



Date: September 21, 2018

Policy Memo 01-18: **CANS and PSC-35 Implementation: BHRS Staff**

Amended: 10/31/2018

Amendment Changes: Department of Health Care Services released Information Notice 18-048 with the following changes to the implementation of the CANS and PSC-35

- **Implementation date for clients 18-20 has changed to February 1, 2019**
- **CANS and PSC 35 are only to be completed for new clients ages 6-17 opened on or after October 1, 2018 and for clients ages 18-20 on or after 2/1/2019.**

To: BHRS Clinical Staff, Supervisors, and Managers providing Specialty Mental Health services in San Mateo County.

Authority: The purpose of this memo is to set forth new documentation requirements to ensure compliance with DHCS Notices 17-052, 18-007, 18-029 and 18-048.

Implementation Date: All components of this memo must be fully implemented. This applies to all Adult and Youth Specialty Mental Health Teams.

CANS

The CANS is a structured assessment used for identifying youth and family actionable needs and useful strengths. It 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. Providers will complete the California CANS (CANS-50) through a collaborative process which includes children and youth **ages 6 up to age 20**, and their caregivers (at a minimum). [CANS form](#)

PSC-35

The 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 up to age 18**. [PSC-35 form](#)

County Clinical Staff

These forms are to be completed in Avatar using the CANS form titled “**Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths**” and the PSC-35 form titled “**Pediatric Symptom Checklist**”. The CANS and PSC-35 becomes a state requirement beginning October 1st, 2018 for ages 6-17 and November 1, 2018 clients ages 18-20.



Timing and administration – CANS and PSC-35 are due:

1. At initial intake (within 60 days)
2. Ongoing every 6 months while case is open
3. At discharge.

For clients ages 6 to 17 the CALOCUS will no longer be required. For clients ages 18 to 20 the LOCUS will continue to be required.

PSC-35 does not require training because it is completed by the parent/caregiver. For more information about the PSC-35. Including implementation, scoring and clinical utility, please visit the Pediatric Symptoms Checklist website at: http://www.massgeneral.org/psychiatry/services/psc_home.aspx.

Trainings for CANS

Use of the CANS tool requires training and certification **before** you can administer the tool. BHRS has set up a series of one and a half days of in person training for September and October, and an online exam at the end of the training for certification. CANS certification must be renewed annually. Initially There will be two sets of trainings provided, and listed in LMS for your registration. **You must provide certificate of completion of the CANS training to QM immediately after completing/passing the on-line exam.**

The following training days are available in [LMS](#):

For All staff:

- Full day training component and certification is September 24th, 25th, 26th, 2018 and October 15th, 16th, 17th, 2018
- Half day training component (CANS Treatment Planning) is September 27th, 28th (morning) and October 22nd, 23rd, 2018

For Managers and Psychiatrists:

- September 28th (afternoon) and October 23rd, 2018.

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has selected the Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC-35) and the Child and Adolescents Needs and Strengths (CANS) tools to measure child and youth functioning. The PSC-35 is to be completed for children/youth aged 3 to 18, and the CANS is to be completed for children/youth aged 6 to 20.

BHRS staff will be expected to follow the DHCS guidelines for both functional assessment tools.

- DHCS Notice [17-052](#) Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) – Specialty Mental Health Services Performance Outcomes System Functional Assessment Tools for Children and Youth [Enclosure 1](#), [PSC-35](#), [CANS](#)
- DHCS Notice [18-007](#) Requirements for Implementing the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment Tool within a Child and Family Team [Attachment 1](#), [Attachment 2](#), [Attachment 3](#)



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- DHCS Notice [18-029](#) Clarification Regarding Sharing of Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Assessments by County Placing Agencies and Mental Health Programs DHCS Notices located at: <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Pages/MHSUDS-Information-Notices.aspx>

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