

OHIO PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

December 10, 2009

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

Dear Tracy,

I am pleased to advise you of the Ohio Psychological Association's 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 which encompasses care provided through the Medicaid program and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). We applaud your efforts in developing this model for quality children's health care.

Your proposal aims to significantly and measurably improve care and outcomes for children in Ohio who are covered by Medicaid through working at multiple levels of the health care system to provide integrated systems and continuity that address children's and families' needs across the pediatric lifespan. The proposed model utilizes an existing infrastructure of networks within Ohio—the children's hospitals, perinatal providers, successful collaborative efforts involving primary care practices—and involves 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. And, as mandated in the CHIPRA legislation, the proposal also involves experimentation and evaluation of several promising ideas to improve the quality of children's healthcare and demonstrate improved outcomes.

Early next year, OPA will initiate a pilot program, inviting practices from around the state to participate in a cultural competence assessment. We recognize that this issue has been identified as one of the primary impediments to health care/or health care improvement. We heartily support this proposal. We will do all we can to support your efforts to expand and improve children's primary health care and behavioral health screening and referrals. I believe that our pilot program will provide some helpful data.

We are impressed with the team you have assembled. It has the skills, experience, passion, and dedication to work effectively to measurably improve care and outcomes for children and families. I strongly recommend the vision that your group has developed and believe it will build capacity and capability to ensure quality healthcare and outcomes for children covered by Medicaid in Ohio. You have our strong support.

Sincerely,



Michael O. Ranney, MPA
Executive Director

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