



Ohio Association of Health Plans

Representing Ohio's Health Insurers

December 15, 2009

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

Dear Director Plouck:

I write in 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 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. Since Ohio's Medicaid Managed Care program is already focused on improved quality, utilizing this existing infrastructure will be beneficial. Using the plans audited HEDIS data will be valuable as the statewide collaboration seeks to achieve best in nation results for birth outcomes, developmental trajectories, and safe hospital care for children. As mandated in the CHIPRA legislation, I understand and support the proposal to involve experimentation and evaluation of several promising ideas to improve the quality of children's healthcare and demonstrate improved outcomes.

OAHIP and our Medicaid member health plans look forward to working with the group you have assembled to work effectively to measurably improve care and outcomes for children and families. We believe that this proposal and our strong partnership will build capacity and capability to ensure quality healthcare and outcomes for children covered by Medicaid in Ohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelly McGivern', written in a cursive style.

Kelly McGivern
President and CEO