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## QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE MEMO

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### Updates to CANS Functional Assessment for Medi-Cal Beneficiaries Ages 0-20

Since October 2018, Contra Costa Behavioral Health Services (CCBHS) has administered the Child and Adolescents Needs and Strengths (CANS) and Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC-35) assessment tools to measure child and youth functioning with children birth to 21. The CANS Implementation Team that monitors CCBHS CANS has revised the CANS tool, taking into consideration Children & Family Services CANS implementation and review of current CCBHS CANS data. Providers should begin using the revised tool on **November 1, 2020**.

**Background:** The CANS provide a standardized way to examine service needs and changes at the individual (e.g., treatment planning) and program (e.g., service capacity) levels. The CANS is an information integration tool used to accurately represent the needs and strengths of children, youth, and their families. The CANS is completed by clinicians, in collaboration with the family and child/youth's treatment team as part of initial and annual assessments as well as at the 6-month point between assessments and at discharge.

**CANS Revisions:** Overall, two core items and two modules have been added and three modules were removed from the CANS. Specifically the following was:

#### ADDED to the CANS

1. Eating Disturbance item to the Behavioral/Emotional Needs domain
2. Sexual Exploitation item to the Potentially Traumatic/ACEs domain; children/youth ages 10 or older with a "Yes" score will complete the new Commercially Sexually Exploited Children module. The module can also be completed for youth under the age of 10 if the clinician sees appropriate
3. Transition Age Youth Module consisting of ten items for clients ages 18-20

#### REMOVED from the CANS

1. Three items from the Violence module (information was duplicative and collected elsewhere on the form)
2. Fire Setting module
3. Runaway module
4. Sexually Aggressive Behaviors module

**Policy Revision:** As of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, the CANS has waived the requirement for the CALOCUS tool previously administered to youth up to age 18 and LOCUS for clients ages 18-20. Clinicians who complete a CANS for clients ages 0-20 do NOT need to submit a CALOCUS or LOCUS. County policies

are currently being updated to reflect this change. Providers will still need to complete a LOCUS for adult clients ages 21+ until further notice.

If you should have any questions, contact the staff listed below.

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