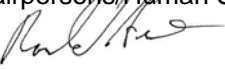


To: Area Administrators/ Human Services Area Coordinators  
Bureau Directors  
Child Placing Agency Directors  
Child Welfare Agency Directors  
County Departments of Community Programs Directors  
County Departments of Developmental Disabilities  
Services Directors  
County Departments of Human Services Directors  
County Departments of Social Services Directors  
Indian Child Welfare Directors  
Licensing Chiefs/Section Chiefs  
Tribal Chairpersons/Human Services Facilitators

From: Ron Hunt   
Deputy Administrator

The Division of Safety and Permanence has issued an Emergency Rule for the second phase of the Levels of Care Initiative effective January 1, 2011. The Emergency Rule combines DCF Ch. 56 "Foster Home Care for Children" and DCF Ch. 38 "Treatment Foster Care for Children" into one Administrative Rule, DCF Ch. 56. In addition to creating a single foster care licensing code, the rule creates changes effective February 21, 2011 to the Uniform Foster Care Rate Setting Policy.

The changes to the Uniform Foster Care Rate Setting process in the new rule includes the requirement that the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool must be completed for all children and juveniles placed in foster care that are under the placement and care responsibility of the state. The Out-of-Home Care Committee created a comprehensive version of the CANS for use in Wisconsin. As a result of those efforts, changes were made in eWisACWIS to support the use of the CANS assessment.

### **Requirements**

To administer a CANS assessment, an individual must complete training and receive their certification. The CANS assessment will be used to evaluate all children entering foster care and replaces the current process for determining Supplemental Rates. A policy describing all of the requirements of the CANS implementation is attached.

### **Training**

In 2011, each regional child welfare training partnership will be offering "Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Assessment Training and Certification" sessions. This training will explore how the CANS provides direction for service planning related to needs and strengths and the specific algorithms for determining the level of need of the child that supports placement decisions and mental health screening decisions in Wisconsin.

The training sessions are open to caseworkers or supervisors from public, tribal, or private child welfare agencies that are responsible for the CANS assessments for all children under the care and placement responsibility of the state. Each regional child welfare training partnership has a link on their website to

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#### Document Summary

This memo outlines the requirements for a standardized assessment for all children in foster care and the changes made to the Uniform Foster Care Rate Setting policy as a result of this requirement. The standardized assessment is the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool. Trainings and regional roundtables will be held statewide to support the implementation of the CANS tool.

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sign up for the trainings. Additionally, links to all of the child welfare training partnerships websites can be found on the Child Welfare Training Systems website at: <http://www.wcwts.wisc.edu/>.

For counties and tribes with Coordinated Services Teams who already use the CANS tool, there is a webcast entitled "Comprehensive CANS: explanation of the differences for CST users of the CANS" available on the Levels of Care page of the DCF website.

### **Additional Information**

For more information, please visit the Levels of Care page of the DCF website ([http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/children/foster/levels\\_of\\_care/default.htm](http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/children/foster/levels_of_care/default.htm)). This page includes links to webcasts related to the CANS, a presentation by Dr. John Lyons (CANS author) at the Public Child Welfare Conference, and other resources related to the CANS tool.

REGIONAL OFFICE CONTACT: Area Administrator

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACTS:

Jónelle Q. Brom  
Out-of-Home Care Specialist  
Bureau of Permanence and Out of Home Care  
(608) 264-6933  
Email: [Jonelle.Brom@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Jonelle.Brom@wisconsin.gov)

MEMO WEB SITE: <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/memos>

Attachments: [Uniform Foster Care Rate Setting Policy](#)  
[CANS Manual Birth - 5](#)  
[CANS Manual Ages 5-17](#)  
[CANS Glossary of Items](#)  
[Supplemental Point Calculations](#)  
[Child/Youth Assessed Level of Need Birth - 5](#)  
[Child/Youth Assessed Level of Need Ages 5-17](#)

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