Appalachia Ohio through developing innovative, culturally-sensitive programs addressing the critical and complex challenges impacting the health and mental health of our region's children and families. IPAC has a history of involvement with state initiatives that align with our efforts to accomplish this agenda, including the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services's National Academy for State Health Policy ABCD II, an initiative to improve early identification and intervention of young children. We have recently partnered with the Ohio Department of Health through SAMHSA's Project LAUNCH. This project is a collaboration of IPAC and Ohio's Child Wellness Council to create a shared vision of wellness and builds a foundation to sustain effective, integrated services and systems to support and promote the wellness of young children and their families.

We support 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.

Sincerely,


Sherry Shamblin, PCC-S
Chair of IPAC Board of Directors

Integrating Professionals for Appalachian Children
c/o Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine
347 Grosvenor Hall
Athens, OH 45701