



# Mandated Report: Therapeutic Foster Care



Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission

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# Overview

- Prior Commission discussions
- Draft recommendation
- Rationale
- Elements of guidance
- Implications

# Prior Commission Discussions

- Therapeutic foster care is an important set of services for a vulnerable population
- Services should meet the needs of the children and a continuum of services provided by multiple agencies may be necessary
- Additional guidance could outline how states can provide these services in Medicaid and coordinate across agencies

# Draft Recommendation

- The Secretary of Health and Human Services should engage the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Administration for Children and Families to develop joint subregulatory guidance to assist states in understanding what therapeutic foster care services can be covered under Medicaid and how to coordinate services with other agencies to meet the needs of children and youth with significant behavioral health or medical conditions in a family-based setting.

# Rationale

- Assist states in understanding what therapeutic foster care services can be covered in Medicaid
- Retains flexibility for states to operationalize the benefit and for the practice of therapeutic foster care to evolve over time
- Joint CMS and ACF guidance recognizes that these children and youth are typically served by multiple agencies

# Elements of Guidance

At a minimum, guidance should:

- clarify which services can be covered under Medicaid or using federal child welfare funds
- share examples of current state approaches to providing therapeutic foster care services
- highlight the use of evidence-based practices and trauma-informed services
- provide ways to effectively coordinate with other agencies serving the same high-need children and youth

# Implications

- Federal
  - No direct effect on federal Medicaid spending
- States
  - Assist states in designing a benefit package and clarify which services can be billed to Medicaid
- Beneficiaries
  - Help beneficiaries and their families understand what Medicaid services may be available to meet their needs
- Plans and providers
  - Assist with appropriate billing practices for therapeutic foster care services and understanding the responsibilities of various agencies

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