

# Everything you ever wanted to know about CANS...



**NEW COORDINATOR ACADEMY  
MARCH 9, 2016**

**PRESENTER:  
CAROL WILSON**

# Everything you ever wanted to know about CANS...



## CHILD AND ADOLESCENT NEEDS AND STRENGTHS (CANS) ASSESSMENT



# MUAI



- Statutory requirement for a mandatory uniform assessment instrument (MUAI) for children and youth served by the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA)
  - COV §2.2-2648 (11)
  - COV §2.2-5210
  - Appropriations Act Item #264 B (9)

In 2008, the State Executive Council, based on the recommendations of an interagency workgroup, selected the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) for CSA.

# Why?



- CSA assessment is not intended to be an “add-on” or additional “paperwork”
- It is intended to **be** the work...where the case manager and FAPT start with a child and family, the basis of how services are designed and developed, and also how the FAPT can evaluate the success of the services and the progress of the child and family

# Why?

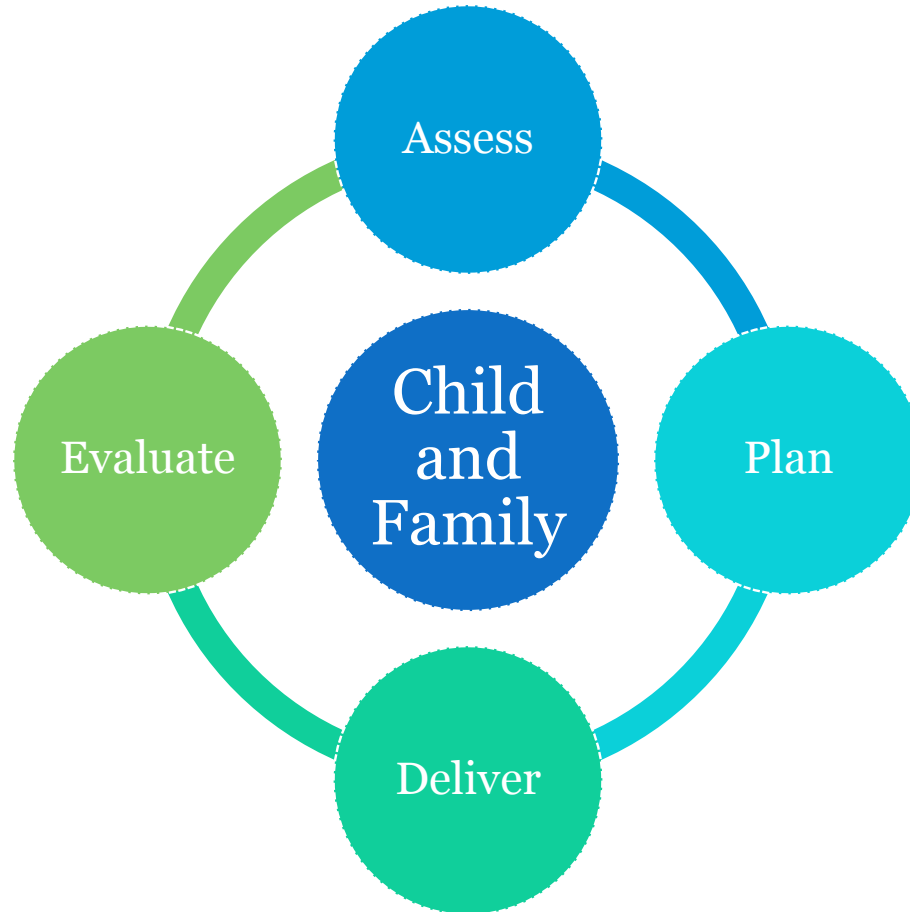


- Understand, teach and integrate into practice the critical necessity of a foundational assessment upon which to structure the plan and evaluate progress
- Not intended as a “funding” requirement but a best practices requirement
- Supervisors, CSA Coordinators, and FAPT members should learn and understand the CANS, not just case managers

# Why use the CANS?



- Assess the child and family's strengths and needs
- Create a foundation upon which to build the service plan
- Evaluate progress or lack of progress



# Virginia CANS



- CANS Comprehensive Birth to Four
- CANS Reassessment Birth to Four
  
- CANS Comprehensive Ages 5+ (5-21)
- CANS Reassessment Ages 5+ (5-21)
  - As long as the youth is receiving CSA-funded services, CANS must be completed.



