



Office of Children's Services  
Empowering communities to serve youth

# What CSA Coordinators Should Know about CANS

New Coordinator Academy

May 10, 2022

Carol Wilson, Program Consultant

# Today's Topics

- Purpose of the Mandatory Uniform Assessment Instrument (MUAI)
- CANS Assessment
  - Communimetric, not psychometric tool
  - Rating scale and "Key Principles"
  - Domains, modules, versions
- Websites (how to help your local staff) and where to find information
- Reports and other info (data)
  - Making the CANS work for you

# Your Role with CANS

Are you currently or do you plan to be certified on the administration of the CANS?

- Yes
- No

# Your Role with CANS

- Are you (or will you be) designated as a CANVaS Local Administrator, sometimes referred to as a "DSU/RA" or a "CANS Super User?"
- Yes
- No

# Why do we have the CANS?

All children and youth, regardless of eligibility criteria, age, or referral source, who receive services funded by the CSA state pool shall be assessed using a mandatory uniform assessment instrument approved by the State Executive Council.





# Why do we do CANS?

- Statutory requirements for a mandatory uniform assessment instrument (MUAI) for children and youth served by the Children's Services Act (CSA)
  - COV §2.2-2648 (11)
  - COV §2.2-5210
  - COV §2.2-5212
  - Appropriations Act Item #282 B (8)
- State Executive Council
  - based on the recommendations of an interagency workgroup, selected the CANS for CSA for use beginning 7/1/2009
  - Adopted a comprehensive CANS policy (#3.6) effective January 1, 2019

# CANS for CSA

- What did CSA need in the MUAI?
  - Utility in service planning, measurement of outcomes and level of need
  - Multi-agency/disciplinary approach, serving multiple populations
  - Mechanism for training and certifying raters who were not clinicians
    - Not used as a clinical mental health assessment for CSA
  - No cost to local government

# Why do we do CANS?

- What are the purposes of use of the CANS for CSA?
  - A. To form a basis for service planning
  - B. Gather data for reports and analysis
  - C. Measure outcomes
  - D. Assist in determining a child's level of need



# About the CANS

- CANS and related assessments were developed by John S. Lyons, Ph.D.
- Recommended as a functional assessment
- Adaptable because of “modular” design
- Intended to enhance communication with families and “shared vision”

# Communimetric Tool

- CANS is a communimetric, not a psychometric, tool
  - Some subjectivity is inherent and expected
  - Balanced by consistent rating logic and specific item and anchor definitions
- Based on observations at a point in time
- About the “what” not the “why”
- Not about what’s easiest for the “system”...(e.g., rating a certain way to assure funding for a specific service)

# Versions of CANS

## Virginia Standard CANS

- Comprehensive Birth to Four
- Reassessment Birth to Four
- Comprehensive Ages 5-21
- Reassessment Ages 5-21

## Virginia DSS- Enhanced CANS

- Comprehensive Birth to Four
- Reassessment Birth to Four
- Comprehensive Ages 5-21
- Reassessment Ages 5-21



# Virginia CANS Domains

**Life Functioning**

**Strengths/Resiliency**

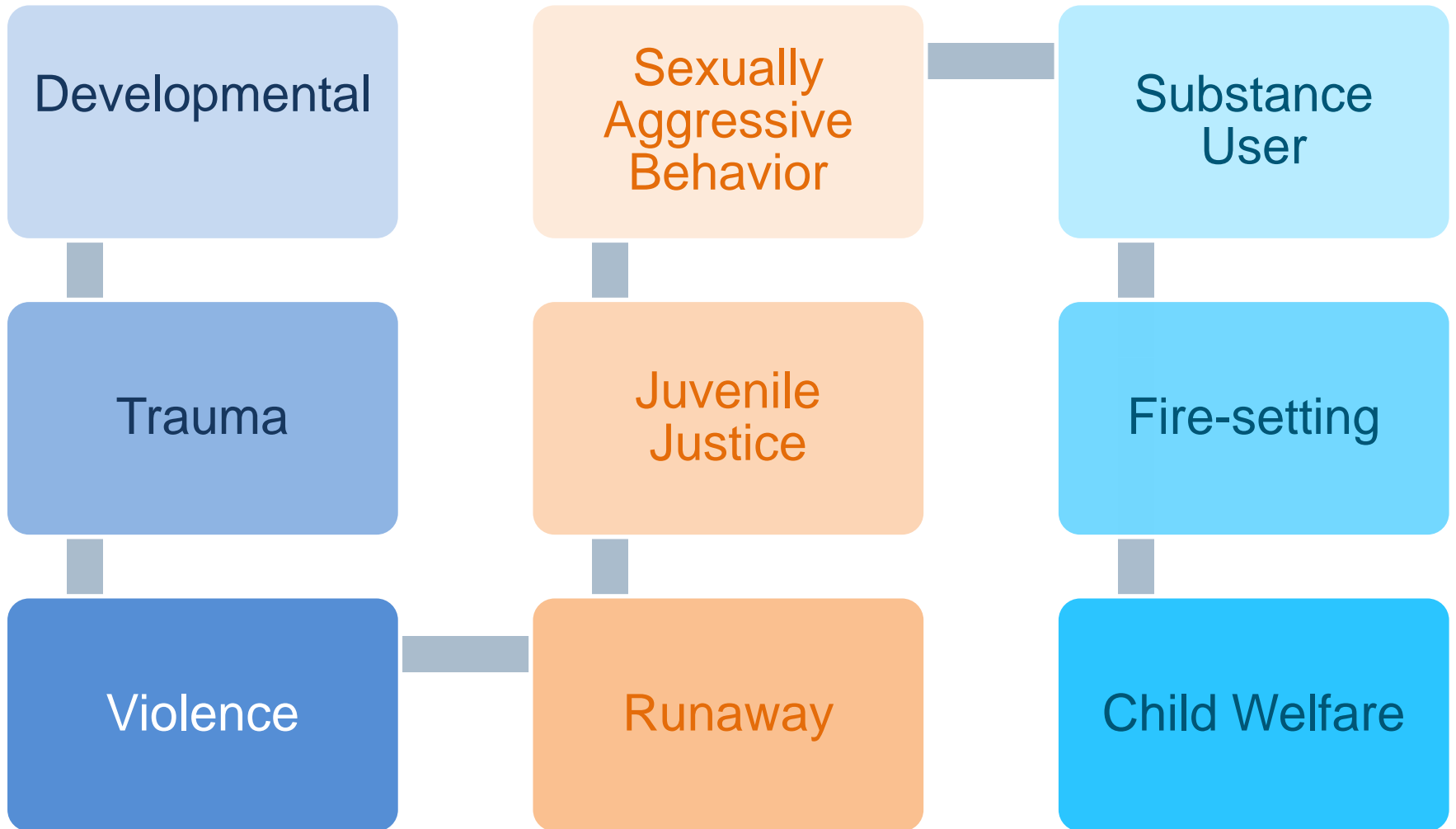
**School**

**Caregiver Strengths  
and Needs**

**Behavioral/Emotional  
Needs**

**Risk Behaviors**

# Virginia CANS Modules



# Rating Needs

- Ratings of "0" to "3"
- Needs items
  - "0" indicates no evidence of need
  - "1" mild level of need and/or history of need
  - "2" moderate level of need
  - "3" severe level of need
- Corresponding action levels of each rating on needs:
  - "0" no need for action
  - "1" monitoring, watchful waiting or prevention
  - "2" requires action to ensure that the identified need is addressed
  - "3" requires immediate or intensive action

Needs items rated "2" or "3" should be addressed on service plans.

