

Date: March 26, 2019

CYF Memo: # 07- 18/19 (Replaces CYF Memo # 03-18/19)

To: CYF Mental Health Treatment Programs

From: Yael Koenig, CYF Deputy Director

Re: **Updated CANS sharing**

- Client Plan- CANS Sharing Confirmation page
- CANS Family Letter

In July 2018, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) disseminated an All County Letter (ACL) [No.18-85](#) mandating that the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessments be shared between County placing agencies (Child Welfare Services [CWS] and Probation) and Mental Health Plans (MHPs). The ACL identifies parameters around sharing specific CANS items. When an Authorization to Disclose Protected Health Information (including the 04-24A; 04-29) is in place, our local process allows for the providers to release the full CANS to the placing agency.

In an effort to align with this mandate, the County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services (BHS) created the CANS Family Letter to provide a systematic and consistent manner for BHS providers to discuss CANS results with families in advance of CWS or Probation representatives sharing the CANS results in a Child and Family Team (CFT) meeting. After receiving feedback from Mental Health providers and working in partnership with the Mental Health Contractors Association (MHCA), the following expectations were established:

- CANS Sharing Confirmation page shall be completed within the Client Plan
- The confirmation page will serve as verification that a discussion about the CANS results has occurred with the client and family which also might include offering a copy of the CANS Family Letter and CANS results to the family

The attached revised CANS Family Letter provides a brief explanation about the CANS and can also serve as a space for the family to take notes on the various domains pertaining to strengths and needs. While sharing a copy of the CANS Family Letter or CANS results with client and family is one optional way to share the information, it is important to remember that for system-involved children and youth, Child Welfare representatives are routinely sharing CANS results in CFT meetings. CWS has communicated positive feedback and report productive discussions as a result from this process.

The importance of sharing assessment results with families has been highlighted by the State and originates in feedback received by the State from families. CYF recognizes that there are instances when sharing specific CANS items may not be clinically indicated, and the system has to allow for those exceptions. In an effort to uphold the philosophy of 'nothing about us without us', the system expectation is to communicate as much as clinically appropriate with clients and families.

The CANS Sharing Confirmation page will be live on April 1, 2019 in CCBH and expected to be utilized no later than May 1, 2019.

Attachments: CANS Family Letter Rv. 3.11.19 (*Will be available in all threshold languages*)
CANS Family Letter Explanation Rv. 3.11.19
Client Plan- CANS Sharing Confirmation page

CC: County of San Diego Child Welfare Services
County of San Diego Probation Department
Child and Adolescent Research Center (CASRC)
Health Services Research Center (HSRC)
County of San Diego Performance Improvement Team
County of San Diego Quality Management
Optum Health