# Timeframes for Assessment



- Comprehensive CANS is required:
  - Initially
  - Annually
  - Discharge
- Reassessment CANS is done within yearly time frames as required by Medicaid and local policy.
  - For example, Medicaid requires a CANS be done every 90 days for treatment foster care case management.
  - See document on [www.csa.virginia.gov](http://www.csa.virginia.gov) for recommended frequency of administration.

# CANS



- Virginia's Current CANS (ages 5+) has six domains:
  - Life Functioning
  - Child Strengths
  - School
  - Planned Permanent Caregiver\*
  - Child Behavioral/Emotional Needs
  - Child Risk Behaviors

*\* The PPC is defined as the “child’s legal guardian for children who are not in foster care. If the child is in a foster care placement, please rate the identified parent, other relative, adoptive parent, caretaker who is planning to assume custody of this child.”*

# CANS



- Child functioning modules
  - Developmental
  - Trauma-includes physical, sexual and emotional abuse, but also other types of trauma (medical, environmental, etc.)
  - Violence
  - Sexually aggressive behavior
  - Juvenile justice
  - Runaway
  - Substance use
  - Fire-setting
- Modules permit the assessor to gather more information about a specific area of need.
- New Child Welfare module has been developed to better assess children and families receiving foster care services and is organized by Protective Factors framework.

# Rating Strengths



- Strengths items
  - “0” indicates a centerpiece strength; may be important in service planning
  - “1” indicates a strength exists in this area; may require some development
  - “2” indicates strength has been identified, but no action taken to build or develop
  - “3” no strength identified in this area

\*Strengths may be identified as areas to develop on a service plan or may be used to assist meeting a need or supporting healthy functioning.

# Rating Needs



- Ratings of “0” to “3”
- Needs items
  - “0” indicates no evidence of need
  - “1” mild level of need and/or history of need
  - “2” moderate level of need
  - “3” severe level of need
- Corresponding action levels of each rating on needs:
  - “0” no need for action
  - “1” monitoring, watchful waiting or prevention
  - “2” requires action to ensure that the identified need is addressed
  - “3” requires immediate or intensive action

**Needs items rated “2” or “3” should be addressed on service plans.**

# Rating the CANS



- The lower the rating on both strengths and needs items, the better the child is functioning.
- Lowering of numbers indicates improvement in functioning.



# Six Key Principles



- Underlying tenets of rating the CANS-**VERY IMPORTANT!**
  - Item level validity with each item having immediate relevance for service planning
  - Action levels corresponding to each rating for needs & strengths
  - Consider cultural and developmental factors
  - Descriptive, not determining a cause
  - About the individual, not the service...rating child, not child “in services”
  - Thirty day timeframe on many items-can and should be overridden if action is need

# CANS Certification



- The CANS is administered by the local public agency case manager for the child and family.
- Any one administering the CANS (paper or online) must be currently certified on its use.
- Certification is obtained by completing the online training found at [www.canstraining.com](http://www.canstraining.com) and scoring at least a .70 on a certification exam.
- Only certified users may enter an assessment into CANVaS.
- Private providers do not have access to CANVaS and cannot complete CANS for CSA children.







Search for something...

My Course



Carol Wilson

Program Consultant

LAST VIEWED



CANS Comprehensive 5-17

with Lauren Schmidt

Learning (4)



TCOM & Advanced Tools

with Dr. John Lyons

Free

Enrolled

b 64061 students



CANS 0-4

with Dr. John Lyons

Free

Enrolled

b 8934 students





# Danger...Danger, Will Robinson!



Individuals must appropriately complete the certification on their own.

Individuals who obtain certification by fraudulent means are not certified and any CANS they administer is invalid.



