



**Department of  
Job and Family Services**

**Ted Strickland**, Governor  
**Douglas E. Lumpkin**, Director

December 14, 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 Tracy,

I am pleased to provide my enthusiastic 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.

Ohio has a nationally respected quality rating and improvement system, known as Step Up To Quality for licensed early care and education programs. Step Up To Quality requires participating programs to screen children, share results with families and make referrals if necessary. It is our hope to strengthen that requirement even more by encouraging families to utilize a primary care physician and to eventually have reciprocal relationships with them to support the optimal health and well-being of Ohio's children. Step Up To Quality has broad stakeholder support both at the state and local levels.

30 East Broad Street  
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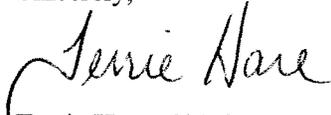
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You have assembled a group that has the skills, experience, passion, and dedication to work effectively to measurably improve care and outcomes for children and families. I strongly recommend the vision that your group has developed and believe it 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 cursive script that reads "Terrie Hare". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Terrie Hare, Chief

Bureau of Child Care and Development