

Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment (CANS)

CPS Stakeholder Webinar

May 24, 2016

SB 125

AN ACT

relating to certain assessments for children in the conservatorship of the
Department of Family and Protective Services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 266, Family Code, is amended by adding Section
266.012 to read as follows:

Sec. 266.012. COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS.

(a) Not later than the 45th day after the date a child enters the conservatorship
of the department, the child shall receive a developmentally appropriate
comprehensive assessment. The assessment must include:

- (1) a screening for trauma; and
 - (2) interviews with individuals who have knowledge of the child's needs.
- (b) The department shall develop guidelines regarding the contents of an
assessment report.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.



What is CANS?

- Multi-purpose tool to support decision making, including level of care and service planning, to facilitate quality improvement initiatives, and to allow for the monitoring of outcomes of services.
- Versions are currently used in 50 states in child welfare, mental health, juvenile justice, and early intervention applications.
- A comprehensive, multi-system version exists as well.



What is CANS?

- Developed from a communication perspective to facilitate the link between the assessment process and design of individual service plans, including the application of evidence-based practices.
- Easy to learn and is well liked by parents, providers and others in the services system because it is easy to understand and does not necessarily require scoring to be meaningful to an individual child and family.
- Each item suggests different pathways for service planning.

How is the CANS scored?

There are four levels of each item with anchored definitions, which are designed to translate into the following action levels (separate for needs and strengths)

For Needs

0 = no need for action
1 = monitoring
2 = action is needed
3 = immediate action needed

For Strengths

0 = centerpiece strength
1 = useful strength
2 = potential strength
3 = no strength identified

How will these scores be used?

- Identify Strengths
- Identify Needs
- Provide guidance to the clinician/assessor
- Provide guidance to the caseworker/residential provider
- Review progress

When is the CANS completed and by whom?

- Beginning September 1, 2016, all youth placed in substitute care will have a CANS completed as part of their assessment and service planning process within 30 days of removal.
- For the majority of the state, STAR Health clinicians, who are trained and certified in its use, will complete the CANS on all children ages 3-17 entering care on or after September 1, 2016.

Exceptions

- Harris County IVE Waiver Program
- Foster Care Redesign Catchment area 3B
- Special Circumstances

What is the process for completing the CANS?

- STAR Health Welcome Call
- Schedule an appointment
- Family Strengths and Needs Assessment
- Gather information
- Attend appointment
- eCANS
- Retrieve final results page in Health Passport

How does the CANS affect me?

- As a member of the treatment team, your input is important.
- The CANS will be used to gather information about the strengths and needs of the child and family and used in Service Planning to assist the child and family in reaching their goals.

CANS Resources

For more information about CANS:

praedfoundation.org

To become certified to administer CANS:

canstraining.com

Link to Dr. Lyons Stakeholder presentation at DFPS

http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Medical_Services/guide-resources-video.asp

STAR Health Contacts

To become credentialed with STAR Health

CBHNetworkDev@cenpatico.com

Or

For questions related to the CANS certification process please call: 1-866-218-8263.

CPS Contact

For any CPS questions regarding CANS

CANS@dfps.state.tx.us

Questions?