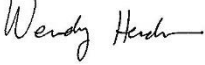


To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator  
DCF Area Administrators  
Child Placing Agency Directors  
Child Welfare Agency Directors  
County Departments of Community Programs Directors  
County Departments of Human Services Directors  
County Departments of Social Services Directors  
Group Home Providers  
Tribal Social Service/Indian Child Welfare Directors  
Private Child Placing Agencies  
Residential Care Center Providers  
Shelter Care Providers  
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Wendy Henderson   
Administrator

Re: Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Tool Training and TA Updates

## PURPOSE

The Division of Safety and Permanence is committed to continuing to provide training and technical assistance regarding the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool. The purpose of this memo is to provide agencies with information regarding modifications to the CANS online training and certification exam, as well as updates to the CANS manuals and various CANS resources. The CANS tool has been updated to reflect terminology and language that is consistent with current child welfare research, as well as the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM–5). These changes have been made by the Praed Foundation, a national organization that created and supports the CANS tool. Periodic updates are made to the CANS manual by the Praed Foundation so the tool remains valid and reliable. As a result, modifications were made to the Wisconsin CANS online training and resources.

## BACKGROUND

The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool was implemented in Wisconsin in February 2011, as part of the Levels of Care Foster Care Licensing Initiative required under 2009 Wisconsin Act 28. As a result of the implementation of Levels of Care and the CANS, the Division created a number of tools to assist counties, tribes, and private Child Placing Agencies with the changes to both the Foster Care and Kinship Care programs.

The Wisconsin Comprehensive Version of the CANS is a multi-purpose tool developed to support decision-making, facilitate quality improvement, identify the needs and strengths of the child and family, determine the capacities of the provider to meet the child's needs, evaluate the stability of the placement, and monitor service outcomes. Agencies with "Placement and Care Responsibility" are required to complete the CANS for all children placed in out-of-home care in the following placement settings:

- Unlicensed providers,
- Foster Homes,
- Group Homes, and
- Residential Care Centers.

## INFORMATION SUMMARY

Since the implementation of the CANS, the Division has created numerous training and technical assistance resources. The purpose of this memo is to provide agencies with information regarding modifications that have been made to the CANS online training and certification exam, as well as updates to the CANS manuals and various CANS resources, to ensure alignment with updated CANS items.

### *CANS Manuals* <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cans>

The CANS tool has been updated to reflect terminology and language that is consistent with current child welfare research, as well as the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM–5). These changes have been made by the Praed Foundation, a national organization that created and supports the CANS tool. Changes in terminology and language have been made throughout the manuals. The following items have been renamed:

- Age 0 – 5 and 5 – 21 Versions
  - Force renamed Physical Force
  - Natural Disaster renamed Natural or Manmade Disaster
  - Child / Youth and Family Acculturation renamed to Child and Family Cultural Factors
  - Identity renamed to Cultural Identity
  - Ritual renamed to Traditions and Rituals
  - Acculturation renamed to Cultural Stress
- Age 0 – 5 Version:
  - Social behavior renamed to Intentional Misbehavior
- Age 5 – 21 Version:
  - Attachment renamed Attachment Difficulties
  - Self-Injurious Behavior renamed Non-Suicidal Self-Injurious Behavior

The CANS Manuals have been updated to support the changes in the CANS items to ensure the valid and reliable scoring of these items.

### *CANS Online Training and Certification Exam*

Additionally, the CANS Online Training and Certification Exam has been updated to reflect the changes in the CANS tool and provide enhanced supports related to applying the CANS tool in case practice, such as treatment planning and decision-making. The July 2019 eWiSACWIS release includes updates to the CANS page and templates consistent with the changes made to the CANS tools and manuals. The CANS Online Training and Certification Exam is accessed through WCWPDS: <https://wcpds.wisc.edu/>. The updated training was posted to WCWPDS on August 23, 2019.

### *CANS Resources and Forms* <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cans>

The following CANS resources have been updated to reflect the above changes:

- Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Facts for Families brochure
- Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Facts for Child Welfare Professionals brochure
- Levels of Care: Foster Care Licensing brochure
- CANS Frequently Asked Questions
- CANS Desk Guide

The following CANS forms have been updated <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/forms> :

- DCF-F-2612-E: Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Results 0-5
- DCF-F-2611-E: Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Results 5-21
- DCF-F-2867-E: SG Amendment Request - Birth to 5 CANS Version
- DCF-F-2868-E: SG Amendment Request - 5 to 21 CANS Version
- DCF-F-2758-E: CANS 5-21 Amendment Confirmation of Needs Subsidized Guardianship/Adoption Assistance
- DCF-F-2759-E: CANS 0-5 Amendment Confirmation of Needs Subsidized Guardianship/Adoption Assistance
- DCF-F-2869-E: SG Amendment Request - Confirmation of Needs Emotional Characteristics (Birth to 5)



Attachment Links:

CANS Birth to 5 Manual

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/fc/pdf/cans/cans-b-5.pdf>

CANS 5 to 21 Manual

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/fc/pdf/cans/cans5-21.pdf>

CANS Frequently Asked Questions

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/fc/pdf/cans/faq.pdf>

CANS Desk Guide

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/fc/pdf/cans/cans-deskguide.pdf>

CANS Facts for Foster Parents

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/fc/pdf/cans/cans-facts-fp.pdf>

CANS Facts for Child Welfare Professionals

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/fc/pdf/cans/professionals.pdf>

DCF-P-2644: Levels of Care: Foster Care Licensing

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/publications/pdf/2644.pdf>

LON Algorithm: Birth to 5

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/fc/pdf/lon/lon-b-5-alg.pdf>

LON Algorithm: 5-21

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/fc/pdf/lon/lon5-21-alg.pdf>

Foster Care Algorithm: Birth to 5

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/fc/pdf/cans/supp0-5-alg.pdf>

Foster Care Algorithm: 5-21

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/fc/pdf/cans/supp5-21-alg.pdf>

Adoption Assistance Algorithm

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/fc/pdf/cans/adpt-assist-alg.pdf>

Subsidized Guardianship Algorithm

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/fc/pdf/cans/sg-alg.pdf>

Child/Youth Mental Health Screen Algorithm

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/fc/pdf/cans/mh-alg.pdf>