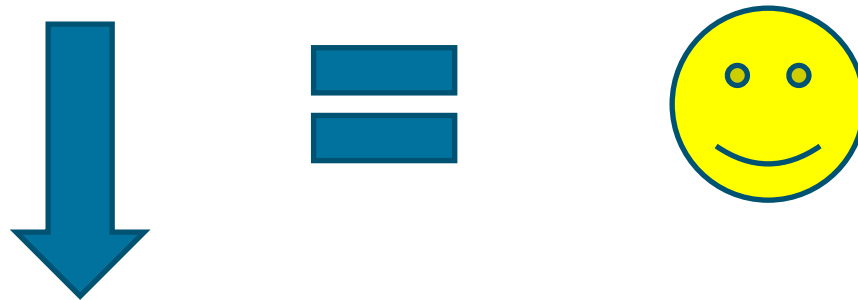
# Rating Strengths

- Strengths items
  - "0" indicates a centerpiece strength; may be important in service planning
  - "1" indicates a strength exists in this area; may require some development
  - "2" indicates strength has been identified, but no action taken to build or develop
  - "3" no strength identified in this area

\*Strengths may be identified as areas to develop on a service plan or may be used to assist meeting a need or supporting healthy functioning.

# Rating the CANS

- The lower the rating on both strengths and needs items, the better the child is functioning.
- Lowering of numbers indicates improvement in functioning.



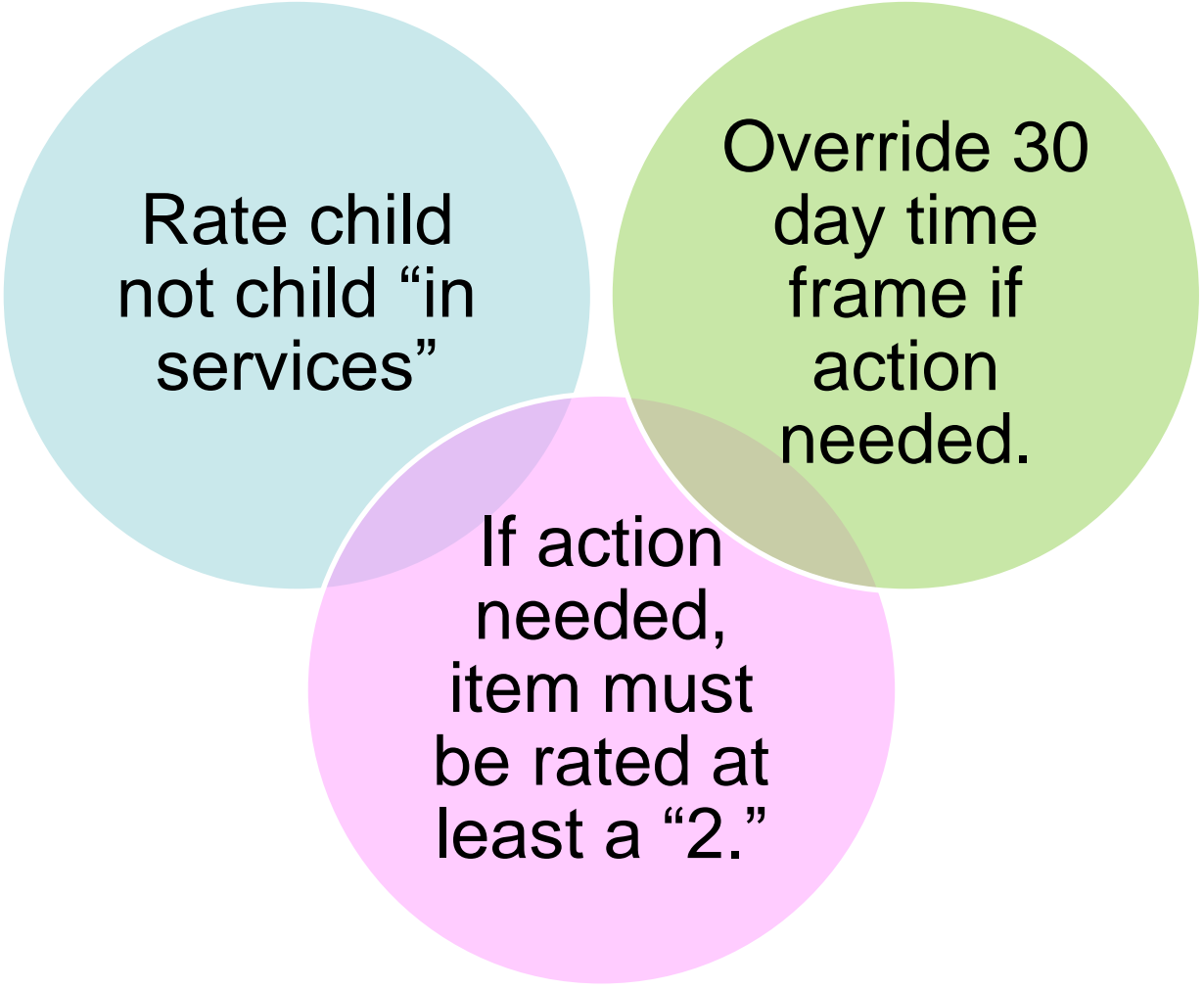


# Rating the Caregiver



- Who is the Caregiver?
  - Agencies or case managers are never the caregiver
  - Rate caregivers
    - With whom the child or youth is living
    - From whom the child has been removed and the plan is to reunite
    - Relatives or others who are potential placement resources
    - Foster parents are rated only if the child is in a pre-adoptive placement
    - Older youth for whom there is no planned permanent caregiver
- Rate the Caregiver assessment on how each item (need or strength) *affects that person's ability to care for the child, not how it affects the caregiver.*

# Three of Six Key Principles

Three overlapping circles are arranged in a triangular pattern. The top-left circle is light blue, the top-right circle is light green, and the bottom-center circle is light pink. Each circle contains a key principle. The circles overlap in the center, creating a purple-pink hue.

