

To Health and Human Services Subcommittee, House Finance Committee:

My name is Frances Turner. I was the Head Nurse of the Nursing Department at the Morrow County Health Department for 25 years from the 1970s-1990s. I fully support the programs of BCMH both the diagnostic program and the treatment program, as they are currently implemented at the Ohio Department of Health.

1. Diagnostic program: I used this program to send children to Columbus Children's Hospital and Clinics for a diagnostic work up and treatment. We did not have pediatric specialists available in Morrow County to see children and still don't. We often "found" these children who needed to be seen, at our immunization clinic, or at the county schools, or by referral from other agencies. Many families phoned the Health Department for help.
  - a. These prompt visits to Columbus Children's Hospital resulted in the best treatment options. The BCMH diagnostic program was the only way parents could afford medical care for their child. If the BCMH diagnostic program was not available, the parents would have to go the ER, or not get medical care, thereby neglecting the medical needs of the child.
2. The Public Health Nurses played a vital role in the BCMH treatment program too.
  - a. They educated the family related to the care needs of the child, as directed by the BCMH providers. They inspected the medication and the label of all medication bottles to make sure the instructions were understood and followed, and that the right pill was in the bottle. They including OTC medication review.
  - b. They assisted the family to complete the BCMH financial application and consent forms. They helped the family make appointments at Columbus Children's Hospital. They provided office support for phone calls, copies and faxes. They assisted the family to find local and national agencies/organizations for additional funding.
  - c. They conducted a physical exam of the child, vital signs, and developmental screening at each visit. They also weighed the child and measured the child's length and head circumference if the child was an infant.
  - d. They reviewed all ordered treatments. They assessed the child's nutritional needs. They reviewed their immunization record and told parents when a booster was needed.
  - e. They referred the family to local agencies such as WIC, Head Start, Help Me Grow, and JFS.
  - f. They worked closely with the public-school staff, and parents and child, to develop a 504, an IEP and an individual health plans.
  - g. They talked with the State BCMH representative, on behalf of the child and family, to obtain updates to their care.
3. The Amish in Morrow County accepted the BCMH diagnostic and treatment programs for their children because it was paid for, in part, by their land taxes. This is one of the few state programs in which they participated.

It is necessary that we keep the local Public Health Nurses involved in the BCMH program. They are the local health professionals in rural areas.

BCM H is a specialized program. Their staff had the training and knowledge to guide the family and the local health department nurses to guide the medical care of the child with life threatening conditions. It should be kept at the Health Department of the State of Ohio

Sincerely,

Frances Turner