## FACES OF MEDICAID: CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE UTILIZATION & EXPENDITURES

Of the 32 million children covered by Medicaid, about 1-in-10 use behavioral health care services



... and those children account for **over 1/3** of all costs for children in Medicaid — totaling over \$30.2 billion

These children have mean expenditures 4x higher than children in Medicaid who only use physical health care



\$2,492

Children using only physical health services

## Children using both physical and behavioral health services

## Children covered by foster care and SSI/disability account for...

Over 1/4 of behavioral health service use among children in Medicaid



Half of total behavioral health care costs for children in Medicaid



Only a small portion of children covered by Medicaid



## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR STATES TO IMPROVE QUALITY**



**Expand access** to evidence-based therapeutic interventions



**Invest in care coordination** models that use a wraparound approach to facilitate service delivery



**Ensure collaboration** across child-serving systems to improve care coordination and oversight

CHCS Center for Health Care Strategies, Inc. www.chcs.org

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