# Danger...Danger

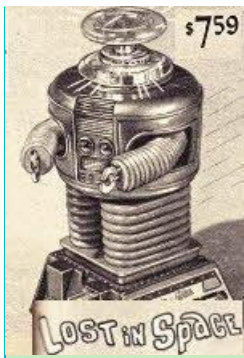


- To enter an assessment in CANVaS, the system must reflect your current certification. If certification expires, the user may still access the assessments he or she has entered, but cannot enter new assessments until recertification.
- Raters may not enter assessments into CANVaS for other case managers who are not certified. CANS which are completed on paper by non-certified staff are not valid assessments.

# Why Can't I Pass the Test?



- Most common reason is because...
  - People do not complete the online training



# Danger...Danger...



An invalid assessment means that the assessment cannot be used for any purpose including service planning or to obtain CSA funding.

# Why Can't I Pass the Test?



- **Suggestions:**

- Read the materials and watch the (short) videos. Complete the multiple choice “quizzes” on each item.
- Read the introductory page to the site and the instructions on the test page. Understand the “vignette assumption.”
- Print a copy of the User Manual (lists each item with the four anchor definitions) for reference while testing.
- Understand how to rate Strengths items.
- Use the “comments” box on each page to ask specific questions.
- Access resource materials on training site and in CANS folder on CSA ([www.csa.virginia.gov](http://www.csa.virginia.gov)) website.
- Contact your local CANS Super User or Carol Wilson at [carol.wilson@csa.virginia.gov](mailto:carol.wilson@csa.virginia.gov)

# CANS 2.0



- New Virginia CANS includes:
  - Two additional trauma items (neglect and disruptions in caregiving)
  - New child welfare module (organized by Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Safety Concerns, Strengths and Commitment to Reunification/Permanency)
  - Ability to rate multiple caregivers
  - Text and wording revisions for clarity

# CANVaS 2.0



- Online system upgrade includes:
  - Improved user interface
  - Trauma module required for all children in foster care
  - Ability to rate multiple caregivers
  - Child welfare module
  - Reports – Individual Case Manager
    - ✦ Permanency report-evaluates individual caregiver progress over time
    - ✦ Longitudinal reports (compare CANS for a given child or cohort of children over time)

Each locality has at least one Designated Super User/Report Administrator who has access to the local data and system reports.





Locality: CSA - Management

User: Carol Wilson

- Home
- Documents
- News
- Logout
- Consumer ▶
- Assessments ▶
- Reports ▶
- Import Export ▶
- Domain Outcomes (INACTIVE)

## Welcome to the CANVaS System!

[CANVaS Users Manual](#) 

CANVaS has been created as the technology application (home) to support the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tools. CANVaS is an interactive web site that collects assessment information and produces reports. In the future, the system will calculate algorithms or decision model thresholds to inform intensity of care determinations and produce new individual and aggregate reports regarding outcomes. Beginning in April 2009, CANVaS will be available for use by localities as the mandatory uniform assessment instrument for children and families served through the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA).

Virginia's Assessment Tools: [CANS Users Manuals and Score Sheets](#)

Virginia's CANS Training: [CANS On-line training and certification](#)

Virginia's CANS SuperUsers: [Super User Listing](#)

Version 1.0  
The CANVaS User Administrator can be emailed by following this link:  
[CANVaS Help Desk.](#)


General Information: For general information about the CANS implementation, contact



http://65.124.105.116/Default.aspx

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Legislative Information Sy... http--spark.dss.virginia.go... Secure Access Manageme... Home Suggested Sites Web Slice Gallery Free Hotmail



CANVaS 2.0 Commonwealth of Virginia

Home

News

Documents

Log In

Welcome Home


[CANVaS User's manual](#)

CANVaS has been created as the technology application (home) to support the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tools. CANVaS is an interactive web site that collects assessment information and produces reports.

CANVaS Training and Support  
General Information  
CANS Comprehensive Age 0-4  
CANS Reassessment Age 0-4  
CANS Comprehensive 5+  
CANS Reassessment 5+

[Click Here for the CANVaS Manual.](#)  
[For general information about the CANS implementation, contact Carol Wilson.](#)  
[CANS Comprehensive Age 0-4](#)  
[CANS Reassessment Age 0-4](#)  
[CANS Comprehensive 5+](#)  
[CANS Reassessment 5+](#)  
Please contact the CANVaS Help Desk for questions and support (below).

