



Department of Mental Health

Ted Strickland, Governor
Sandra Stephenson, Director

December 28, 2009

Tracy Plouck
State Medicaid Director
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Office of Ohio Health Plans (Medicaid)
50 West Town Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Ms. Plouck:

On behalf of the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH), I am extremely pleased to support the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' proposal for a CHIPRA Quality Demonstration Grant through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Ohio's proposal offers an innovative approach that creates a replicable quality system for children's health care, including behavioral health services. This comprehensive system of care model will include care provided through the state's Medicaid program and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Designed to demonstrably improve care and outcomes for children covered by Medicaid, the proposal builds upon an infrastructural network already in place in Ohio. 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.

The behavioral health component of the CHIPRA grant is the Ohio Pediatric/Psychiatry Decision Support Network, which will support continuous quality improvement processes through the assessment of current practice, standardization of practice protocols, and the provision of training and consultation services. These activities will be targeted to primary care providers and general psychiatrists treating children with behavioral/psychiatric illness. Child and adolescent psychiatrists affiliated with Ohio's six Children's Hospitals and child/adolescent psychiatric units of teaching hospitals

Establishing mental health as a cornerstone of overall health

30 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
mentalhealth.ohio.gov

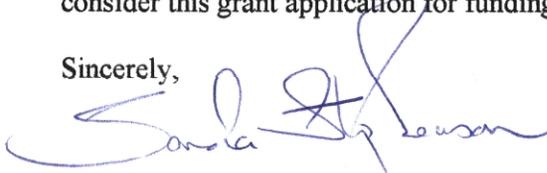
614 | 466-2297
614 | 752-9696 TTY
614 | 752-9453 Fax

Ms. Tracy Plouck
Page 2
December 28, 2009

will utilize a technological infrastructure through expertise and measurement to the point of service in real time by video, telephone, e-visits and/or secure e-mail. By having consistent standards of care, fidelity measures, treatment guidelines, and diagnostic and therapeutic management support available to primary care providers, the inappropriate use of anti-psychotic medications will be reduced, and care improved for children in medical homes. This referral network will also help better integrate care for children with severe emotional disturbance, and train primary care providers on the early identification of psychiatric problems through enhanced EPSDT screening for proper diagnosis and treatment.

The CHIPRA grant project team is outstanding, with the needed experience, skills, commitment and know-how to ensure the implementation and success of the project. ODMH is invested in being a part of this effort, and supports the shared vision to build capacity and infrastructure to ensure the integration of physical and mental health care and positive outcomes for children covered by Medicaid in Ohio. We look forward to partnering 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sandra Stephenson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "S".

Sandra Stephenson, MSW, MA
Director