



OHIO ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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OAFP shapes health care through advocacy, empowers the specialty of family medicine through leadership and facilitates achievement of professional excellence and satisfaction through education.

December 8, 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 the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians (OAFP), I am pleased to provide my 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).

The Ohio 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.

Representing approximately 4,400 practicing family physicians, residents and medical students, OAFP is dedicated to delivering practical and current clinical medical education to its members. Without this partnership, we would not be able to provide this needed education to our members and subsequently, the patients they serve. Our hope for future CHIPRA partnership opportunities will result in the development of additional quality improvement programming and innovative initiatives to include physician-directed webinars, patient/parent handouts and physician resources that will result in positive and healthy outcomes for Ohio's youngest and most vulnerable patients.

You have assembled a group that 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 my strong support.

Sincerely,

Jeff Harwood, M.D.
President, Ohio Academy of Family Physicians

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