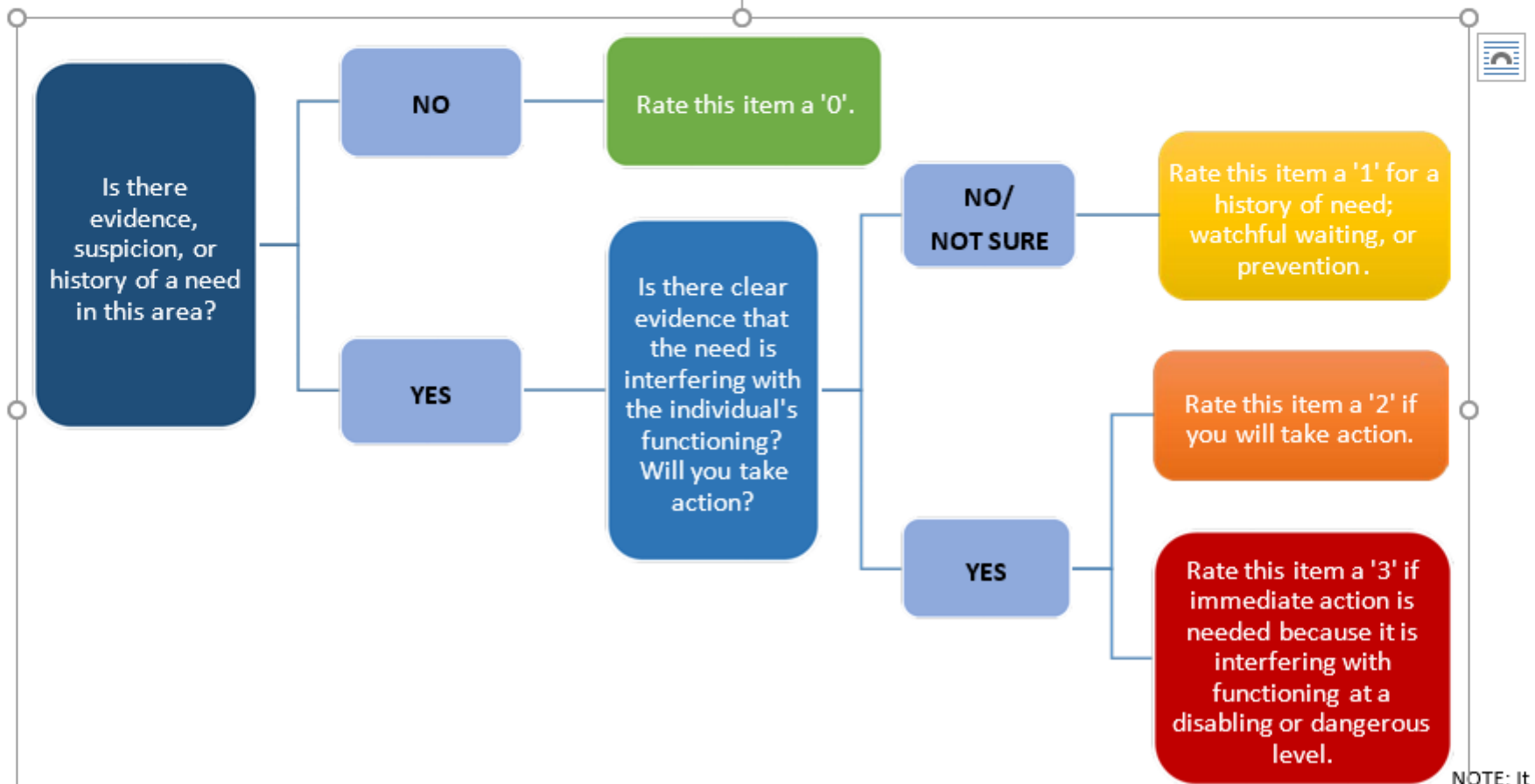
Rate child  
not child "in  
services"

Override 30  
day time  
frame if  
action  
needed.

If action  
needed,  
item must  
be rated at  
least a "2."

# ASSESSING FOR NEEDS

Decision of whether or not information represents a NEED



Font Paragraph Styles

10 A A Aa A

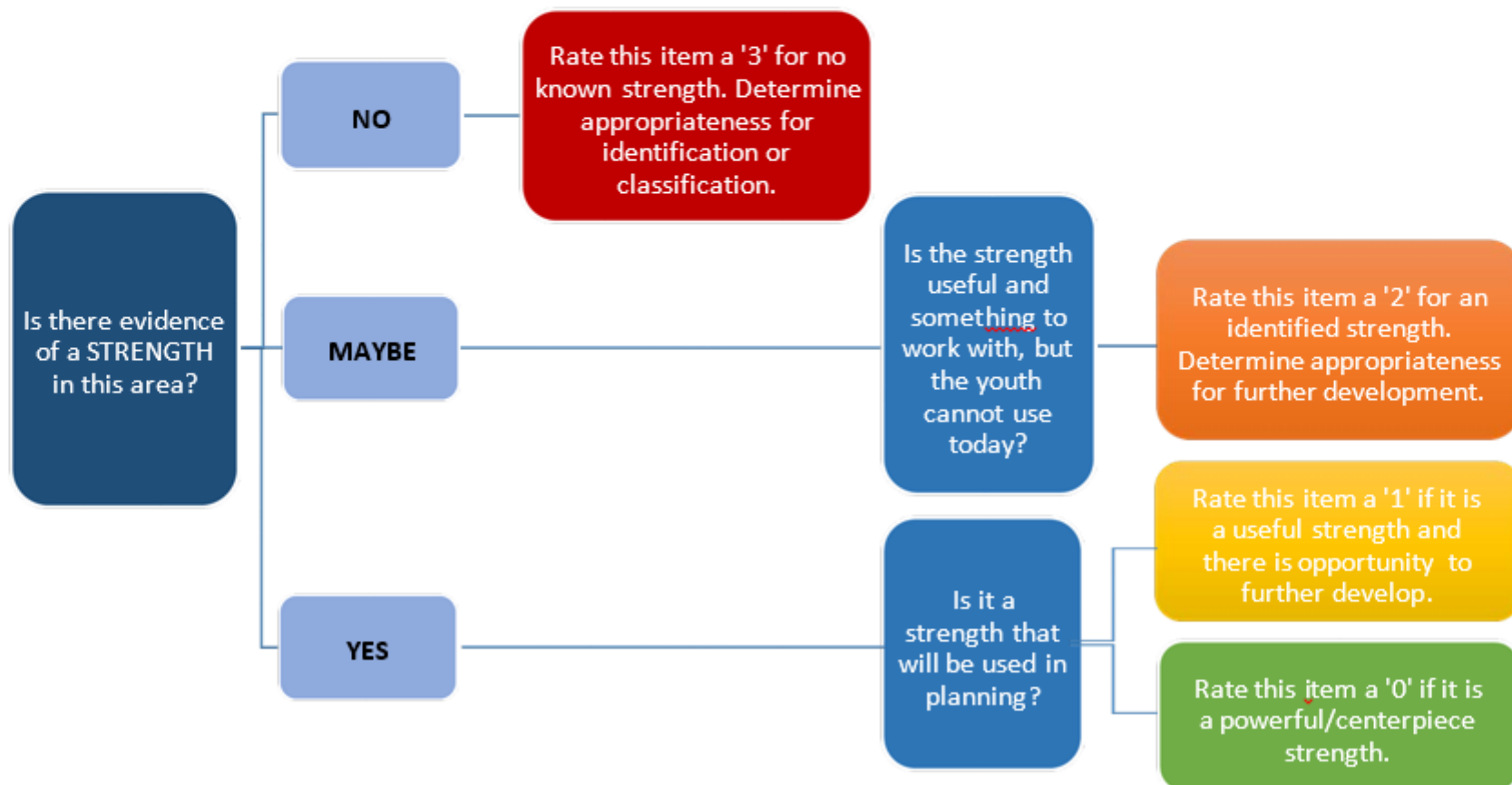
AaBbCcDc AaBbCcDc **AaA** AaBbCcC AaB AaBbCcD AaBbCcDc

Normal No Spac... Heading 1 Heading 2 Title Subtitle Subtle Em...

Font Paragraph Styles

# ASSESSING FOR STRENGTHS

Decision of whether or not information represents a STRENGTH |



# How often is the assessment done?

- Minimum state CSA requirements are:
  - Initial (Comprehensive)
  - Annual (may be Reassessment or Comprehensive)
  - Discharge (Comprehensive)
- Reassessments done during the year as needed for service planning or other funding sources (e.g., Medicaid)
- SEC Policy 3.6 (CANS Policy) provides Frequency of Administration requirements

# Rating the CANS POLL

Over time, a drop in ratings on strengths and needs items means a child or caregiver's functioning is improving.

