



Office of Children's Services
Empowering communities to serve youth

All About CANS

New Coordinator Academy

March 2018

Carol Wilson, Program Consultant

MUAI

- Statutory requirement for a mandatory uniform assessment instrument (MUAI) for children and youth served by the Children's Services Act (CSA)
 - COV §2.2-2648 (11)
 - COV §2.2-5210
 - Appropriations Act

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?

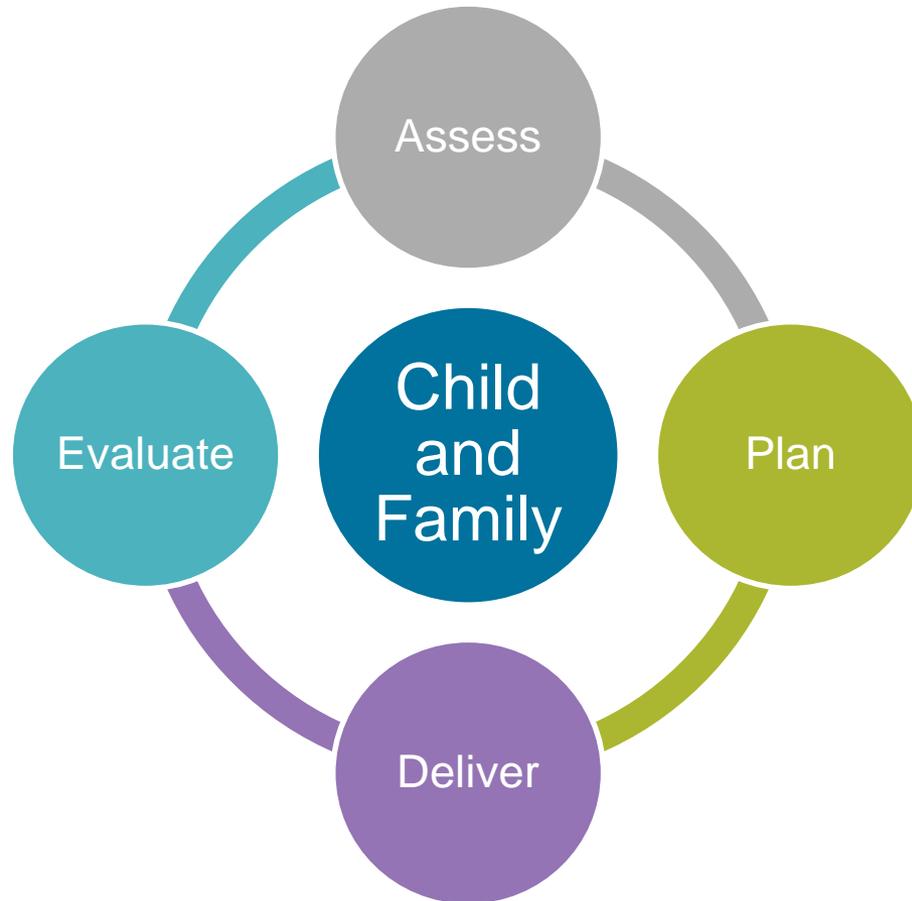
- CSA assessment is not intended to be an “add-on” or additional “paperwork”
- It is intended to **be** the work...where the case manager and FAPT start with a child and family, the basis of how services are designed and developed, and also how the FAPT can evaluate the success of the services and the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



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 for recommended frequency of administration.

Significant Changes in 2017

- New CANS Versions released with the implementation of an upgraded online system (CANVaS 2.0)
- Created DSS-Enhanced Versions and Standard Versions

Revised CANS

- DSS-Enhanced CANS Comprehensive Birth to Four
 - DSS-Enhanced CANS Reassessment Birth to Four
- DSS-Enhanced CANS Comprehensive 5-21
 - DSS-Enhanced CANS Reassessment 5-21
- Standard CANS Comprehensive Birth to Four
 - Standard CANS Reassessment Birth to Four
- Standard CANS Comprehensive 5-21
 - Standard CANS Reassessment 5-21

Referral Source for Child will select DSS-Enhanced (LDSS) or Standard (CSU, CSB, schools, CSA).

Revised CANS

- DSS-Enhanced
 - Required rating of Trauma Module
 - Ability to add and rate up to three individual caregivers
 - Caregivers are rated on both the "Caregiver" Domain and the new Child Welfare module
 - Permanency Report

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.
- 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.

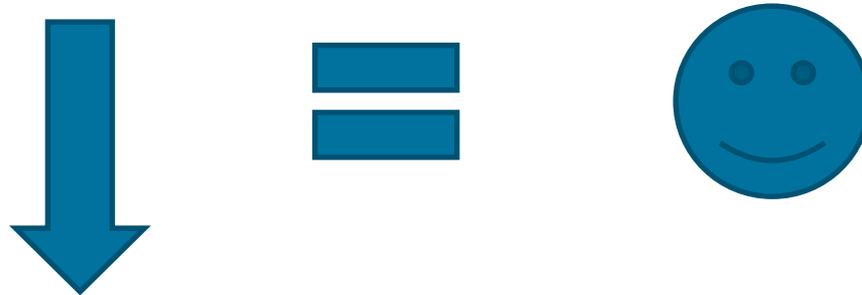
Rating Needs

- 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.

