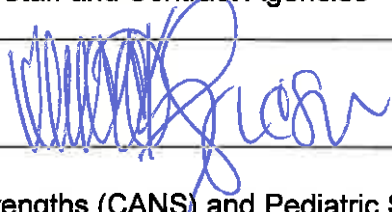




Department of Behavioral Health INFORMATION NOTICE 18-03

Date July 19, 2018

To All Department of Behavioral Health Staff and Contract Agencies

From Veronica Kelley, LCSW, Director 

Subject Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) and Pediatric Symptom Checklist - 35 (PSC-35)

Introduction The purpose of this Information Notice is to inform DBH staff that (CANS) and the (PSC-35) are functional assessment tools to be used by all Mental Health Plans.

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) requires these assessment tools be completed on new clients effective **July 1, 2018**. DBH programs and contracted agencies will continue to utilize the CANS as currently established and add the use of the PSC-35 for new clients.

Background CANS is a multiple purpose information integration tool that is designed to be the output of an assessment process and is effective for identifying youth and family actionable needs and useful strengths. CANS provides a framework for developing and communicating about a shared vision and uses youth and family information to inform planning, support decisions, and monitor outcomes. DBH programs and contract agencies complete CANS through a collaborative process which includes children and youth ages 0 to 21. DHCS will collect data on a subset of the items included in the CANS utilized in San Bernardino (i.e., 50 items) for children aged 4 to 21.

PSC-35 is a psychosocial screening tool designed to facilitate the recognition of cognitive, emotional, and behavioral problems so appropriate interventions can be initiated as early as possible. Parents/caregivers will complete PSC-35 (parent/caregiver version) for children and youth ages 3 to 18. PSC-35 data will be entered by providers into the established Objective Arts website.

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Background, continued

Effective July 1, 2018:

- CANS will continue to be utilized by DBH programs and contract agencies as currently established. The new version of the CANS-San Bernardino is required for all providers, as it includes all required 50 items.
- PSC-35 shall be completed on all new clients at the beginning of treatment and every six (6) months thereafter.
- Data shall be collected through Objective Arts.
- DBH shall compile the required data and submit to DHCS as required.

DHCS has indicated that the data gathered in the first one to two years will establish a baseline. After multiple years of data have been collected, DHCS will establish benchmarks for use in identifying where quality improvement efforts need to be focused. The overall goal of the quality improvement efforts is to use data to inform/improve policy and practice in a timely and effective manner.

Helpful Reference Materials

- MHSUDS Information Notice No.: 17-052
- Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths – San Bernardino (CANS-SB) webpage at: <http://wp.sbcounty.gov/dbh/cans/>
- DHCS Performance Outcomes System webpage at: http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/pos/Pages/Functional_Assessment_Tools.aspx
- Welfare and Institutions Code Section 14707.5

Questions

Questions regarding this Information Notice shall be directed to the DBH Quality Management Division at DBH-QualityManagementDivision@dbh.sbcounty.gov or (909) 386-8227.

Questions regarding CANS specifically may be addressed to DBH-CANS-SB@dbh.sbcounty.gov

Questions regarding Objective Arts specifically may be addressed to DBH-OA@dbh.sbcounty.gov