

December 30, 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:

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (ODDC) is pleased to support the Ohio Department of Jobs & Family Services' proposal for a CHIPRA Quality Demonstration Grant through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We are particularly interested and pleased that this system of care model will include care provided by Ohio's Medicaid program and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), programs which are often overlooked as care models are being developed.

In these bleak economic times, it is particularly efficient to build a new care model on an infrastructure network which already exists. This network will expand state/local and public/private partnerships between six children's hospitals, perinatal providers, primary care practices, professional associations, family advocacy organizations, university and children's hospital affiliated researchers, and state agencies. The primary goal is to integrate systems and provide continuity of care that will effectively and efficiently meet children's and families' needs across the pediatric lifespan. By systematically applying scientifically-tested methods, this statewide collaboration will strive to achieve successful birth outcomes, developmental trajectories, and safe hospital care for children. And, as required by the CHIPRA legislation, the proposal will focus on experimentation and evaluation of several promising approaches to improve overall healthcare quality and demonstrate positive outcomes for children.

Services for children with developmental disabilities are an important area of focus for the ODDC. We have long had some concern regarding how and where these children "fit" into existing service systems and whether they are receiving early enough and adequate enough scrutiny and follow up service to ensure the best possible health outcomes for them. This grant will address these issues and Council will follow its progress closely and work to integrate our own grant activities with the CHIPRA's results.

We have every confidence in the CHIPRA grant project team and we share the vision to build the infrastructure necessary to ensure the best quality healthcare for children covered by Medicaid in Ohio. We look forward to working with you and the other stakeholders, and hope that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will favorably consider this grant application for funding.

Sincerely,


Carolyn S. Knight
Executive Director