



CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
Department for Community Based Services
Division of Protection and Permanency

Andy Beshear
Governor

275 East Main Street, 3E-A
 Frankfort, KY 40621
 Phone: 502-564-6852
 Fax: 502-564-4653
www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dcbs

Eric C. Friedlander
Secretary

Lesa Dennis
Commissioner

Contract Correspondence Transmittal (CCT)

CCT Number: 24-04	Date of Issue: December 18, 2024
Issuance: Division of Protection and Permanency, Assistant Director, Kelli Root KR	
Key Words/Phrases: The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)	
Attachments/Forms:	

The intent of this correspondence is to provide information on changes to the KY-CANS Assessment Report in Qualo.

- The textboxes at the end of each domain (Life Functioning, Cultural Factors, Child Strengths, Potentially Traumatic/Adverse Childhood Experiences, Emotional/Behavioral Needs, Risk Behaviors, and Caregiver Resources & Needs) are now mandatory. The PCC/PCP is required to write rationale for any needs items rated as actionable (“2” or “3”) and for Strengths rated as Centerpiece (“0”) and Useful (“1”), as well as Strengths to Build (“2” or 3”).
- The textbox “Did the child receive any other form of therapeutic services (group therapy, therapeutic home visits, etc.)” is also mandatory.
- The prompt for the textbox labeled “Other items that could assist DCBS in case planning” has been changed to the following:
 - If you are completing this youth's CANS for their Comprehensive Assessment, please use this space for the analysis and synthesis of the youth's presenting issues, history, and diagnosis, and how this information will be incorporated into the youth's ITP and supervision plan. If you are NOT completing this youth's CANS for their Comprehensive Assessment, or if this is an update to the Initial CANS, please provide additional information that could assist DCBS in case planning, including progress on treatment goals, barriers to treatment goal completion, and any additional recommendations you have for the youth at this time.



CABINET FOR HEALTH
AND FAMILY SERVICES

With these changes, it has been agreed upon that the CANS may be used in place of the comprehensive assessment.

- For Private Child Caring (PCC) programs, if the CANS is used in place of the comprehensive assessment then the CANS must be completed within twenty-one (21) days of the child's placement and updated every 90 days.
- For Private Child Placing (PCP) programs, if the CANS is used in place of the comprehensive assessment then the CANS must be completed within thirty (30) days of the child's placement and updated every 90 days.
- If the child does not screen in for the CANS, the PCC/PCP may still use the CANS in place of the comprehensive assessment.
- The PCC/PCP is required to gather information from previous placements and treatment records; the DCBS team; and the youth and family to accurately complete the CANS that will inform the youth's ongoing treatment needs.

If the CANS is used in place of the comprehensive assessment, the following must be included in the CANS:

- The PCC/PCP will address the ten domains. The text boxes must provide information regarding each domain.
- Specific recommendations regarding the child's treatment needs will be provided.
- The PCC/PCP will provide information on the which evidence-based treatments will be used, included recommended treatment modalities, frequency of sessions, and sessions provided during the reporting period, for individual and family therapy.
- The CANS will be reviewed during treatment team meetings consisting of the child, the child's family and additional support individuals that the child requests be present, the PCP treatment director, PCP case manager, therapist, other treatment providers, and the Cabinet social service worker.

The Standardized Screening and Assessment team has been expanded to include two Clinical Consultants who will be available to provide additional training on the CANS as the Comprehensive Standardized Assessment, as well as ongoing technical support, training, and CANS quality reviews.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Lizzie Minton at lizzie.minton@ky.gov or Holly Davis at hollyc.davis@ky.gov.