



Ohio Health Care Coverage
and Quality Council

Ted Strickland, Governor
Mary Jo Hudson, Council Chair / Director, Ohio Department of Insurance
Cynthia Burnell, Executive Director, OHCCQC

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December 15, 2009

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

Dear Ms. Plouck:

I am pleased to provide my enthusiastic 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 describes an excellent model that will establish and evaluate a national quality system for children's health care that encompasses services provided through the Medicaid program and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Ohio's proposal aims to significantly and measurably improve care and outcomes for Medicaid-covered children by working at multiple levels of the health care system to improve system integration and continuity. The proposal would meet the needs of children and their families by building on existing and engaged infrastructures such as children's hospitals, prenatal providers, and primary care practices, as well as further involving state agencies, professional organizations, family advocacy groups, and researchers affiliated with state universities and children's hospitals. Through the systematic application of improvement science methods, this 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, the proposal also involves experimentation and evaluation of several promising ideas to enhance the quality of children's health care and demonstrates improved outcomes.

The mission of the recently created Ohio Health Care Coverage and Quality Council is to identify, develop, and facilitate the implementation of strategies to improve the quality, efficiency, and cost of the state's health care system. Comprised of over thirty members representing diverse health system constituencies, along with those from the legislature and state agencies, the Council looks forward to coordinating and working with the proposed initiative.

The group that has been created to develop and advance the proposed model has the skills, experience, and dedication necessary to succeed in demonstrably improving health care and outcomes for Medicaid-covered children and families. Thank you for the opportunity to offer my strong support.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Burnell
Executive Director
Ohio Health Care Coverage and Quality Council