

CANS and CFT within CPM Practice Elements

A simple illustration to support the message that CPM offers an organizing framework for current practice and system improvement



ENGAGEMENT

- Orient the family about the role and importance of the team as they progress through the child welfare process.
- Build shared understanding of the function of the team as it relates to the use of the CANS to inform priorities, targeted needs, and to ensure the right kind of support and services to the child and family.
- Co-create and design the family's goals and hopes that would be enhanced and supported by the team, using the CANS and other solution focused strategies and appropriate assessment tools.
- Explore with the family their understanding, interest, and willingness to expand their network to include a mental health professional and any other professional supports that might add value, in line with the family's goals and perhaps early identified needs.
- Convene preparatory conversations with the family and their network members to review the CANS, working slowly through the domains to build familiarity with the questions.
- Engage the family, children, and network members in the CANS, gathering responses and brainstorming answers to questions that the CANS may provoke.
- Engage the family and their network (including any professional partners) in planning for the initial and ongoing CFTs where all the responses to the CANS will be compiled and reviewed by the team in one setting.

INQUIRY

- Explore with families and children, seeking to learn who is in their network.
- Ask about family systems, culture, and about who and what is important to the family
- Explore with the family ways that the CFT process (teaming) might need to be adapted for the family to maximize their and their team's participation.
- Explore with the family ways that the questions in the CANS might need to be adapted to fit with the family's understanding and context.

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TEAMING

- In the context of a CFT, using a collaborative framework, orient the team to the “teaming” process (aka: a meeting is NOT a team) and affirm their role and commitment up to this point.
- After welcoming the team and creating group agreements, set the purpose for the meeting, which should include the team’s review and exploration of the information that has been compiled thus far.
- As a team, begin to prioritize needs within the 6 domains, listening to the family and their network and brainstorming strategies and ideas for support
- The team ensures that support and subsequent intervention is in line with the family’s wishes and is respectful of their cultural and family context.
- Clarify roles that the team members will play to link family’s and children’s needed supports, after prioritizing any needs that were identified as well as next steps that will happen.
- Discuss and plan as a team how the CANS will be updated and revisited and how it will inform the case plan, support plans, and will be documented and described in court reports.

ADVOCACY

- Ensure that the CANS is a tool that lifts up both resiliency and needs that the family and their network identifies and that the subsequent plan for intervention is in line with the family’s overall goals.
- Ensure that the family is referred to the supports that make the most sense for the family, working to overcome any system barriers that may hinder those connections.
- Advocate for the ongoing important role that the family’s team will play to participate in ongoing assessment, monitoring, adapting plans, and celebrating progress.

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ACCOUNTABILITY

- Ensure that the CANS is physically completed either in the CFT or immediately following, and completely reflective of the team's individual and collective feedback and shared prioritization.
- Quickly link, refer, and connect the family and children to identified supports, services, and any follow-ups needed.
- Show completed CANS to the team, reminding the team of process for adapting and revisiting the CANS.
- Acknowledge and affirm the team's role in sharing accountability for family support.
- Ensure that the CANS informs the case plan, support plan, and is reflected in appropriate documentation and reports.