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[Help Desk](#) 800.777.8329





View Callie Cat

First Name	Callie	Referral Source	CSB
Last Name	Cat	Internal ID	1234
Middle Name		Race	African American
Birth Date	5/1/2007	Gender	Female
SSN	1111	Ethnicity	Hispanic
Medicaid ID			

**Locations**

LOCALITY	USER	START DATE	END DATE
Arlington	Susie Sweet	10/26/2015	10/26/2021
Hanover	Sally Sweet	10/02/2015	10/02/2021
Hanover	Carol Wilson	10/22/2015	10/22/2021



View Callie Cat To search type and hit enter...

First Name	Callie	Referral Source	CSB
Last Name	Cat	Internal ID	1234
Middle Name		Race	African American
Birth Date	5/1/2007	Gender	Female
SSN	1111	Ethnicity	Hispanic
Medicaid ID			

[Locations](#) [Caregivers](#) [Assessments](#)

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	RELATIONSHIP	STATUS
Addie	McMom	Aunt	Active
Brother	Cat	Brother	Inactive
Momma	Cat	Mother	Inactive



Browser window showing a consumer view page. The address bar displays: <http://65.124.105.116/Consumer/ConsumerView.aspx?nav=i>. The page title is "Consumer View".

Navigation menu: File, Edit, View, Favorites, Tools, Help.

Page content:

Middle Name: [Redacted] Race: African American

Birth Date: 5/1/2007 Gender: Female

SSN: 1111 Ethnicity: Hispanic

Medicaid ID: [Redacted]

Buttons: Add Child, Edit, Add Location, Add Caregiver, Add Assessment, Delete, Cancel

Navigation tabs: Locations, Caregivers, Assessments

ASSESSMENT #	TOOL	REFERRAL SOURCE	ASSESSMENT REASON	ASSESSMENT STATUS	START DATE	CREATED BY	CLOSED DATE	CLOSED BY	DISPLAY REPORT	DELETE
1655	CANS Reassessment 5+	CSB	Reassessment	Open	01/11/2016	Carol Wilson			<a href="#">Report</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>
1654	CANS Comprehensive 5+	CSB	Reassessment	Open	01/11/2016	Carol Wilson			<a href="#">Report</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>
1634	CANS Reassessment 5+	CSB	Reassessment	Open	12/21/2015	Carol Wilson			<a href="#">Report</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>
1633	CANS Comprehensive 5+	CSB	Initial	Open	12/21/2015	Carol Wilson			<a href="#">Report</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>
1632	CANS Reassessment 5+	CSB	Reassessment	Open	12/21/2015	Carol Wilson			<a href="#">Report</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>
1631	CANS	CSB	Initial	Open	12/21/2015	Carol			<a href="#">Report</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>



Browser address bar: http://65.124.105.116/Assessment/AssessmentItemRapidentry.z

Page Title: Behavioral Health Assessment

Menu: File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Navigation: Legislative Information Sy... http--spark.dss.virginia.go... Secure Access Manageme... Home Suggested Sites Web Slice Gallery Free Hotmail

Page Header: CANS Comprehensive 5+ Assessment #1660 for Callie Cat  
Entry Mode: Rapid Entry Mode Status: Open Referral Source: CSB Assessment Reason: Reassessment

Section: General Questions (Please answer according to anchor definitions.)

	0	1	2	3	Comments
● INTENSIVE COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="text"/>
● CHILD REMOVAL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			<input type="text"/>
● CHILD AGE	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="text"/>
● CURRENT PLACEMENT - Foster Home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			<input type="text"/>
● CURRENT PLACEMENT - Group Home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			<input type="text"/>
● CURRENT PLACEMENT - Residential Treatment Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			<input type="text"/>
● CURRENT PLACEMENT - Family/Relation Home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			<input type="text"/>

Section: Life Domain Functioning (0 = No Evidence of Problems; 1 = History, Mild; 2 = Moderate; 3 = Severe)

	0	1	2	3	Comments
● FAMILY	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
● LIVING SITUATION	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
● SLEEP	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>

# The End?



# Questions?