

### Why would a family with private insurance relinquish custody to access services?

- Gaps or limits in coverage. Child's specific condition may not be covered; there may be a limit on the number of days of coverage; or lifetime limits (i.e., 190 days)
- No coverage. An employer-sponsored plan or plan purchased on the exchange may only offer medical coverage – not mental or behavioral health.
- Residential services are costly. Services can easily add up to hundreds of thousands of dollars/year.

#### BOTTOM LINE:

Relinquishing custody means the child immediately becomes eligible for Medicaid and may be able to access Title IV-E (federal) and local Public Children Services' dollars – additional ways to pay for residential services.

### Why would a family of a child with Medicaid relinquish custody to access services?

- Room and board costs. Medicaid may pay for the "treatment" portion of "residential treatment" but not the "residential" portion – room and board. \*
- Willing and able providers. They may not be able to find a provider willing or able to serve their child and/or accept Medicaid.

#### BOTTOM LINE:

Relinquishing custody means the child may be eligible for Title IV-E and local Public Children Services' dollars – two additional sources of funding for "room and board" available to eligible youth in the custody of a Public Children Services Agency.

*\*Federal changes effective 1/2019 may make it possible for Medicaid to cover these costs*

### Why would a child go out of state or far from home to access services?

- Combination of needs. There are providers who serve youth with disabilities. There are providers who serve youth with mental/behavioral health needs. It is hard to find providers who are willing and able to serve a child experiencing both.
- Complexity of needs. Youth who have certain histories (extremely violent or sexually aggressive behavior, fire-starting, etc.) have a hard time find willing and able providers.
- Few beds and long waitlists. Where there are "specialty" providers, beds are full and waitlists are long.

#### BOTTOM LINE:

Families are forced to look far from home for care, and if they have relinquished custody, they have no say where their child goes.