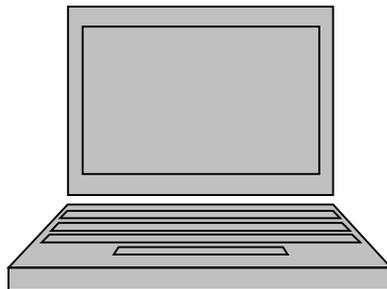


Six Key Principles

- 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.tcomtraining.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





er...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.



Danger...Danger...

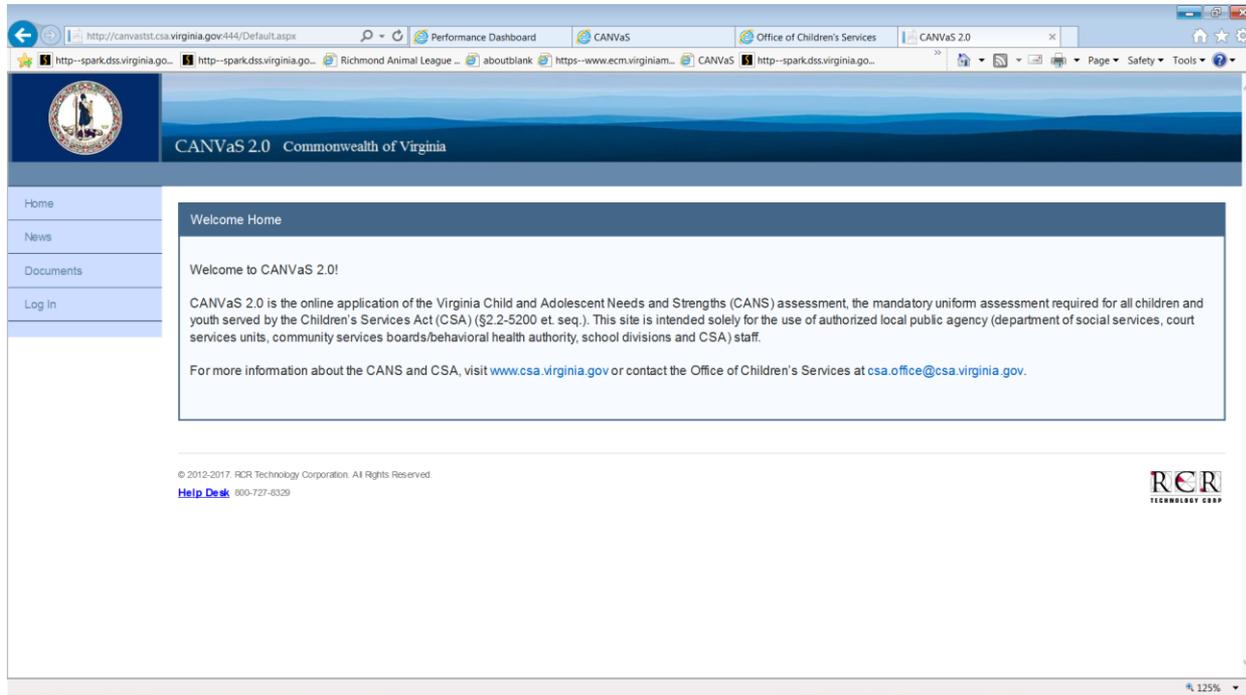
An invalid assessment means that the assessment cannot be used for any purpose including service planning or to obtain CSA funding.

Why Can't I Pass the Test?

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

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) website.
 - Contact your local CANS Super User or Carol Wilson at carol.wilson@csa.virginia.gov



CANVaS 2.0



Browser window showing the URL: http://65.124.105.116/Consumer/ConsumerView.aspx?nav=i

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

Search bar: To search type and hit enter... Search

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			

- Add Child
- Edit
- Add Location
- Add Caregiver
- Add Assessment
- Delete
- Cancel

- Locations
- Caregivers
- Assessments

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



CANVaS 2.0

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			

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



CANVaS 2.0

Browser: http://65.124.105.116/Consumer/ConsumerView.aspx?nav=i | CANVaS | Behavioral Health Assessme...

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

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

Page Safety Tools

Middle Name: [Redacted] Race: African American

Birth Date: 5/1/2007 Gender: Female

SSN: 1111 Ethnicity: Hispanic

Medicaid ID: [Redacted]

[Add Child](#)
[Edit](#)
[Add Location](#)
[Add Caregiver](#)
[Add Assessment](#)
[Delete](#)
[Cancel](#)

[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			Report	Delete
1654	CANS Comprehensive 5+	CSB	Reassessment	Open	01/11/2016	Carol Wilson			Report	Delete
1634	CANS Reassessment 5+	CSB	Reassessment	Open	12/21/2015	Carol Wilson			Report	Delete
1633	CANS Comprehensive 5+	CSB	Initial	Open	12/21/2015	Carol Wilson			Report	Delete
1632	CANS Reassessment 5+	CSB	Reassessment	Open	12/21/2015	Carol Wilson			Report	Delete
1631	CANS	CSB	Initial	Open	12/21/2015	Carol			Report	Delete



CANVaS 2.0

Browser window showing CANVaS 2.0 interface. URL: http://65.124.105.116/Assessment/AssessmentItemRapidentry.ε

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

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"/>

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"/>

Resources

- CANS folder on CSA website
<http://www.csa.virginia.gov/Cans>
- Documents folder on CANVaS 2.0 website
<https://www.csa.canvas.virginia.gov>
- CANS Training and Certification Site (Praed Foundation) www.tcomtraining.com



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Questions?