

BEACON Council Overview

December 1, 2010

Introduction:

The **BEACON Council** is an evolving statewide public/private partnership which enables and facilitates collaboration among individuals and organizations. **BEACON** is the acronym for the **Best Evidence for Advancing Child Health in Ohio NOW! This partnership encourages and supports initiatives that achieve measurable improvements in children's and adolescent's healthcare and outcomes through improvement science and a **Quality Improvement Infrastructure**. The BEACON Council **Mission** is to improve the quality of care leading to improved health outcomes of care and reduced cost with a special emphasis on Medicaid-eligible children, youth and their families. To improve quality, outcomes and reduce costs requires a strong public/private partnership to support projects targeted to important health issues, the establishment of a sustainable, quality improvement infrastructure; and collaboration. (See Mission Statement and Goals next page.).**

Ohio's Quality Improvement Structure began development when the Office of Ohio Health Plans (OHP) - Ohio's Medicaid program, joined with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and other public and private partners to form the BEACON Council. The BEACON Council is governed by key Council members who comprise its Executive Committee. The Council is also comprised of four Infrastructure Committees: 1) The Quality Measurement Committee; 2) the Health Information Technology and Data Committee; 3) the Quality Improvement Capacity Committee; 4) the Community Advisory Committee.

The **Ohio Government Resource Center** (GRC) and its Board of State Medical School Deans will enable the operational implementation and financing of the quality improvement infrastructure to enable health improvement initiatives. The GRC, on behalf of state agencies, will contract with childrens and youth health experts from the public and private sectors in the state to lead the improvement initiatives with quality improvement experts. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Office of Ohio Health Plans and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Division of Family and Community Health Services (DFCHS) will work jointly with the BEACON Council and the Government Resource Center (GRC) to design and direct healthcare quality improvement initiatives for Ohio's Medicaid covered children, youth and their families.

ODJFS/Ohio Medicaid, ODH, ODMH and other BEACON public and private organizations may invest **financial resources and in-kind services** to build and sustain a quality improvement infrastructure. This infrastructure will support child improvement projects as they are developed and plans for implementation are discussed. At the request of Medicaid, state agencies may identify revenue (e.g., general revenue funds or fees) to support child health quality improvement projects that would qualify for federal Medicaid match. At the request of Medicaid, private sector organizations may identify revenue to support child health quality improvement projects that would qualify for federal Medicaid match.

Proposed Mission Statement for BEACON
(Best Evidence for Advancing Childhealth in Ohio, NOW!)

December 1, 2010

The mission of BEACON is to improve the quality of care leading to improved health outcomes for children in Ohio with a special emphasis on Medicaid-eligible children, youth, and their families. To do so requires a strong public/private partnership to support projects targeted to important health issues, the establishment of a sustainable, quality improvement infrastructure and collaboration.

By 2013, our Goals are to improve the quality of care and patient safety for children by:

1. Providing a common forum to advance access, quality, safety, health equity and related finance and policy improvements for child health in Ohio.
2. Aligning BEACON projects with the advancement of quality measurement, HIT, and electronic health record implementation.
3. Providing an opportunity to share and pilot learning experiences and data, as well as the human, community, and returns on investment, and practice change that accompanies this improvement.
4. Providing a forum for assessment, evaluation and discussion of federal and state child health policy.
5. Providing expertise and perspective regarding quality improvement methods.

Emphasis will be placed on issues that are timely, are supported with external funding and are likely to result in sustainable change as determined by the BEACON Council. Priority will be given to projects that have or intend to have a statewide impact.