

## OREGON CANS FAQ

The intended audience for this FAQ sheet is Wraparound Practitioners, primarily Wraparound Care Coordinators and Wraparound Supervisors.

### Wraparound Practitioners include the following roles:

- Wraparound Care Coordinators
- Wraparound Care Coordinator Supervisors
- Wraparound Care Coordinator Coaches
- Wraparound Youth Partners
- Wraparound Family Partners
- Wraparound Youth Partner Supervisors
- Wraparound Family Partner Supervisors

## General/Overview

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### 1. **Q:** What is the CANS?

**A:** The CANS tool assists teams by providing 0-3 ratings for needs and strengths identified during the engagement process.

Strengths with associated CANS ratings can provide information for the team to consider when developing, monitoring, and updating the Wraparound Plan of Care. Additionally, it provides risk factors to be considered when creating the Wraparound Crisis and Safety Plan.

The CANS is a tool to help guide information gathering, discussions, and decisions for the Wraparound team and provide a common language easily understood by youth, families, and cross-system team members during the planning process. Utilization of the CANS tool is one way to put the Family-Driven, Youth Guided, Team-Based, Strengths-Based, Individualized, and Outcomes-Based principles into practice. The CANS tool is not intended to overshadow Wraparound principles and phases.

For the first CANS, it's likely you may not have enough information to rate every single item. For those items, please rate Needs as a 0 and Strengths as a 3. Over time, as you engage with the youth, family, and team you will have more information to rate further CANS items.

For more information on the CANS, please visit [The Praed Foundation website](#).

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**2. Q:** What is the purpose of the CANS? Why use the CANS?

**A:** Decision-Making: The CANS provides the youth's family and providers with ratings for some of the youth's identified needs and strengths to help inform the Wraparound process. The CANS helps to create a shared vision or a common goal in that it can help show how or why a decision was made.

Collaboration: The CANS is a communication tool that aids collaboration across all systems the youth is involved in as it integrates data into one place, creating a common language.

Outcomes: The CANS can help the Wraparound team, providers, and family and youth to measure improvement towards goals and look at how needs and strengths change. Data can be used to assess service strengths and gaps at the individual, program, and system levels.

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**3. Q:** Why was the CANS chosen by Oregon to be used with youth and families in Wraparound?

**A:** The CANS has been used in Child Welfare for children in substitute care since 2009. The CANS was chosen for use in Wraparound because it is strengths and needs based, and is in broad use nationally as a tool for working with youth and families in Wraparound settings.

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**4. Q:** How is the CANS different from other measures and tools?

**A:** The CANS is used to provide ratings for identified strength and need areas of a youth rather than as a mental health screener or assessment. It is meant to encourage communication and shared understanding among the youth, family, Wraparound Care Coordinator, and the rest of the Wraparound team.

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5. **Q:** What are the key components of the CANS?

**A:**

1. All CANS items are included because they are relevant for planning and decision-making.
2. Item ratings link to action levels. Different action levels exist for needs and strengths.
3. Focus on the youth's needs, not interventions or services masking a need.
4. Consider culture and development before establishing action levels. Cultural sensitivity involves considering whether cultural factors are influencing the expression of needs and strengths. Ratings should be completed considering the youth's developmental and/or chronological age depending on the item.
5. The CANS is about the "what" and not the "why". Don't explain away needs with what you think might be an underlying cause.
6. CANS items are rated with a 30-day window in mind, and this time frame can be overridden based on the level of impact to the youth.

*The Exposure to Potentially Traumatic/Adverse Childhood Experiences Domain items should be rated relative to the youth's lifetime experience.*

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6.

**Q:** Where else is the CANS used?

**A:** Versions of the CANS are used in nearly every state, and on nearly every continent. The following states are using the CANS: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming. [Download map.](#)

7.

**Q:** Will Oregon use the Family Advocacy and Support Tool (FAST), or the Caregiver Domains of the CANS, to capture family and caregiver needs and strengths?

**A:** The FAST is the family version of the CANS, and the CANS comprehensive from the Praed Foundation site includes a domain on Caregiver Needs and Resources. At this time, Oregon is not incorporating these items as a standalone tool into the CANS.

8.

