



Governor's Office of Health Transformation

John R. Kasich, Governor

Greg Moody, Director

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Eric Poklar, Director of Government Affairs and Communications
614-752-1554 | eric.poklar@governor.ohio.gov

Kasich Administration Expanding Program to Improve Maternal and Child Health, Reduce Low-Birth-Weight Babies

COLUMBUS – Governor John Kasich's Office of Health Transformation today announced additional funding to coordinate care and improve health outcomes for high-risk mothers and children in southeast Ohio. The Kasich administration will invest \$350,000 to replicate the Community Pathways Model in the Appalachian region of southeast Ohio through a partnership between Integrating Professionals for Appalachian Children (IPAC) and Nationwide Children's Hospital's Partners for Kids (PFK). The Community Pathways Model has dramatically reduced low-weight births in targeted populations in Richland County and has also been implemented successfully in Toledo and Cincinnati.

"This initiative fits perfectly with the Governor's objectives to improve care coordination for vulnerable Ohioans and to pay for value, not volume, in health care," said Greg Moody, director of the Governor's Office of Health Transformation. "I am especially excited that the Community Pathways Model has demonstrated success in reducing low-birth-weight babies, an issue that is very important to the Governor."

In newly reported data to the Ohio Department of Health, the Community Health Access Project (CHAP) in Richland County achieved a 30 percent reduction in the risk for low-weight births using the Community Pathway Model. Nationally, every low-weight or preterm birth costs states between \$28,000 and \$40,000 in medical care and other related costs. In Ohio, low-weight births represent only about 10 percent of all Medicaid births but account for more than 50 percent of all Medicaid birth expenditures.

The Community Pathways Model was developed by CHAP to improve health and preventative care for high-risk mothers and children in difficult-to-serve areas. It coordinates care for individuals within targeted medical "pathways," such as medication assessment, smoking cessation and pregnancy and postpartum care. The model utilizes a pay-for-performance methodology that provides financial incentives to providers that are tied to improving outcomes, and it eliminates duplication among health and human service agencies.

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77 South High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-752-3471
www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov
Twitter @OHTohio

“In the Community Pathways Model, each pathway is designed to address a single health or social issue and confirm that the issue has been resolved,” said Sarah Redding, M.D., M.P.H., executive director of CHAP. “In the pregnancy pathway, for example, community health coordinators confirm that women at highest risk for a poor birth outcome are found and connected to evidence-based care, such as prenatal visits, and they follow the mother’s progress to confirm that the outcome is a normal-birth-weight infant.”

"IPAC is delighted to be selected as a partner in Governor Kasich’s initiative, which puts kids first and recognizes that investing in healthy children and healthy families is the best investment we can make,” said Jane Hamel-Lambert, Ph.D., president of IPAC and associate professor of family medicine at the Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine at Ohio University. “Our rural community showcases connectivity between agencies, educators and health professionals, and a local pride that motivates our commitment to making this project successful. These tools are a welcome boost to a unique community.”

“We are pleased to bring this innovative model of care coordination to a population in need,” said Sean Gleeson, M.D., medical director for PFK and vice president of community health and wellness at Nationwide Children’s Hospital. “As an accountable care organization in southeastern Ohio, Partners for Kids can extend the physician’s impact on patients’ lives by coordinating a community-based team approach to care that delivers the best outcomes for children.”

For more information and a progress report on Kasich administration initiatives to improve care coordination for high-risk mothers and babies, see: [Progress Report on Healthy Mothers and Babies](#)

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