



**INSTITUTE FOR  
HEALTHCARE  
IMPROVEMENT**

December 21, 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,

I would like to provide my enthusiastic support and strong recommendation for the proposal that the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services will submit 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).

Ohio has developed programs that promise to provide best in class outcomes for prematurity, hospital safety, and children with behavioral and mental health issues. Funding the proposal would allow Ohio to accelerate its learning and improvement efforts and make this vision a reality. I believe that the Ohio proposal will be successful because it includes a results-driven team with outstanding improvement expertise that will focus on achieving measurable outcomes in care and health for children. Importantly, the focus on developing improvement capability and capacity throughout the state will provide an infrastructure that will sustain quality care and outcomes for children.

One of the members of the strong Ohio partnership, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, is a strategic partner of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. Cincinnati Children's keen focus on quality and safety has made them a national and international leader in quality and an excellent partner in the improvement journey. Cincinnati Children's will contribute its improvement expertise, innovation, and a culture of action to the Ohio collaboration.

I most enthusiastically support the Ohio proposal. The Ohio collaboration involves a group with the skills, experience, passion, and dedication to work effectively to measurably improve care and outcomes for children and families. I support the vision that your group has developed and believe it will improve the lives of children, the health of communities, as well as the joy in the healthcare workforce in Ohio.

Sincerely,

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