At Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, we often challenge ourselves with the question, “How big of a team do we play on?” We know the whole is much greater than the sum of our parts. I’m sure this philosophy rings true in all of your institutions, too. But more importantly, it’s a key concept that unites all of us within the Children’s Hospital Association as we advocate on behalf of kids’ health.

Collaboration is a powerful tool that helps drive our efforts and improve outcomes. Right now, we collaborate within our own organizations and throughout the association on many levels. Whether we’re sharing best practices across our organizations, participating on a committee, or working across teams and functional areas, we can all teach and we can all learn. It’s collaboration that gives us the power to leverage our influence and to benefit children’s health.

We will only achieve the goals around CHA’s key priorities—advocating for children’s health initiatives, improving the quality and delivery of care, leveraging data and analytics to drive change—when we have a shared purpose and united voice. And we’ve seen great results already. By working together, we’ve been able to affect public policy. We’re ensuring access to care and services, securing funding for pediatric training, and advancing solutions that are transforming the delivery system for children.

On the quality front, collaboration has helped implement two collaboratives. The CARE Award study, supported by a three-year $23 million Health Care Innovation Award, involves 10 children’s hospitals. Through this study, the hospitals will leverage the best clinical evidence, rapid-cycle change principles and data analysis to transform the care delivery and payment systems for about 9,000 children with complex medical conditions who rely on Medicaid. In addition, a new and ambitious initiative will soon be underway to impact sepsis outcomes. This work will improve detection and management of early sepsis, prevent severe sepsis, and reduce mortality throughout the hospital. And to support data and analytics enhancements, your hospital can sign up to be an early adopter in the evolution of CHA’s data programs. See page 41 for more.

These efforts are great examples of how we can bring together our resources and expertise to improve quality and lower costs. We must continue to look to each other for support, ideas and inspiration to continue to advance our mission of being champions for children’s health.