**Q:** Is there an email address where I can send my CANS questions?

**A:**

For technical assistance and coaching on utilizing CANS in the Wraparound process	<a href="mailto:socidatasupport@pdx.edu">socidatasupport@pdx.edu</a>
For questions or issues concerning entering a CANS into the RedCap electronic CANS data system	<a href="mailto:wrapinfo@ohsu.edu">wrapinfo@ohsu.edu</a>
For questions or issues concerning entering a CANS into ORKIDS or submitting a CANS into ORKIDS	<a href="mailto:CANS.Assist@odhsoha.oregon.gov">CANS.Assist@odhsoha.oregon.gov</a>
For questions on CANS requirements for youth in Foster Care	<a href="mailto:Jeremiah.Ripoyla@dhsaha.state.or.us">Jeremiah.Ripoyla@dhsaha.state.or.us</a>
For questions concerning Stat CANS for the purpose of QRTP evaluation	<a href="mailto:Ahnjene.BOLEYN@dhsaha.state.or.us">Ahnjene.BOLEYN@dhsaha.state.or.us</a>
For questions on the TCOM Training site or CANS rater certification	<a href="mailto:support@TCOMtraining.com">support@TCOMtraining.com</a>

## Certification

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9.

**Q:** Who should get CANS rater certified?

**A:** Anyone who is completing a CANS with a youth or family. The OARs require all Wraparound practitioners (Care Coordinators, Coaches, Supervisors, Youth Partners, Family Partners) to be certified on the CANS.

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10.

**Q:** What is the recommended training process in Oregon?

**A:** OHA and DHS have a contract with the Praed Foundation for training and certification on the CANS tool. For more information on accessing the training site, [please review this document](#).

1. Register on the [TCOM training site](#)
  2. Complete rater certification for Oregon CANS 0-5 and/or Oregon CANS 6-20, depending on the populations you serve.
  3. Complete rater re-certification each year for Oregon CANS 0-5 and/or Oregon CANS 6-20, depending on the populations you serve.
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11.

**Q:** What is the difference between the Oregon CANS 0-5 and Oregon CANS 6-20?

**A:** The Oregon CANS 0-5 includes items that are meant for children from birth through age 5. The Oregon CANS 6-20 includes items that are meant for youth from age 6 through age 20.

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12.

**Q:** Do all Wraparound Practitioners (Care Coordinators, Coaches, Supervisors, Youth Partners, Family Partners) need to be certified in Oregon CANS 0-5 and/or Oregon CANS 6-20?

**A:**

- Those working with children 0-5, should be certified in Oregon CANS 0-5.
  - Those working with youth 6-20, should be certified in Oregon CANS 6-20.
  - Those working with both age groups should become certified in both Oregon CANS 0-5 and Oregon CANS 6-20.
  - Supervisors and coaches should be certified in both Oregon CANS 0-5 and Oregon CANS 6-20.
  - The OARs require all Wraparound practitioners (Care Coordinators, Coaches, Supervisors, Youth Partners, Family Partners) to be certified on the CANS.
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13.

**Q:** Is certification in the CANS-Trauma Comprehensive required for Wraparound?

**A:** No. CANS raters need to be certified on the Oregon CANS 6-20 2.0 or Oregon CANS 0-5 2.0, depending on youth they work with (see item 12 above). The manuals posted on the [Praed Foundation website](#) and TCOM training website will be the documents to use for certification.

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14.

**Q:** What are some strategies when struggling with the final certification test?

**A:** Users have three opportunities to take the final exam and pass for certification. If you fail twice on the final test, give yourself some time before jumping back in to take it a third time. If you do fail the third test, you will have the opportunity to consult with Praed Foundation on your areas of need. Please email [support@TCOMtraining.com](mailto:support@TCOMtraining.com) if you would like that support.

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15.

**Q:** When locked out of the CANS certification exam how is access regained?

**A:** Accounts can be unlocked by emailing [support@TCOMtraining.com](mailto:support@TCOMtraining.com) for further testing support.

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## Implementation/Practice

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16.

**Q:** In which languages are the Oregon Comprehensive CANS manuals and rating sheets available?

**A:** Both versions of the Oregon Comprehensive CANS (0-5 and 6-20) manuals and rating sheets are available in Spanish, Russian, and English languages.

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17.

**Q:** Is the CANS culturally and linguistically responsive?

**A:** We acknowledge the CANS doesn't fit for all cultural beliefs and practices. The CANS is most effective when used to provide additional context for identified strengths and needs. Ensure that you are gathering strength and need information through the engagement process and not as part of an interview. The CANS is what you make it and how you utilize it, make sure to incorporate culturally and linguistically responsive practices into the process for the youth and families you work with.

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18.

**Q:** Who is responsible for completing and updating the CANS ratings in Wraparound?

**A:** Wraparound Care Coordinators are responsible for rating CANS items and recording these ratings. CANS certified Wraparound Youth Partners and Wraparound Family Partners can help ensure that the youth and family understand the CANS ratings and the process, however ultimately the responsibility of completing and updating the CANS ratings belongs to the Wraparound Care Coordinator.

