



CANS: CHILD AND ADOLESCENT NEEDS

ALDEA 
Children & Family Services

Introductory Training
to CANS Certification

Comprehensive Multisystem Assessment

Learning Objectives

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- Identify and state the 6 Key Characteristics.
- Rate CANS accurately.
- Demonstrate the process of engagement and collaboration.
- Record data accurately and utilize reports for short term and long term care planning.
- Integrate into best practice and collaborative partnership to create a shared vision and measurable transformation.

Philosophy

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Person -
Centered

Family -Driven

Practice of
Care

- ❑ Families are full partners in all activities.
- ❑ Focus is on child and family health, well-being, and functioning.
- ❑ Measures are relevant to decisions about approach or proposed impact of interventions.
- ❑ Information is used in all aspects of managing the system from individual family planning to supervision to program and system operations.

Purpose

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- Provide a strengths-based and relationship-based approach to engage, converse, and partner with children, adolescents, and families.
- Identify and communicate ***a shared vision*** of strengths and needs which drives process of care.
- Measure transformations through the efficiency and efficacy of interventions.

Six Key Characteristics

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- Items are included because they might impact service planning
- Level of items translate immediately into action levels
- It is about the child not about the service
- Consider culture and development
- It is agnostic as to etiology—it is about the ‘what’ not about the ‘why’ (2 exceptions: trauma and social behavior)
- The 30 day window is to remind us to keep assessments relevant and ‘fresh’

CANS

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- Collaborate and partner with child and family.
- Identify CANS Need items with action level of 2 or 3 and prioritize these needs with child and family to develop short term and long term goals.
- Identify CANS Strength items with a 0 or 1 for strengths-based care planning; items 2 or 3 are those attributes and skills that can be built.
- Co-create desired results, short term goals, and action steps.
- Desired results becomes a shared vision of success.
- Strategize intervention and link back to desired results and short term goal.

■ Additional Adaptation from Transformational Care Planning (TCP), CiMH

CANS

Person-Centered, Family Driven

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Critical

Core

Components

- ❑ Strengths-based and inclusiveness
- ❑ Skill acquisition and empowerment
- ❑ Process of collaboration and partnership
- ❑ Cultural sensitivity and responsiveness
- ❑ Shared vision
- ❑ Co-creation of desired results
- ❑ Prevention
- ❑ Systemic response to needs

▪ Additional Adaptation from Transformational Care Planning (TCP), CiMH

Action Level Key

Needs

- 0 – No Evidence
- 1 – Watch/Prevent
- 2 – Action Needed
- 3 – Immediate/Intensive Action

Strengths

- 0 – Centerpiece
- 1 – Useful Strength
- 2 – Potential Strength
- 3 – None Identified

CANS

Comprehensive 5+



Life Domain Functioning

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- Family
- Living Situation
- Social Functioning
- Recreational
- Developmental
- Job Functioning
- Legal
- Medical
- Physical
- Sexuality
- Sleep
- School Behavior
- School Achievement
- School Attendance

Youth Strengths

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- ❑ Family
- ❑ Interpersonal
- ❑ Optimism
- ❑ Educational
- ❑ Vocational
- ❑ Talents/Interests
- ❑ Spiritual/Religious
- ❑ Community Life
- ❑ Relationship Permanence
- ❑ Resiliency
- ❑ Resourcefulness

Acculturation

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- ❑ Language
- ❑ Identity
- ❑ Ritual
- ❑ Cultural Stress



Caregiver Strengths

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- ❑ Supervision
- ❑ Involvement
- ❑ Knowledge
- ❑ Organization
- ❑ Social Resources
- ❑ Residential Stability
- ❑ Physical
- ❑ Mental Health
- ❑ Substance use
- ❑ Safety



Youth Behavioral/Emotional Needs

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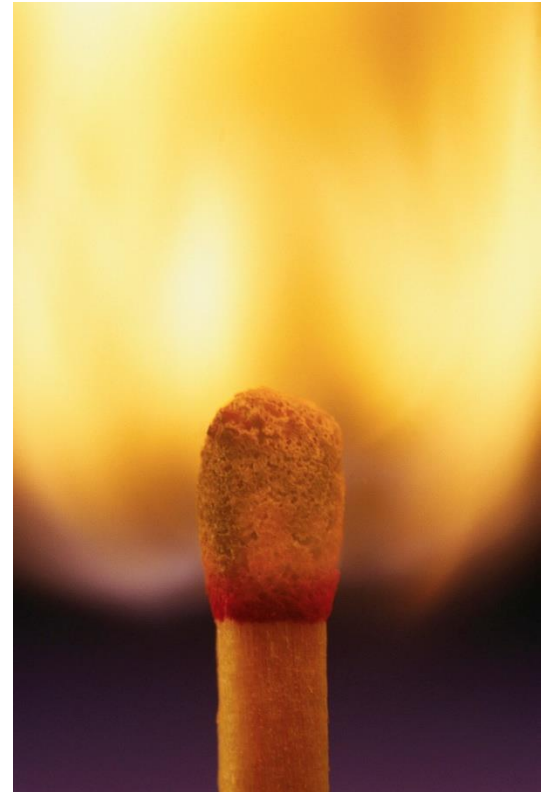


- ❑ Psychosis
- ❑ Impulsivity/Hyperactivity
- ❑ Depression
- ❑ Anxiety
- ❑ Oppositional
- ❑ Conduct
- ❑ Adjustment to Trauma
- ❑ Anger Control
- ❑ Substance Use

Youth Risk Behaviors

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- ❑ Suicide Risk
- ❑ Self Mutilation
- ❑ Other Self Harm
- ❑ Danger to Others
- ❑ Sexual Aggression
- ❑ Runaway
- ❑ Delinquency
- ❑ Judgment
- ❑ Fire Setting
- ❑ Social Behavior



Modules

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- Developmental Needs
- Trauma
- Substance Use
- Violence Needs
- Emotional/Behavioral Risks
- Resiliency Factors
- Sexual Aggression
- Runaway
- Juvenile Justice
- Fire Setting

Additional Assessments

(Age/Development Dependent)

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- **CANS Comprehensive Birth to 5-Child & Adolescent Needs & Strengths**
- Follows the same principle as the CANS Comprehensive but to be done with children birth to age 5.
- **ANSA-Adult Needs and Strengths Assessment**
- Follows the same principle as CANS Comprehensive but to be done with the adult population 18 and over.