



December 10, 2009

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

DELIVERY VIA EMAIL

Dear Ms. Plouck:

On behalf of the Quality Institute of the Ohio Hospital Association, I am writing to express our support for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' proposal to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for pediatric quality improvement resources through federal CHIPRA Quality Demonstration Grants.

It has been my privilege to work with the children's hospitals throughout the state as well as the Ohio Children's Hospital Association in improving quality of care. In my role in the Quality Institute, I have worked with the children's hospitals on two quality improvement projects: one to reduce codes outside the ICU and another to reduce adverse drug events and surgical site infections. I have firsthand knowledge of the commitment of these world class hospitals and physicians. They have proven results!

The Ohio proposal aims to significantly and measurably improve care and outcomes for children in Ohio covered by Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Ohio's proposed model utilizes an existing infrastructure of networks within Ohio throughout the entire spectrum of children's health care. This is a group that has already delivered proven results through efforts that I have been involved in and, in my opinion, has the skills, experience, passion and dedication to work effectively to measurably improve care and outcomes for children and families.

The proposed program builds upon past and current successful collaborative efforts among these organizations to create what we believe will become a national model for quality care for Ohio's youngest population. Through the systematic application of improvement science methods, the Ohio collaboration seeks to make Ohio a leader by achieving the best birth outcomes and developmental trajectories nationwide, making Ohio the safest place in the country for children to receive health care.

We strongly support the vision your team has developed. You have our strong support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Engler".

David Engler, Ph.D
Vice President, Quality Institute

Cc: Jim Castle
Bridget Gargan
John Callender

