

## **Child and Adolescent Needs & Strengths (CANS) Training Facilitation Guidelines & Suggested Agenda**

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### **CANS Trainer Preparation:**

To prepare for your CANS training, it is recommended that you review:

- Review all the CANS training materials as necessary
- Review “CANS Session 01: Training Instructions” web video training module
- Review “CANS Session 12: Training Next Steps” web video training module
- Prepare training agenda
- Prepare training manual binder for each trainee

The “Training Instructions” web video provides information on how new CANS trainees should have prepared prior to the video training segments and what to expect going forward from the training. The “Training Next Steps” web video informs trainees how to proceed with the practice and test vignettes. Review these video segments before the training so the information is coordinated with the other information you provide through your training.

### **CANS Trainee Preparation:**

Trainees will be best prepared for the CANS training if they review at least the following information from the CANS training materials prior to the date of the training:

- Read the first 5 pages of the CANS-MH manual section,
- Review some of the descriptions of the CANS items,
- Review the CANS scoring sheet,
- Read the book chapter describing the CANS approach.

### **Suggested CANS Training Manual Materials:**

You can create a complete CANS Training Manual in a binder by simply downloading and printing the list of materials below which are available online ([www.wicollaborative.org](http://www.wicollaborative.org))

- Scoring Forms (for use with children/families)
- CANS-MH Manual
- CANS-MH Interview Guide
- Practice Vignettes with Test Scoring Forms
- The Collaborative Systems of Care Assessment Summary of Strengths & Needs (which includes the CANS items)
- Ph.D. John Lyons book chapter on the CANS background and development: “CANS Measurement as Communication.....”

## Suggested CANS-MH Training Agenda: DAY 1 (Approximately 3 hours):

### 1. Introduction and Approach of the CANS

Trainer's Introduction	15 min	May include: agenda overview; overview of handout materials (reference manual, etc.); local information regarding the use of the CANS; mention of different CANS versions
VIDEO: CANS Training Instructions	5 min	
VIDEO: CANS Overview	7 min	
VIDEO: CANS Key Principles	17 min	
VIDEO: CANS History	20 min	
VIDEO: Cultural Development	4 min	
Trainer comments/group discussion	10 min	
<b>Total Time, Section 1:</b>	<b>78 min</b>	

### 2. CANS-MH Item Rating Instructions

VIDEO: Risk Behaviors	12 min	Reference/review appropriate section of CANS Manual
Trainer comments/group discussion	5 min	
VIDEO: Functioning	10 min	Reference/review appropriate section of CANS Manual
Trainer comments/group discussion	5 min	
VIDEO: Problem Presentation	14 min	Reference/review appropriate section of CANS Manual
Trainer comments/group discussion	5 min	
VIDEO: Child Safety	3 min	Reference/review appropriate section of CANS Manual
Trainer comments/group discussion	5 min	
VIDEO: Caregiver Needs & Strengths	11 min	Reference/review appropriate section of CANS Manual
Trainer comments/group discussion	5 min	
VIDEO: Strengths	17 min	Reference/review appropriate section of CANS Manual
Trainer comments/group discussion	5 min	
VIDEO: CANS Training Next Steps	4 min	
<b>Total Time, Section 2:</b>	<b>101 min</b>	

### 3. Individual Review Time for Trainees (on their own)

- Read full CANS-MH Manual
- Read John Lyons book chapter

## **Suggested CANS-MH Training Agenda: DAY 2** (Approximately 3 ½ hours):

### **4. Address Remaining Questions about Scoring CANS-MH Items Before Practice Vignettes (10 minutes)**

### **5. Practice Vignettes**

Completion of Practice Vignette 1	20 min
Trainer led discussion of suggested scores	15 min
Completion of Practice Vignette 2	20 min
Trainer led discussion of suggested scores	15 min
Completion of Practice Vignette 3	20 min
Trainer led discussion of suggested scores	15 min

**Total Time, Section 5: 105 min**

### **6. How to Work with Families to Collect CANS Scoring Information**

Review combined CST/ISP/CANS Assessment Summary	15 min
Review “Using The Cans In A Family Interview Format” Section of the CANS- MH Manual	15 min
Review How to Use CANS-MH Interview Guide to obtain information	15 min

**Total Time, Section 6: 45 min**

### **7. Final Details (15 minutes)**

- Discussion of when to use (at intake; every 6 months thereafter)
- Ongoing technical assistance (locally, from State, and White Pine Consulting)
- Resources available from the Internet: [www.wicollaborative.org](http://www.wicollaborative.org) (CANS page)
- Rater certification and annual re-certification

### **5. Completion of Reliability Test Vignette (20 minutes)**

- Each participant you train should complete one “Test Vignette”.
- Please inform trainees of these Test Vignette assumptions:
  - When rating “Needs” items, no evidence = no need. In other words, if nothing is mentioned in the vignette regarding a particular item, the rating should be a “0”.
  - When rating “Strengths” items, no evidence = no strength has been identified (a rating of “3”).
- Please send completed Test Vignettes for scoring to:  
Tim Connor – [tim.connor@wisconsin.gov](mailto:tim.connor@wisconsin.gov)  
(608) 261-6744
- Feedback including each participant’s score will be sent back to the Trainer to review and share with the training participant.
- If a participant is at or above the minimum score for reliability, they will be considered a reliable CANS rater, and can begin rating the CANS with clients.

- If a participant does not meet the required score for reliability, steps needed for remediation will be given.
- Certification renewal: both Trainers and Raters will be asked to complete a Test Vignette approximately 1 year after their initial certification for renewal of their certification.