Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Decision Support Model Based on the
Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)

CHILD/YOUTH ASSESSED LEVEL OF NEED

Birth to 5

The algorithm for a child or youth's assessed Level of Need (LON) shall be used to inform decisions, supports, and services for children in out-of-home care. The algorithms for each LON are described here. The LON correlates with placement settings that should be able to provide for the child's assessed LON. The Placement Complexity chart shows how the LON of a child or youth is used to make placements in foster home, group home, and residential care center settings.

A description of the items rated to determine each LON are contained next. For each LON that contains groups of items together to make a LON determination, there are tables describing the necessary groupings of items to establish the LON determination. When a table contains multiple columns, that section of the determination is made when a child meets the criteria for one of the columns. There may be multiple criteria, and this is delineated by the word "AND" between tables. For users with access to the eWiSACWIS database, the system will perform the calculations for you to arrive at the LON of the child or youth.

Level of Need 1

Child-Specific. Foster Care with a child specific relation option.

All children are assumed appropriate for regular foster care with a child specific relation, if they do not meet decision criteria for any other level of care and have an identified caregiver(s) who has a specific prior relationship with the child.

Level of Need 2

All children and youth are assumed appropriate for regular foster care without a child specific relation if they do not meet decision criteria for any other level of care but do not have an identified caregiver(s) who has a specific prior relationship with the child/youth.

Level of Need 3

A rating of at least one '2' or '3' on one of the following:
Impulse/Hyperactivity
Depression (Withdrawn)
Anxiety
Oppositional
Attachment

AND

A rating of '3' on at least one of the following:	A rating of '2' or '3' on at least one of the following:
Motor	Self Harm
Sensory Reactivity	
Communication	
Failure to Thrive	
Regulatory	
Substance Exposure	
Developmental	
Self-Care/Daily Living	

Level of Need 4

A rating of within the following criteria is met:
At least one '2' or '3' on one of the following:
Impulse/Hyperactivity
Depression (Withdrawn)
Anxiety
Oppositional
Attachment

AND

A rating of '3' on at least one of the following:
Motor
Sensory Reactivity
Communication
Failure to Thrive
Regulatory
Substance Exposure
Developmental
Self-Care/Daily Living

AND

One of the following Risk Behaviors is rated at '3'
Self Harm

OR

At least one of the following criteria (columns) are met
At least one '2' or '3' on one of the following
Medical
Physical

Level of Need 5
Foster Care Only

At least one of the following criteria (columns) are met:	
A rating of at least two or more '3' among the following needs:	**A rating of three or more '2' among the following needs:**
Impulse/Hyperactivity	Impulse/Hyperactivity
Depression (Withdrawn)	Depression (Withdrawn)
Anxiety	Anxiety
Oppositional	Oppositional
Attachment	Attachment
Developmental	Developmental
Physical	Physical
Daily Functioning	Daily Functioning

OR

The following criteria (columns) are met:
A rating of '2' or '3' on Medical (Group C) and at least one rating of '2' or '3' on any of the following Health Module items (Group D):
Intensity of Treatment
Organizational Complexity

Level of Need 6

At least one of the following criteria (columns) are met:	
A rating of at least three or more '3' among the following needs:	**A rating of four or more '2' or '3' among the following needs:**
Impulse/Hyperactivity	Impulse/Hyperactivity
Depression (Withdrawn)	Depression (Withdrawn)
Anxiety	Anxiety
Oppositional	Oppositional
Attachment	Attachment
Developmental	Developmental
Physical	Physical
Daily Functioning	Daily Functioning

A rating of '2' or '3' on Medical *(Group C)* and at least one rating of '2' or '3' on any of the following Health Module items *(Group D)*:
Intensity of Treatment
Organizational Complexity

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