- True
- False



# CANS Websites



# Two websites you should know

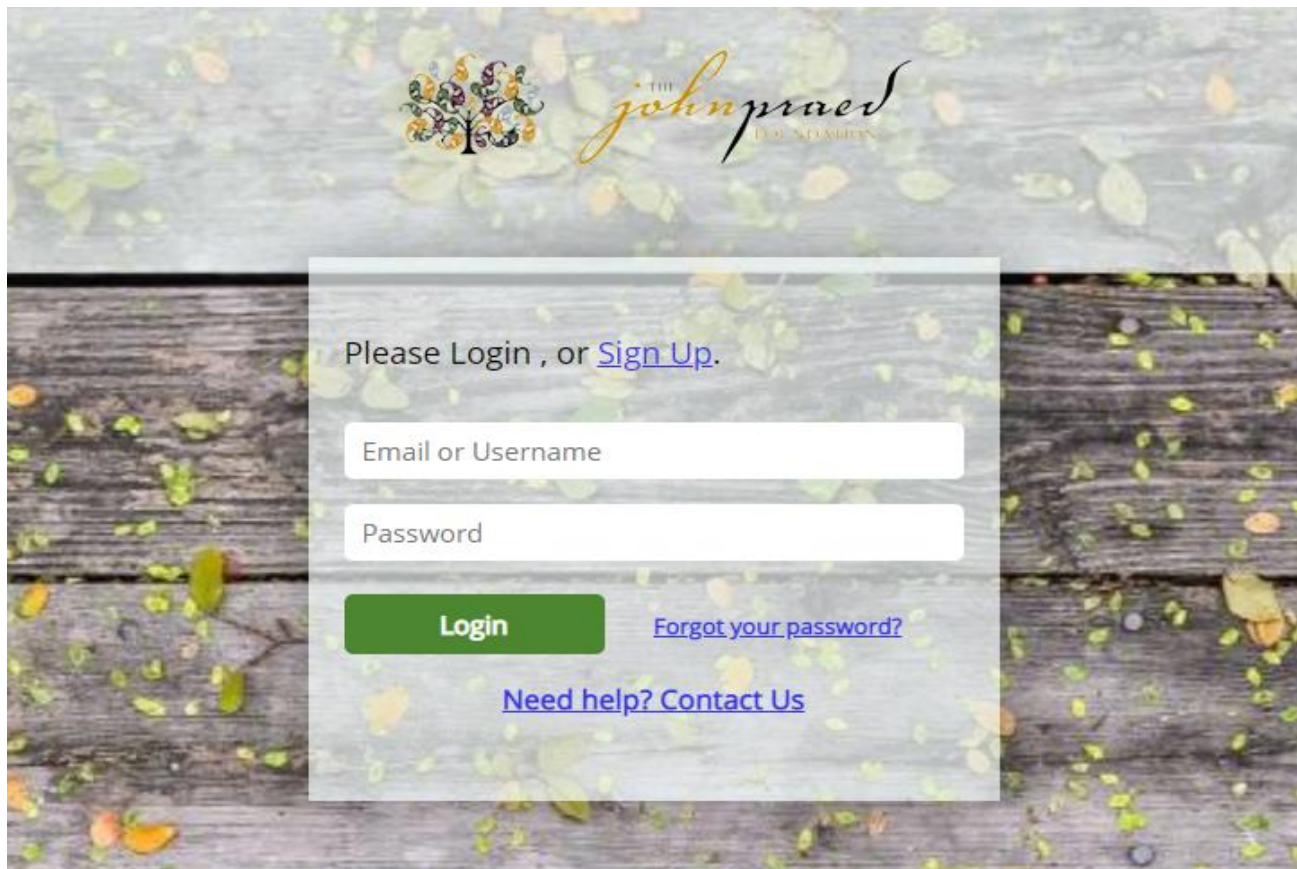
- CANS Training and Certification Site hosted by the Praed Foundation on SchooX software

<https://www.schoox.com/academy/CANSAcademy/home/>

- CANVaS 2.0 –Online assessment system to complete CANS assessments and gather data hosted on VITA servers and supported by RCR Technology, Inc.

<https://csa.canvas.virginia.gov>





# CANS Training/Certification Site

# CANS Training and Certification Site

- Case managers
  - Create online accounts
  - Go through training modules and review supplemental materials
  - Take a practice exam
  - Take a certification exam
- Certification is granted with a passing score of .70 or higher.
- Case managers should print a copy of the certificate.

# CANS Certification

- The CANS is administered by the local public agency case manager for the child and family.
- Any one administering the CANS must be currently certified on its use.
- Recertification is required annually.



THE *john praed*  
FOUNDATION

Please Login , or [Sign Up](#).

Login

[Forgot your password?](#)

[Need help? Contact Us](#)

Browser tabs: (10) Praed, Collaboration Collabora

Address bar: /academy/CANSaca... home/

URL: 20191104153...

Navigation: Home Me **Training** Content Tools Manage X

Language: EN

Notifications: 8, 10+

My Training: Online and In-Class training you take

Courses: Courses open for you to take

Bundles: Online bundles open for you to take

Events: Instructor-led events you can join

Online Academy

Hi Carol Wilson



Announcements: April 6, 2020 Hello TCOM... View message

Courses In Progress: Go to My Courses

Virginia CANS 5+ 1.0 Due Date: Feb 06, 2020 0.0%

Virginia CANS 0-4 1.0

courses.php?acadId=1521880855&mine=1





## Academy Bundles

Order By: Creation Date A-Z



### Virginia, Public

by Lauren Schmidt | 4 courses | Category: Virginia / Public

This bundle is for Users who need to Certify in the TCOM Tools for the State of Virginia, Public

Apr 27, 2018

**purchased**  
**FREE**



### Categories

General

All Bundles

Without Category

• Compliance Courses

• Virginia

is offered by:



Praed Foundation

Average Rating: ★★

ive Training Website (TCOM)

el Coupon

/annually

Total

\$0



Virginia CANS 0-4 1.0

Education



Praed Foundation Collaborative

Course Price

Included

0 Reviews



Virginia CANS 0-4 1.0 DSS

Education



Praed Foundation Collaborative

Course Price

Included

1 Reviews



Virginia CANS 5+ 1.0

Education



Praed Foundation C

Course Price

Included

Enrolled





 Course

# Virginia CANS 5+ 1.0

 43 Steps  4 Supplemental materials

Total Progress 

 Total Time 0:15:37

 Completed 1 time

**4** Supplemental materials Discussion Board

ains:

