



OHIO
PSYCHIATRIC
PHYSICIANS
ASSOCIATION

A District Branch of the American Psychiatric Association

Dedicated to promoting the highest quality care for people with mental disorders and to serving the professional needs of Ohio's psychiatric physicians.

President
Brooke Wolf, MD
Cleveland

December 30, 2009

Immediate Past-President
Joseph Locala, MD
Cleveland

Tracy Plouck

State Medicaid Director

President-Elect
James Wasserman, MD
Columbus

Ohio Dept. of Job & Family Services

Office of Ohio Health Plans (Medicaid)

50 W. Town

Secretary
Suzanne Sampang, MD
Cincinnati

Columbus, Ohio 43215

Treasurer
Eileen McGee, MD
Cleveland

Dear Ms. Plouck:

APA Representatives
Robert Ronis, MD
Cleveland

The Ohio Psychiatric Physician's Association (OPPA) enthusiastically supports the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for a CHIPRA Quality Demonstration Grant. This project creates a comprehensive system of care for addressing children's health needs through the state's Medicaid program and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), including enhancing behavioral health services.

Roslyn Seligman, MD
Cincinnati

Marion Sherman, MD
Columbus

The project's primary goal of systems integration and continuity of care will meet children's and families' needs across the pediatric lifespan. We are especially pleased to see the inclusion of a behavioral health component in the grant proposal. The Ohio Pediatric/Psychiatry Decision Support Network will focus on continuous quality improvement strategies that include assessing current practice, standardizing practice protocols, and providing training and consultation services. These activities will target primary care providers and general psychiatrists treating children with behavioral/psychiatric illness. Child and adolescent psychiatrists at Ohio's children's hospitals and child/adolescent psychiatric units of teaching hospitals will benefit from technological infrastructural enhancements that offer expertise and measurement to the point of service in real time by telephone, video, e-visits and/or secure e-mail. Through consistent standards of care, fidelity measures, treatment guidelines, and diagnostic and therapeutic management, it is anticipated that primary care providers will reduce the inappropriate use of anti-psychotic medications and improve care for children in medical homes. By identifying psychiatric problems early through enhanced EPSDT screening and training primary care providers, improved diagnosis and treatment will result in better care for children with severe emotional disturbance.

Past President
Todd Ivan, MD
Akron

Newsletter Editor
Herman Tolbert, MD
Columbus

Executive Director
Janet Shaw, MBA

The OPPA, with participation by Steve Jewel, MD, chair of the OPPA Child and Adolescent Committee, serving on the Ohio Pediatric/Psychiatry Decision Support Network advisory team, will be an active partner in this initiative and is committed to collaborating with the rest of the CHIPRA grant project team to implement identified goals and objectives to enhance the referral network infrastructure and expand capacity. These efforts should ensure better mental and other physical healthcare integration, as well as positive outcomes for children covered by Medicaid in Ohio. We strongly urge the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to consider funding this grant application.

1350 West Fifth Avenue
Suite 218
Columbus, Ohio 43212-2907
(614) 481-7555
(614) 481-7559 Fax

Sincerely,

E-mail:
ohiopsych@ohiopsych.org

Website:
www.ohiopsych.org

Brooke Wolf, MD
President