



December 11, 2009

Tracy Plouck
State Medicaid Director
Ohio Dept. of Job & Family Services
Office of Ohio Health Plans (Medicaid)
50 W. Town Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Tracy,

The Ohio Association of Community Health Centers (OACHC) is pleased to provide our support for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' application for the CHIPRA Quality Demonstration Grant offered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. 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 Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

This proposal aims to significantly improve care for Ohio's children by working at many levels in the health care system to provide integrated systems and continuity that address children's and families' needs across the pediatric lifespan. The proposed model uses an existing infrastructure of networks within Ohio to apply scientific methods that will significantly improve results in birth outcomes and safe hospital care for children. It also involves experimentation and evaluation of several promising ideas to improve the quality of children's healthcare and demonstrate improved outcomes.

OACHC represents all 36 Federally Qualified Health Center grantees and look-alikes in Ohio. Our members collectively operate more than 150 sites in both urban and rural counties throughout the state and provide care to 415,000 patients annually, the majority of whom are below 200% of the federal poverty level. This population includes a considerable number of children who would directly benefit from this grant.

I strongly recommend the vision your group has developed to ensure quality healthcare and outcomes for children covered by Medicaid in Ohio. We enthusiastically support you in your quest to obtain this funding, and urge approval of your application.

Sincerely,

Shawn K. Frick
President & CEO