\* Suggested

 Domain 1

Introduction to Training



Step

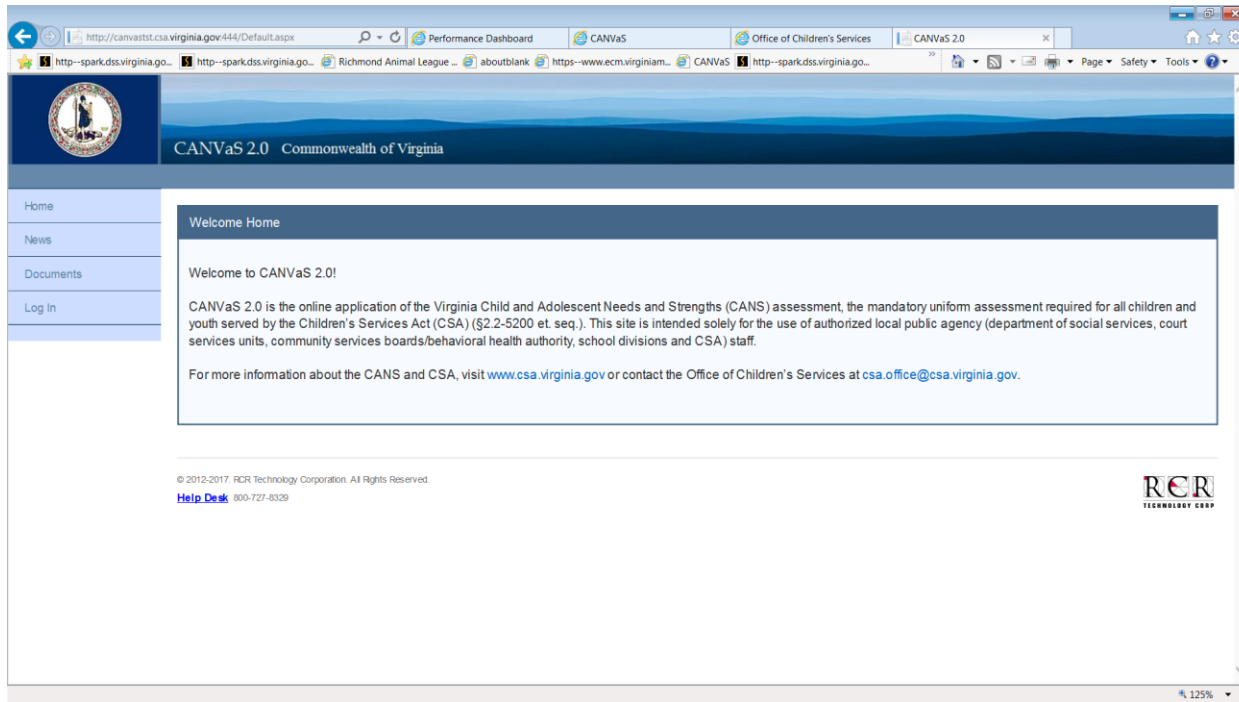


# Accessing the Training and Certification Site

- The link to detailed instructions on how to access the CANS training and certification site is found in the CANS folder on the OCS website ([www.csa.virginia.gov](http://www.csa.virginia.gov))
  - Go to “Resources” > CANS>Training and Certification
- [http://www.csa.virginia.gov/Content/doc/REVISION\\_02052019\\_New\\_User\\_Instructions\\_to\\_Access\\_CANS\\_SchoolX\\_Training\\_and\\_Certification\\_Site.pdf](http://www.csa.virginia.gov/Content/doc/REVISION_02052019_New_User_Instructions_to_Access_CANS_SchoolX_Training_and_Certification_Site.pdf)

# Certification Data Transfers to CANVaS 2.0





# CANVaS 2.0

# Accessing CANVaS 2.0

- Case Manager
  - May create child profiles
  - Completes online assessments
  - May view and print assessments
  - May view and print the Individual Progress Report and the Permanency Report for child and caregivers for whom that case manager has entered at least one assessment
- Data Entry

# Accessing and Navigating CANVaS 2.0

- Instructions for accessing and navigating CANVaS for Case Managers may be found on the OCS website following the same path as above but clicking on “Navigating CANVaS 2.0-Basics for Case Managers/Raters” found at
- [http://www.csa.virginia.gov/Content/doc/Navigating\\_CANVaS\\_2\\_0\\_Basics\\_for\\_Raters\\_Case\\_Managers.pdf](http://www.csa.virginia.gov/Content/doc/Navigating_CANVaS_2_0_Basics_for_Raters_Case_Managers.pdf)

# What Case Managers Need

- If you are the Local Administrator
  - Provide both the Instructions for “Access to the CANS Training Site” and the “Navigating CANVaS Basics for Case Managers” when an account is requested
  - Make them aware of how to access site support for both websites
    - “Click on “Contact Us” or **green** button for “**Help**” in lower right hand corner of training/certification site
    - Contact CANVaS Help Desk at 1-877-727-8329 or [canvas@rcrtechnology.com](mailto:canvas@rcrtechnology.com)

# New DSS Foster Care Prevention Model

- New LDSS practice model for foster care prevention cases
  - Focus on serving children and families in the home
  - Formerly considered CPS Ongoing and Foster Care Prevention
  - Requires Prevention Plans and CANS done every 90 days

# New DSS Foster Care Prevention Model

- LDSS uses CANVaS to enter CANS for in-home cases that are not "CSA"
- Raters will select type of case for each assessment entered into CANVaS





- Home
- News
- Documents
- Log In

### Login Information

User Name

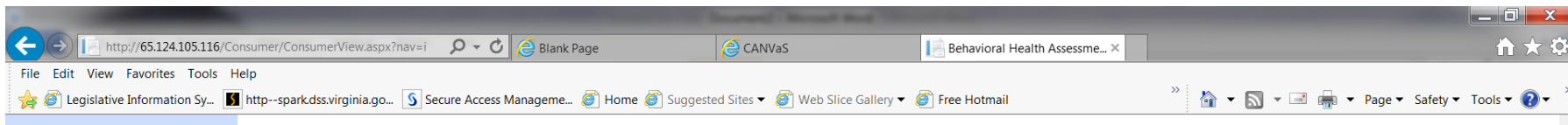
Password

Login

[Forgot Password?](#)



# CANVaS 2.0



**View Callie Cat** To search type and hit enter...

First Name	<input type="text" value="Callie"/>	Referral Source	<input type="text" value="CSB"/>
Last Name	<input type="text" value="Cat"/>	Internal ID	<input type="text" value="1234"/>
Middle Name	<input type="text"/>	Race	<input type="text" value="African American"/>
Birth Date	<input type="text" value="5/1/2007"/>	Gender	<input type="text" value="Female"/>
SSN	<input type="text" value="1111"/>	Ethnicity	<input type="text" value="Hispanic"/>
Medicaid ID	<input type="text"/>		

LOCALITY	USER	START DATE	END DATE
Arlington	Susie Sweet	10/26/2015	10/26/2021
Hanover	Sally Sweet	10/02/2015	10/02/2021
Hanover	Carol Wilson	10/22/2015	10/22/2021



- You have assessments open more than 60 days. Please close as open assessments will be deleted on the 75th day. [Click here for more details.](#)
- You have annual assessments due/overdue. [Click here for details.](#)

CANS Reassessment 5+ assessment (# 378938 ) for Pink Peach

Entry Mode: Interview Mode

Status: Open

Referral Source: DSS

Assessment Reason: Reassessment

**General Questions: INTENSIVE COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES**

Has the child received intensive community-based services in the last six months, and if so, were these services successful?

- Child has not received community-based services.
- The child has received community-based services and the services were successful.
- The child has received community-based services and the services were not successful.

Comments

[Next](#) [Last](#)



# CANVaS 2.0

Browser window showing CANVaS 2.0 interface. URL: http://65.124.105.116/Assessment/AssessmentItemRapidentry.ε

**CANS Comprehensive 5+ Assessment #1660 for Callie Cat**  
 Entry Mode: Rapid Entry Mode      Status: Open      Referral Source: CSB      Assessment Reason: Reassessment

**General Questions (Please answer according to anchor definitions.)**

	0	1	2	3	Comments
● INTENSIVE COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="text"/>
● CHILD REMOVAL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			<input type="text"/>
● CHILD AGE	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="text"/>
● CURRENT PLACEMENT - Foster Home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			<input type="text"/>
● CURRENT PLACEMENT - Group Home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			<input type="text"/>
● CURRENT PLACEMENT - Residential Treatment Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			<input type="text"/>
● CURRENT PLACEMENT - Family/Relation Home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			<input type="text"/>

**Life Domain Functioning (0 = No Evidence of Problems; 1 = History, Mild; 2 = Moderate; 3 = Severe)**

	0	1	2	3	Comments
● FAMILY	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
● LIVING SITUATION	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>
● SLEEP	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>

## *CANS Reports and Data*

# Making the CANS Work for You



# How is CANS data used?

- Performance measures in OCS data
- CANVaS Reports Manual
  - Administrative Reports (e.g., Staff Certification, Active Users)
- Individual Progress and Permanency Reports
- Longevity Reports (e.g., Key Intervention Needs over Time, Individual Collaborative Report)

# Individual Progress Report-William P.

- Compares a child's initial ratings to the two most recent assessments
- A rater may view the report if he or she has entered at least one assessment for the child
- Can cut and paste into Excel to create simple graphs
- Report provides list of "resolved" issues (when a "2" or "3" becomes a "0" or "1".
- Notes items requiring continued intervention
  - Most recent rating of "3"
  - Most recent rating of "2"

This report will enable the user to review the individual child's assessments across time.

