**The Coordinated Services Team (CST) Initiative**

**Assessment and Reporting for Children Ages 0 – 5**

Data should be entered into the PPS Mental Health data system for ***all children*** served through your CST.  However, for children under 5, you cannot enter the CANS data because the current CANS Comprehensive is for 5 to 17 year olds.  The rest of the required CST data for children under 5 must still be entered into the PPS system.

For assessment purposes, the Birth to 5 version of the Comprehensive CANS can be used.  This is the tool that the State Department of Children and Families is using, so the pages before the ratings do not need to be completed unless the child is involved in Child Protective Services (CPS) (in which case the CPS worker would complete).  Several of the items to be rated are the same as the 5-17 Comprehensive CANS.  For the items that are unique to children under 5, you can rate them based on the information in the Birth to 5 Manual which includes descriptions of the rating points.  There isn’t a special training or certification process for this version of the CANS, so if you’re certified to rate the Comprehensive CANS, you are also certified to rate the Early Childhood version.

If you have questions related to the Birth to 5 CANS, please contact:

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