



Montana CANS

A SUMMARY FOR EDUCATORS

- Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) is a functional assessment that is required as a part of standard care in CSCT (Comprehensive School and Community Treatment) and will guide planning and monitor progress.
 - CANS is comprehensive and integrates a lot of information from a youth's team in one place.
 - Educators are a critical member of a youth's CSCT team and should inform the CANS assessment.
 - CANS focuses on both needs and strengths.
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- Youth, families and other professionals are engaged as partners to help complete the CANS.
 - Educators are encouraged to be active collaborators in informing the completion of a youth's CANS.
 - CANS is an item level tool with a 4-point rating scale that translate into action.
 - The rating numbers allow the important people in a youth's life to easily communicate what the youth's needs and strengths are, and if action is needed to address them.
 - The focus is on the youth's needs, not on temporary services that may cover up the actual needs.
 - CANS considers a youth's and family's culture and perspective.
- CANS creates a common starting point for case discussions and keeps a focus on the youth.
 - CANS helps provide direction for planning and anticipated outcomes.
 - There should be a connection between the ratings on the CANS and the current plan for the youth. CANS creates transparency and accountability for all involved.
 - CANS helps support team decisions.
 - CANS monitors progress for the youth and family.



For more information, visit:

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/dsd/CMB>

Call: 406-444-4545