### Life Domain Functioning

Question	CANS Comprehensive - 5+ 10/18/2018	CANS Reassessment - 5+ 10/18/2018	CANS Comprehensive - 5+ 10/19/2018
FAMILY	2	2	1
LIVING SITUATION	2	1	1
SLEEP	0	0	0
SOCIAL FUNCTIONING	1	1	0
SEXUAL DEVELOPMENT	0	0	0
RECREATION	2	1	0
DEVELOPMENTAL	0	0	0
COMMUNICATION	0	0	0
JUDGMENT	2	2	1
ACCULTURATION	0	0	0
LEGAL	2	2	1
MEDICAL	0	0	0
PHYSICAL HEALTH	0	0	0
DAILY FUNCTIONING	0	0	0
INDEPENDENT LIVING - Rate "0" for children < age 14	0	0	0

### Child Strengths/Resiliency

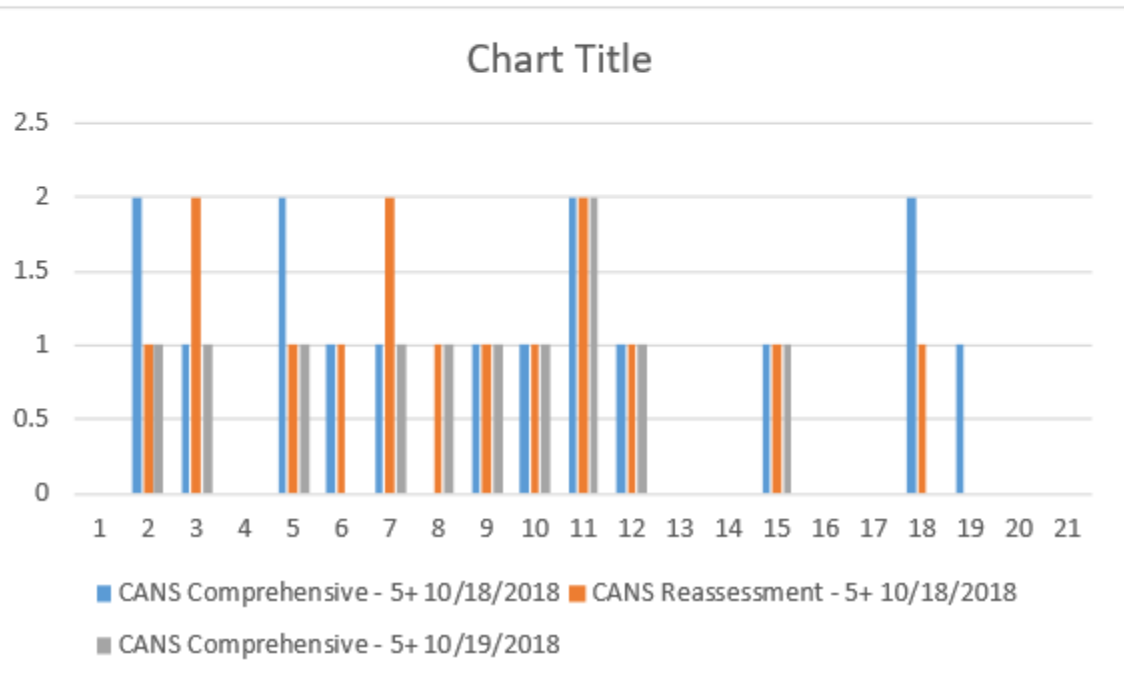
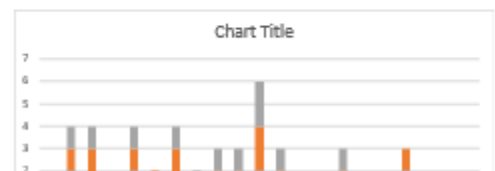
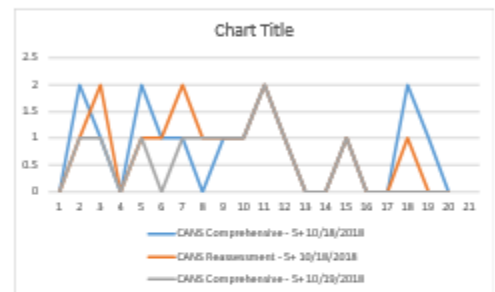
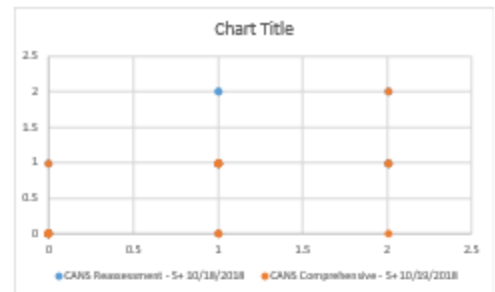
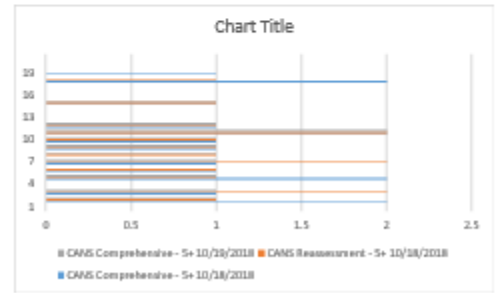
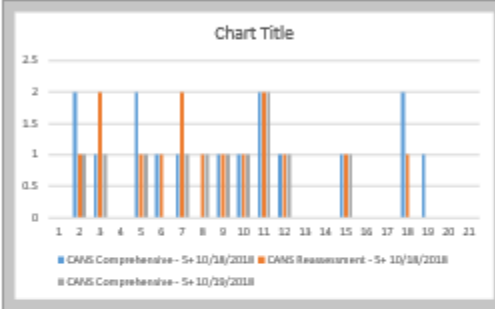
Question	CANS Comprehensive - 5+ 10/18/2018	CANS Reassessment - 5+ 10/18/2018	CANS Comprehensive - 5+ 10/19/2018
FAMILY	2	2	1
INTERPERSONAL	2	1	1
OPTIMISM	2	2	1



