

Standardized Screening & Assessment

For Youth in Out-of-Home Care

Within 10 days of entry into out-of-home care, the youth's DCBS worker will complete a screener with the youth and family. The screener is used to identify potentially traumatic experiences, strengths and behaviors, and substance use. The screener helps to determine which children should be referred to a behavioral health provider for further assessment and better informs the therapist of the youth's needs.

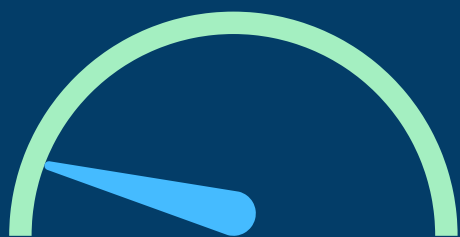


In 2022, 75% of youth screened in for a CANS Assessment of 5,335 youth screened

If the child "screens in" for an assessment, they are referred to an approved behavioral health provider for a Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Assessment. The provider will schedule an intake session and complete the CANS within 30 days of referral. The CANS is a tool that is commonly used with youth with child welfare involvement and helps us develop an understanding of the youth's individualized needs and strengths.

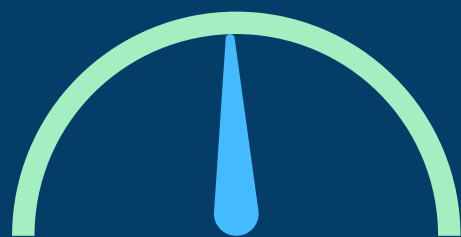
Our aim is to "give voice to the least privileged people in the world so that they can have full voice in their care so we can help them to change their lives."

Dr. John Lyons, developer of the CANS and TCOM Framework



EARLY INTERVENTION

This process allows DCBS and providers to prioritize the mental health needs of youth as they enter into the child welfare system, which can lead to improved placement stability and more timely and appropriate permanency decisions.



PROGRESS MONITORING

CANS are completed every 90 days as long as the child is receiving services from an approved provider. The CANS helps the clinician, social worker, youth, family of origin, and foster family monitor progress over time.

How can foster parents help?

All community mental health centers have providers certified to administer the CANS Assessment, as well as numerous private providers across the state. If you receive a call from a provider asking to schedule a CANS Assessment, be sure to take the youth to their appointment and provide any information or feedback that you might have to the clinician. This helps the entire team to develop a shared vision for the youth and their time in out-of-home care.