



December 22, 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,

I am very pleased to recommend the proposal that the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services will submit 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).

This proposal supports the mission of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to "attain optimal physical, mental, and social health and well-being for all infants, children, adolescents, and young adults".

We enthusiastically applaud Ohio's efforts to attain the best outcomes for premature infants and children with mental and behavioral health issues, to ensure the safest hospital experience for children by eliminating preventable harm, and to build the capacity and capability of the healthcare workforce by developing a sustainable infrastructure. We believe that you have brought together a strong collaboration of state partners that has the skills, experience, passion, and commitment to succeed.

We are pleased that the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics is leading statewide efforts to improve identification of children at risk for developmental delay and autism; 60 practices involving approximately 880 primarily care pediatricians are involved in this work. In addition, the Center for Health Care Quality at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center is collaborating with the AAP Chapter Quality Network on a national effort with state AAP chapters to support primary care practices to improve care and outcomes for children with asthma. Because of its potential to succeed, the Ohio chapter of the AAP was one of four chapters selected to participate in this effort.

The national AAP has experience working with many Ohio colleagues who are involved in your proposal. Dr. John Duby, who is leading the Ohio chapter efforts on developmental and autism screening as part of EPSDT examinations, was a member of the AAP Council on Disabilities that authored the policy statement, "Identifying Infants and children with Developmental Disorders and Disabilities".

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He currently chairs the AAP Vision of Pediatrics 2020 Task Force. Drs. Lisa Simpson and Carole Lannon are recent members of our Steering Committee on Quality Improvement and Management and were co-authors of the AAP Policy Statement, "Principles for the Development and Use of Quality Measures". Dr. Simpson currently serves as a key policy advisor on the AAP Obesity Leadership Workgroup, and Dr. Lannon collaborated with the AAP on the development of the "Partnerships for Quality", a project that worked with 10 state chapters to implement quality improvement initiatives for children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

The Ohio CHIPRA proposal brings together strong teamwork along with the expertise, innovation, commitment and vision that will be successful in improving health care and outcomes for children. I strongly commend this proposal and believe it will build the capacity and capability within Ohio to ensure a sustainable infrastructure for quality healthcare and outcomes for children. The rest of the nation will learn from your example. You have my enthusiastic recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Errol R. Alden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Errol" and last name "Alden" clearly legible.

Errol R. Alden, MD, FAAP
Executive Director/CEO
American Academy of Pediatrics

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