The Role of Specialized Managed Care in Addressing the Intersection of Child Welfare Reform and Behavioral Health Transformation

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This brief explores how specialized Medicaid managed care plans can bridge gaps between child welfare and behavioral health services for children and youth with complex needs.

It discusses the role of specialized managed care plans. These plans can ensure better alignment between child welfare and behavioral healthcare services by:

- Ensuring a robust provider network
- Expanding service offerings
- Implementing creative solutions for families
- Coordinating care across systems
- Facilitating services through managed care organizations (MCOs)

- **Examples from States**: Washington, Arizona, and Ohio have implemented specialized managed care plans that serve as models for other states.
- **Recommendations for States**: States are advised to start with a clearly defined, limited population and scale up at a pace that allows for adjustments over time.

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