Behavioral/Emotional Needs	CANS	CANS	CANS
	Comprehensive - 5+ 10/18/2018	Reassessment - 5+ 10/18/2018	Comprehensive - 5+ 10/19/2018
PSYCHOSIS	0	0	0
IMPULSIVITY/HYPERACTIVITY	2	1	1
DEPRESSION	1	2	1
ANXIETY	0	0	0
OPPOSITIONAL CONDUCT	2	1	1
ADJUSTMENT TO TRAUMA	1	2	1
SEXUAL ABUSE	0	1	1
PHYSICAL ABUSE	1	1	1
EMOTIONAL ABUSE	1	1	1
NEGLECT	2	2	2
DISRUPTIONS IN CAREGIVING	1	1	1
MEDICAL TRAUMA	0	0	0
NATURAL DISASTER	0	0	0
WITNESS TO DOMESTIC (OR FAMILY) VIOLENCE	1	1	1
WITNESS TO COMMUNITY/SCHOOL VIOLENCE	0	0	0
WITNESS/VICTIM TO CRIMINAL ACTIVITY	0	0	0
ANGER CONTROL	2	1	0
SUBSTANCE USE	1	0	0
EATING DISTURBANCE	0	0	0

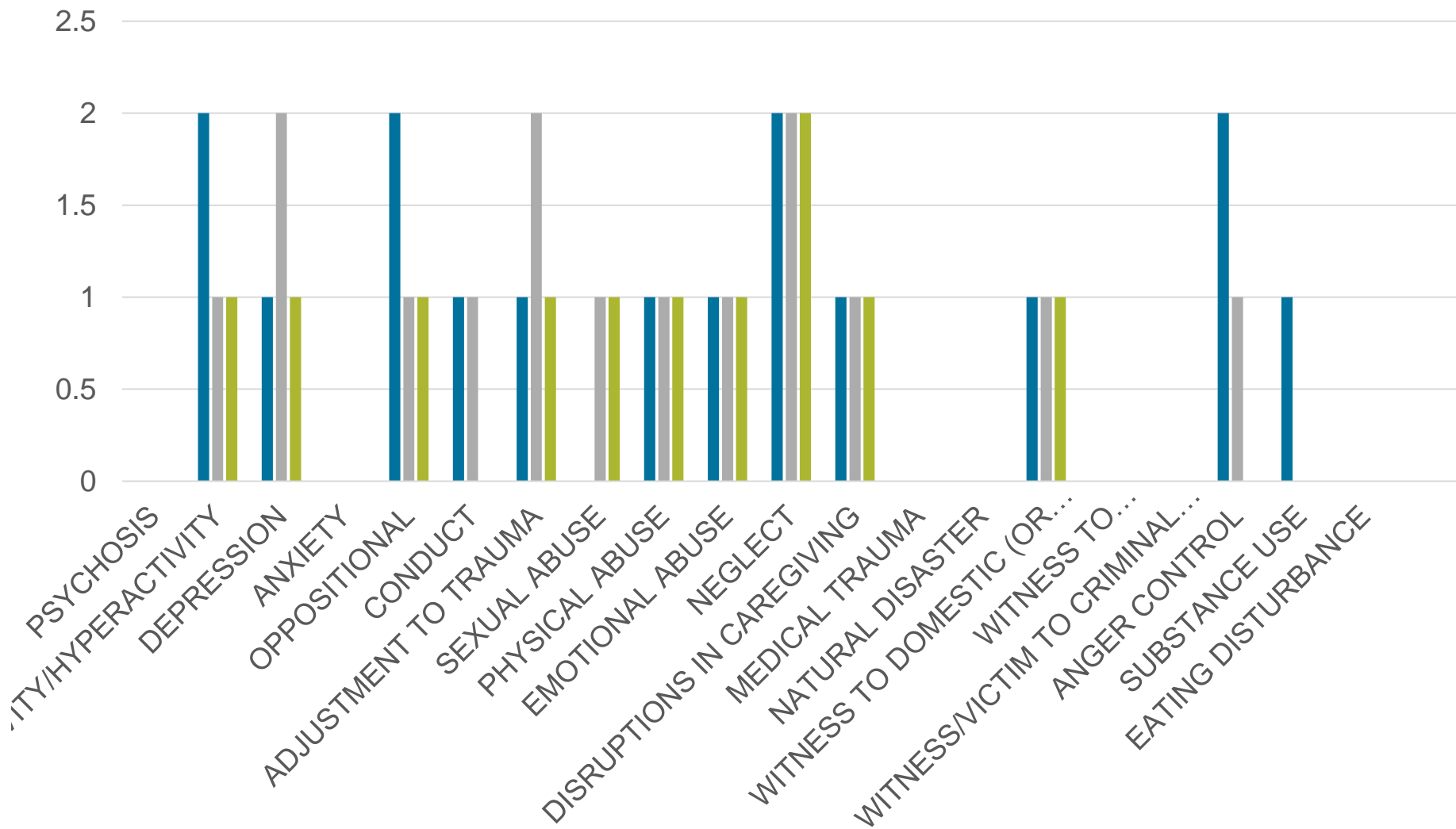


# Clustered Column



A clustered column chart is used to compare values across a few categories. Use it when the order of categories is not important.

# William Prince



■ CANS Comprehensive - 5+ 10/18/2018 
 ■ CANS Reassessment - 5+ 10/18/2018  
■ CANS Comprehensive - 5+ 10/19/2018

# DSS-Enhanced CANS

- Referral source on child's profile page must be "DSS" to generate "DSS-Enhanced" version of the age-appropriate CANS
- If referral source is not selected, system will default to Standard version

**Permanency Report**

State:  Locality:   
 Child Search:  Child:   
 Caregiver:

Report Date: 06/14/2020 07:41:PM

**CANVaS 2.0 Permanency Report**

Page: 1 of 4



Child Name: Pink Peach

Caregiver Name: Sally Sweet

DSS ID #: 234

Caregiver Relationship: Mother

**Notes:**

This report will enable the user to examine the Parent/Caregiver assessment across time. The user will be able to generate this report for any child on their caseload with closed assessments.

**Safety**

Question	CANS Reassessment - 5+ 02/20/2017	CANS Comprehensive - 5+ 07/18/2018	CANS Comprehensive - 5+ 04/02/2019
SUPERVISION	1	2	2
SAFETY	2	2	1
CONDITION OF THE HOME	2	2	2
MARITAL/PARTNER VIOLENCE IN HOME	2	2	2
HISTORY OF MALTREATMENT	1	2	1
RESPONSIBILITY IN MALTREATMENT	1	2	1
RELATIONSHIP WITH ABUSER	1	2	1

**Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development**

### Permanency Report

State:  Locality:

Child Search:  Child:

Caregiver:

Report Date: 06/14/2020 07:43:PM

## CANVaS 2.0 Permanency Report

Page: 4 of 4



Pink Peach

### Issues Resolved in Most Recent Period (Change from 2 or 3 to 0 or 1)

- SAFETY - Safety
- HISTORY OF MALTREATMENT - Safety
- HISTORY OF MALTREATMENT - Commitment to Permanency Plan Goal
- RESPONSIBILITY IN MALTREATMENT - Commitment to Permanency Plan Goal
- RESPONSIBILITY IN MALTREATMENT - Safety
- RELATIONSHIP WITH ABUSER - Safety
- RELATIONSHIP WITH ABUSER - Commitment to Permanency Plan Goal
- KNOWLEDGE - Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development
- DISCIPLINE - Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development
- PARTICIPATION IN VISITATION - Commitment to Permanency Plan Goal
- RELATIONSHIP WITH CHILD WELFARE WORKER - Commitment to Permanency Plan Goal
- COMMITMENT TO REUNIFICATION - Commitment to Permanency Plan Goal

### Issues Requiring Continued Intervention

Most Recent Rating of 3

Plan to Address Needs:

None Noted.