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19.

**Q:** Who is responsible for completing and updating the CANS ratings in Child Welfare?

**A:** CANS for Child Welfare are completed by mental health therapists (QMHP/QMHA) who may have knowledge of the youth.

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20.

**Q:** Should I ask youth and families each item of the CANS through an interview process?

**A:** No, in the Wraparound process the CANS should never be completed as an interview or by going through the CANS item by item.

Throughout the engagement process in Phase 1, the Care Coordinator, Youth Partner, and Family Partner will gather information about strengths and needs from the youth, family, and team members. That information will be summarized on the Strengths and Needs Summary and used to rate CANS items.

When completing CANS ratings, you may not have enough information to rate every single CANS item and that is absolutely okay. We know this is more common for the initial CANS. When this is the case, the rating should be '0' for Needs items and '3' for Strengths items. Another way to think about it is that you start the CANS with ratings of 0 for all Needs items and 3 for all Strengths items and then you consider the information you've gathered on the Strengths & Needs Summary to adjust your ratings accordingly using the action levels.

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21.

**Q:** How is the CANS used in Wraparound?

**A:** The CANS is intended to be a communication tool. The CANS can be used to facilitate communication within a Wraparound team. With support from the Family Partner and Youth Partner, the Care Coordinator shares the Wraparound Strengths and Needs Summary, and corresponding CANS ratings, with the youth and family. It is



important to get youth and family feedback which is a great example of putting the Family-Driven, Youth-Guided Wraparound Principles into practice. It also ensures that information was not missed or misunderstood, and that none of the ratings are surprising to the youth or family. The Care Coordinator, Youth Partner, and Family Partner discuss the agenda of the first Wraparound meeting with the youth and family and develop a plan for how to share Strengths, Needs, and associated CANS items with the rest of the team. CANS ratings are monitored over time and help inform the plan for a strengths-based transition when needs have been met and outcomes have been achieved.

For more information, please read [Utilizing the Oregon CANS in the Wraparound Planning Process](#).

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22.

**Q:** How is the CANS used in Child Welfare?

**A:** In Child Welfare, the CANS is used for level of care rating, case planning, placement matching, and supervision plans, rather than using ratings for the Wraparound planning process.

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23.

**Q:** How is the CANS used to improve the way agency/organizations work with youth and families in Wraparound?

**A:** The CANS is designed to be used for decision support (e.g., treatment planning, level of care), quality improvement, and outcomes monitoring activities.

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24.

**Q:** When should a CANS be done in the Wraparound process?

**A:**

- The initial CANS is started within 30 days of the youth and family being assigned to a Wraparound Care Coordinator,
- Every 90 days until the end of the Wraparound process,

- After any significant changes in the youth's life,
  - At transition a discharge CANS should be completed.
  - It is required for all youth participating in the Wraparound process.
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25.

**Q:** Is there any situation in which a discharge CANS would not be completed upon a youth's transition from Wraparound?

**A:** The **ONLY** time a discharge CANS would not need to be completed upon transition is **IF** the last CANS was completed no more than two weeks prior **AND** there have been no changes to strengths and needs since then.

\*\*\*In this instance, the last CANS completed **MUST** be entered in RedCap again as the discharge CANS. This is the only way for the RedCap system to close out the CANS for that youth and report correctly.

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26.

**Q:** When should a CANS be done in the Child Welfare process?

**A:** A CANS screener completes the initial CANS within the first 60 days of a DHS referral, then the CANS is repeated annually. Re-screening of CANS can be requested before the annual CANS based on significant life changes for the youth. Please contact DHS at [CANS.Assist@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:CANS.Assist@dhsosha.state.or.us) for CANS requirements for youth in Foster Care.

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27.

**Q:** When a youth transitions out of formal Wraparound and then returns, should the CANS be done within the initial 30 days of the new enrollment, even if they had a CANS done within the last three months?

**A:** The CANS should be completed within 30 days of enrollment, regardless of previous enrollment.

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28.

**Q:** Once the CANS ratings are completed or updated, how are the ratings used?

**A:**

- Record the ratings in the Wraparound Strengths and Needs Summary.
  - Include CANS Actionable Needs in discussions with the youth and family on need prioritization.
  - Each Wraparound site is responsible for tracking their own CANS data. Feel free to contact [Danielle Phillips](#) from the SOCI team for technical assistance on data tracking.
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29.

**Q:** It is time for a 90-day review, how are the updated ratings utilized within the Wraparound planning process?

**A:**

- Record updated ratings in the Wraparound Strengths and Needs Summary.
  - Discuss any rating changes in Wraparound meeting.
  - Decide as a team if the prioritized needs should change based on any updated CANS ratings.
  - Celebrate successes.
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30.

