

# The Managed Care Advantage: Continuity Through Foster Care Transitions

Each year, thousands of children enter foster care with complex medical and behavioral health needs and many experience multiple placement changes that disrupt care and provider relationships. Without careful coordination, records can be lost, treatments interrupted, and care fragmented across systems.

A single, statewide managed care organization (MCO) like Centene can improve outcomes by coordinating care throughout the foster care continuum.



<b>*Traditional Medicaid (Fragmented)</b>	VS.	<b>Centene Medicaid Managed Care (Integrated)</b>
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### STAGE 1: ENTRY INTO FOSTER CARE

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No initial assessment</li> <li>• Child’s trauma needs are often unidentified</li> <li>• Medical records are scattered</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate enrollment with MCO</li> <li>• Trauma and health screenings within days</li> <li>• Dedicated care manager assigned</li> </ul> |
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### STAGE 2: INITIAL PLACEMENT

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child’s medical history unknown</li> <li>• Caregivers must search for new providers</li> <li>• Care delayed while finding new provider</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child’s history travels with them</li> <li>• Established provider network</li> <li>• Single point of contact</li> </ul> |
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### STAGE 3: PLACEMENT CHANGE

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treatment is disrupted</li> <li>• Lack of care management</li> <li>• Records don’t transfer</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuity in treatment</li> <li>• Same Care Management Team stays involved</li> <li>• Records follow the child</li> </ul> |
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### STAGE 4: ONGOING CARE

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duplicated or missed services</li> <li>• Well-child visits skipped</li> <li>• Emergency room used in place of primary care</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinated care across services</li> <li>• Preventive care prioritized</li> <li>• Guidance for appropriate access to care settings</li> </ul> |
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### STAGE 5: PERMANENCY PLANNING

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gaps in care delay reunification</li> <li>• Lack of coordinated services</li> <li>• Higher rates of re-entry</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reunification and wraparound support</li> <li>• Consistent care coordination promotes continuity of care</li> <li>• Family services in place early</li> <li>• Prevention services reduce re-entry</li> </ul> |
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## The Centene Difference

As the leading Medicaid managed care organization, Centene serves over **230,000** children in **21 states**, more than any Medicaid MCO in the nation, and is the sole managed care provider for foster care in six of them. Our integrated care model is designed to provide continuity of quality-focused care for children in foster care and to ease the burden on caregivers.

### CENTENE PROVIDES:

#### Specialized Care Management

Trauma-informed, lived experience, care-level stratification tools

#### Centers of Excellence

In select states, providers with foster care expertise, comprehensive care, proven outcomes

#### Prevention Focus

Preventive care, early identification of health issues and measures to address drivers of health

*\*The information in this chart is illustrative only, and intended to show how care experiences for children in foster care can differ under traditional Medicaid vs. Centene’s model. Individual experiences vary by state, provider, and child needs.*