

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

Dear Ms. Plouck:

On behalf of Toledo Children's Hospital, I am writing to express 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 Grant.

The 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. These networks include our world class children's hospitals, pediatricians, perinatal providers, state agencies, professional organizations, family advocacy groups, and researchers. This is a group that has already delivered proven results through similar efforts and 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 to create what we believe will become a national model for quality care. Through the systematic application of improvement science methods, the collaboration seeks to make Ohio a leader by achieving the best birth outcomes in the country, national developmental trajectories, and making Ohio the safest place in the country for children to receive health care. And, as mandated in the CHIPRA legislation, the proposal also involves experimentation and evaluation of several promising new ideas to improve the quality of children's health care and demonstrate improved outcomes.

The Toledo Children's Hospital strongly supports the vision that has been developed and believes it will build capacity and capability to ensure quality health care and outcomes for children covered by Medicaid in Ohio. Furthermore, Toledo Children's Hospital specifically commits to collaborating in quality measures and to improving quality care with this proposal.

Sincerely,


Kevin Webb
President