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August 2013 CANS Update

Greetings Everyone,

To ensure that we are all on the same page, I have prepared a brief summary to capture some of the key activities associated with the Alameda County CANS Initiative.

August 2013 CANS Meeting Calendar			
CANS Workgroup/Committee	Date	Time	Location
CANS (0-5) Workgroup	Wed, 8/14/13	1:00-2:30pm	2000 Embarcadero Cove, 5 th Floor (Alvarado-Niles Room)
CANS (6-17) Workgroup	Mon, 8/19/13	1:00-2:30pm	2000 Embarcadero Cove, 5 th Floor (Gail Steele Room)
CANS/ANSA TAY (18-24) Workgroup	Fri, 8/23/13	1:30-3pm	2000 Embarcadero Cove, 5 th Floor (Strawberry Canyon Room)
CANS IS/Decision Support Workgroup	Tue, 8/27/13	3:00-4:30pm	1900 Embarcadero Cove, 4 th Floor (IS Conference Room)
CANS Steering Committee	Wed, 8/28/13	1:00-2:30pm	2000 Embarcadero Cove, 5 th Floor (Gail Steele Room)

Over the past couple of months, it has been essential to engage a number of stakeholder groups across our Systems of Care and partner agencies to promote the Alameda County CANS Initiative. Within Children’s and Transition Age Youth (TAY) Systems of Care, we have roughly 94 providers (county-operated and contracted CBOs) with approximately 2,000 end users requiring CANS training and certification. In order to get buy-in, we have established an inclusive process, which began with the formation of smaller workgroups to provide their expertise in customizing three versions of the Alameda County CANS to accommodate **Early Childhood (0-5), Children/Adolescents (6-17), and TAY (18-24)**. Please note, that I have also been communicating with our **Adult System of Care** and have been promoting the Adult Needs and Strengths (ANSA), which is the Adult version of the CANS for 25+. At this juncture, it is one of two single assessment tools being explored for adults. Lastly, to ensure that CANS/ANSA information is immediately available to clinicians, supervisors, and administrators; it was determined that we needed to have a web-accessible data collection and reporting system. Consequently, the **Information Technology-Decision Support Workgroup** was formed, to review and provide feedback on a commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) solution designed specifically for CANS /ANSA data collection, reporting, training and certification.

Members of the CANS Steering Committee and the organizations they represent are attached. Below is a brief update on each of the Workgroups as well.

- **CANS (0-5) Customization Workgroup:** *Update from 6/28/13 0-5 EPSDT Provider Meeting - A few participants expressed concern about the reliability of the CANS (once customized). I explained that different versions of the CANS are used in more than 30 states and that there is a large body of research*



demonstrating that the CANS is reliable both in training and field applications. Training and certification is required for the use of the CANS. Essentially this is the key. A number of providers are already using the CANS and are happy with it. Family engagement is a plus. We look forward to having voices of caregivers with lived experiences at the Customization table. The initial kick-off meeting of the CANS (0-5) Customization Workgroup is on Wednesday, 8/14/13 from 1:00-2:30pm at BHCS (2000 Embarcadero Cove, 5th Floor, Alvarado-Niles Room).

- **CANS (6-17) Customization Workgroup:** At our last meeting on 6/19/13, Workgroup members were provided copies of Indiana's CANS Comprehensive (5-17) version, including: manual, glossary and score sheet. Rather than re-create the wheel, participants by consensus elected a subgroup to review these documents. This subgroup would meet on its own and would report back (present a draft) to the larger workgroup in early August. It should be noted that our newly formed subgroup for this population is now led by April Fernando (*West Coast Children's Clinic*) and five other representatives from the following community-based organizations: *Alternative Family Services, A Better Way, East Bay Agency for Children, Lincoln Child Center, and Seneca Center*. The next meeting is on Monday, 8/19/13 from 1:00-2:30, at BHCS (2000 Embarcadero Cove, 5th Floor, Gail Steel Room).
- **CAN/ANSA TAY (18-24) Customization Workgroup:** *Update from 7/24/13 TAY Directors' Meeting – CANS/ANSA Presentation along with BHCS Consumer Relations Manager (Khatera Aslami) who also presented. We had an encouraging dialogue around TAY consumer involvement in the Customization Workgroup and opportunities to serve in positions as peer navigators, mentors etc.) We look forward to bring the voices of Pool of Consumer Champions TAY, as well as family members.* The initial kick-off meeting of the CANS/ANSA TAY (18-24) Customization Workgroup is on Friday, 8/23/13 from 1:30 - 3:00pm, at BHCS (2000 Embarcadero Cove, 4th Floor, Strawberry Canyon Room).
- **Information Technology /Decision Support:** The IT/Decision Support Workgroup has met four times. We have expanded the group to include IT folks from our CBO network and Adult SOC. At this juncture, we clearly want to purchase an off the shelf CANS/ANSA Web-Accessible Data Collection/ Reporting System and a CANS Online Training/Certification Systems that come with helpdesk support. At our last meeting on 7/16/13, Jeff Lilly (RCR Technologies) joined us in person to answer questions about their Behavioral Health Assessment System (BHAS) that was built from the ground up specifically for the CANS/ANSA. What's nice about RCR is that they are one of three companies that Dr. Lyons (CANS Developer) utilizes, and highly recommends given that they received Federal funding to develop statewide systems in Indiana, Virginia , Washington, New Hampshire and others. We are likely to benefit from all the lessons learned and advanced applications since we joined up later. Our plan at this point is to wait and see a Demo of RCR's new BHAS 2.0 version that is supposed to be released in mid-August in New Hampshire. The next IS/Decision Support Workgroup Meeting is on Tuesday, 8/27/13 from 3:00-4:30pm at BHCS (1900 Embarcadero Cove, 4th Floor, IS Conference Room).
- The **CANS Steering Committee** is comprised of members who represent HCSA/BHCS leadership, contracted community-based organizations, and advocacy groups. In Fall 2012, many of the same members served on the CANS Project Workgroup, which was formed to look into the feasibility of implementing a single assessment tool across Children's Services. The outcome was overwhelming support to move forward with the CANS and submission of White Paper to HCSA/BHCS Executive Leadership describing a roll-out plan for system-wide implementation in Alameda County. In Spring 2013, HCSA/BHCS Executive Leadership approved the plan and in May 2013 appointed yours truly as CANS Project Director. The next Steering Committee Meeting is on Wednesday, 8/28/13 from 1-2:30pm at BHCS (2000 Embarcadero Cove, 5th Floor, Gail Steel Room).

- **CANS Orientation and Training Workshop:** John Lyons, PhD (CANS Developer) will provide two-day “Live” Training in September 2013. Day 1 (9/12/13) - General Orientation for up to 100 attendees. Day 2 (9/13/13) - Super User Training & Certification for 50 clinical supervisors. This is a county sponsored train-the-trainer opportunity for clinical supervisors to receive CANS training and certification to become "Super Users". Once certified, these Super Users will be able to provide training to clinicians within their organization and others across BHCS. Given the number of presently CANS trained supervisors and managers within our CBO network, I anticipate that we will be able to offer additional “live” training workshops and technical assistance to be made available. Please email me at ajackson@acbhcs.org with the names and email addresses of staff you would like to send.
- **CANS Annual CANS Conference:** The ninth annual CANS conference will be held at the **Hilton San Francisco Financial District** on November 3rd through November 5th, 2013. Opportunities for “live” training and certification with Dr. Lyons will be available as well. So, please be sure to Save the Date