Most Recent Rating of 2

Plan to Address Needs:

# Longevity Reports

Browser tabs: (10) Virginia CANS 5+ 1.0 - Onl..., pictures of paperwork - Bing i..., csa.virginia.gov, CANVaS 2.0

Address bar: https://www.csa.canvas.virginia.gov/Reports/CollaborativeF

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Starred: CANVaS 2 (3), http--www.csa.virginia.go..., http--www.csa.virginia.go..., CANVaS 2 (2), Legal Challenges ASPE, Office of Children's Services, http--spark.dss.virginia.go...

Page Safety Tools ?

### Multi-Level Collaborative Formulation (Over Time) Report

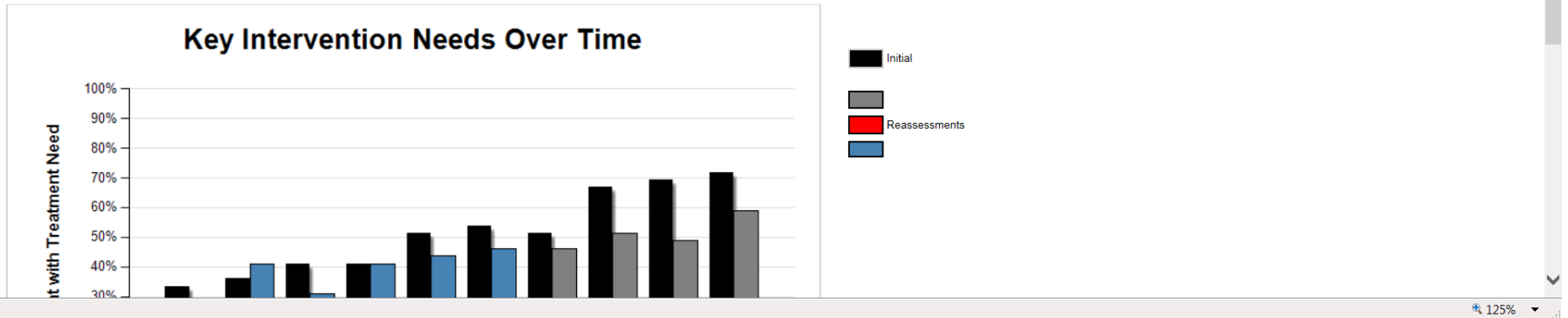
This report provides a comparison of frequently occurring actionable treatment needs over time for a particular cohort of children. The cohort is defined based on the date of their initial assessment (input the date +range into the Initial Start and Initial End date input boxes). The comparison reassessment(s) can be chosen using the "Reassessment" drop-down menu. Presented are the six most frequently endorsed treatment needs at entry into the Behavioral/Emotional Need or Risk Behavior Domains (items in blue for Behavioral/Emotional needs; the item in red for Risk Behaviors), and the four most frequently endorsed treatment needs from the Life Domain Functioning domain (items in grey). For each item, the first bar represents percentage of children with an actionable need at the first assessment point, and the second bar represents the percentage of children with an actionable need at the chosen reassessment time point. The locality filters are primary and based on the Users CANVaS 2.0 access permissions. This report is available according to User's permissions.

State: Virginia | Locality: Henrico | Case Manager: All | Assessment Type: 5+ Both | Initial Date Range Start: 1/1/2018 | Initial Date Range End: 1/1/2019 | Reassessment Days: 03 Months | Discharge: Include Discharge Summaries | Referral Source: All

View Report

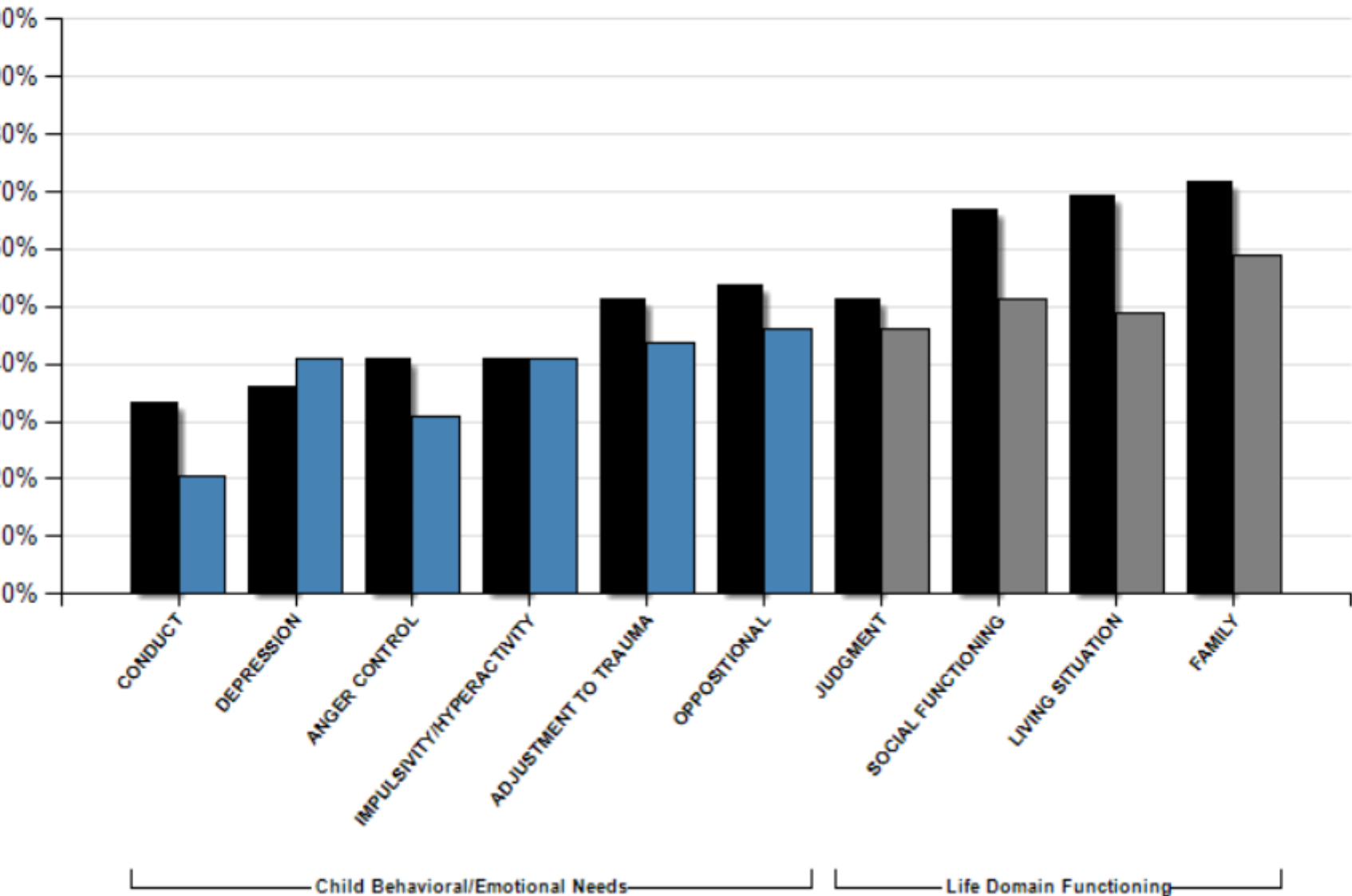
2 of 2 | 100% | Find | Next

Report Date: 2/11/2019 3:29:31 PM





# Key Intervention Needs Over Time



# Individual Collaborative Report (Longevity Reports)

- Similar to the IPR except report has a number of filters such as:
  - Date range
  - Type of assessment
  - Can compare Initial to any assessment
  - Include or exclude discharge CANS



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That's enough for now!!!