**Q:** What is done for CANS items that the youth or family does not want discussed in the Wraparound planning process?

**A:** Identify the decision in the Strengths and Needs Summary. If the Strengths and Needs summary will be shared with the team identify the decision in a progress note.

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31.

**Q:** Can a youth have more than one active CANS?

**A:** Yes, depending on the services that a youth is receiving they might have multiple active CANS that are completed and tracked by different providers. For example, if a youth is in foster care, DHS will complete a CANS and track ratings in OR-KIDS. If this youth is also receiving Wraparound, their Care Coordinator will complete and track CANS ratings too (see previous responses for frequency and tracking).

Streamlining the CANS process to eliminate the need for more than one active CANS is a goal DHS and OHA are working towards.

32.

**Q:** Where can I find the Oregon CANS Comprehensive 0-5 2.0 and Oregon CANS Comprehensive 6-20 2.0 manuals online?

**A:** The **Oregon CANS Comprehensive 6-20** 2.0 and **Oregon CANS Comprehensive 0-5** 2.0 are available on both the [Praed Foundation website](#) and the [TCOM training website](#) now.

33.

**Q:** If there is a completed DHS CANS for a youth in foster care who has a Wraparound team, does a CANS for Wraparound also need to be completed?

**A:** Yes, there should be a CANS completed for Wraparound, even if a DHS CANS already exists. This is because the DHS CANS is used for level of care rating, case planning, placement matching, and supervision plans, rather than using ratings for the Wraparound planning process. (See item 31 above.)

34.

**Q:** Is the DHS CANS for youth in foster care different than the CANS used in Wraparound?

**A:** No, the CANS are the same for both DHS CW CANS and Wraparound CANS. Some items do have slightly different names (**CANS 6-20 items:** 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 11, 14, 17, 20, 23, 27, 33, 35, 37, 40, 41, 44, 49, 51, 56, 61, 62, 67, 68, and 69. **CANS 0-5 items:** 4, 8,

9, 21, 27, 28, 29, 31, 34, 35, 37, 38, 41, 43, 45, 50, 53, and 57) however, the differences are minor. The only differences between the DHS CW and Wraparound Oregon CANS 6-20 manuals are in item title name only and not what the item itself is rating. For example, on the Oregon CANS 6-20 item 2, the rating sheet for Wraparound lists the title as “Non-Suicidal Self-Injurious Behavior” while the DHS rating sheet lists the title as “Self-mutilation”.

In addition, due to the length of time needed to edit the ORKIDS system, for the time being the Exposure to Potentially Traumatic/Adverse Childhood Experiences Domain items (**CANS 6-20 items:** 21-32. **CANS 0-5 items:** 15-26) will be rated 0 or 3 in CANS for DHS CW and for ORKIDS data entry instead of the Yes or No ratings in CANS for Wraparound.

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35.

**Q:** How should we consider or rate the impact of recent political unrest on Youth?

**A:** This impact could be rated under the CANS Domain Exposure to Potentially Traumatic/Adverse Childhood Experiences on the following items:

- i. Witness to Community/School Violence: could be rated Yes due to local political unrest or protests.
- ii. War Affected: could be rated Yes if Youth previously experienced political violence in their home country that is similar to current local political unrest.

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36.

**Q:** When should a CANS-rater rate an item based on chronological age versus developmental age for a youth?

**A:** All CANS items should be approached from understanding age-appropriate developmental milestones. There is one exception: School Achievement. This item should be seen through a developmental lens — is the young person able to learn in a developmentally appropriate manner. If you use a comparison based on age, children with developmental needs will seem like they never progress academically.

## CANS Reporting

37.

**Q:** Is there a data system for Oregon CANS?

**A:** Yes, Oregon now has an electronic database for all youth and families participating in Wraparound and not involved with child welfare. These CANS should be entered in the RedCap electronic database. Each Wraparound program should enter their CANS data in the RedCap system and use it to track and monitor CANS data for the youth and families they serve.

For youth and families involved in child welfare and not in Wraparound, the CANS data should be entered in the OR-KIDS system operated by DHS.

For youth and families participating in Wraparound and involved in child welfare, the DHS CANS should be entered in the OR-KIDS system and the Wraparound CANS should be entered in the RedCap data system.

\*\*\*Please note, CANS raters entering CANS data in OR-KIDS, for all items in the Exposure to Potentially Traumatic/Adverse Childhood Experiences Domain, No=0 and Yes=3.

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