

Date: September 6, 2017
CYF Memo: # 01 - 17/18
To: CYF System of Care Providers
From: Yael Koenig, CYF Deputy Director
Re: **Upcoming changes to Outcome Tools for Children's System of Care**

A draft Information Notice was disseminated by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) notifying Counties that the **Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC-35)** and the **Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)** have been selected as the new outcome tools for County Mental Health Plans (MHPs). These tools will measure the child and youth functioning, as intended by Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 14707.5.

The **PSC-35** is a psychosocial screening tool completed by the parent/caregivers to facilitate the recognition of cognitive, emotional and behavioral problems so that appropriate interventions can be initiated.

The **CANS** is a structured assessment for identifying strengths and needs of the youth and family. The tool provides a framework for developing and communicating a shared vision and uses youth and family information to inform planning, support decisions and monitor outcomes. The Standard CANS Comprehensive version is expected to be utilized. The CANS is to be completed by the provider with the youth and caregiver.

Both measures will be administered to children and youth up to age 21 in mental health treatment programs that utilize CCBH to claim to Medi-Cal.

The County of San Diego, Behavioral Health Services (BHS) is currently working with DHCS to determine the following:

- Time lines for implementation
- Frequency of administration

Concurrently, BHS is working to establish:

- Trainings for the Children's System of Care
- Local Database
- Standards for New Outcomes

BHS will provide updates as additional information becomes available.

There are no changes to the current outcome tools and process at this time.