



QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE MEMO

October 10, 2019

No. 19-03

CANS and PSC-35 Functional Assessment Tool Data Submission UPDATE for CCBHS Contract Providers Treating Medi-Cal Beneficiaries Ages 0 – 20

Background: Since October 1, 2018, Contra Costa Behavioral Health Services (CCBHS) administers the Child and Adolescents Needs and Strengths (CANS) for clients ages birth to 20 and the Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC-35) to parents/caregivers of clients ages 3 to 18 in accordance with DHCS INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 17-052.¹

Data Submission Process: CANS and PSC-35 data are used by two separate Contra Costa Behavioral Health departments: 1) CCBHS Utilization Review (UR) Unit for authorization and 2) CCBHS Quality Improvement/Assurance Unit (QI/QA) for mandated data reporting and analysis.

CCBHS is pleased to announce that a long-term solution option for data submission has been identified. In place of submitting paper forms to QI/QA, **contract providers will submit CANS and PSC-35 data to the Objective Arts data management system**. Objective Arts (OA) is a software company that provides cloud-based software applications to empower state, county, and local healthcare providers. Several other large California counties use OA, including our neighbor Alameda County. Contract providers will have two data entry options: 1) Direct data entry or 2) Batch data upload (*most appropriate for those with an electronic health record [EHR]).

There will be opportunities to inform this process, including:

- Identifying staff who will be responsible for OA data entry
- Feedback during Contractor Luncheon meetings
- Participation in webinar meetings with OA
- Piloting the system via the two data entry options

OA Transition Timeline:

- October 2019 – Submit to QI/QA names of staff who will be responsible for OA data entry
- November 2019 – Pilot – *if your organization is interested in being a part of the pilot contact Claire Battis (925.957.7545; Claire.Battis@cchealth.org)*
- January 1, 2020 – Go-live for all contract providers
- February 1, 2020 – QI/QA will stop accepting paper CANS and PSC-35 forms – *contract providers can print out these forms from OA and continue to submit paper copies to UR or grant UR permission to look at these forms in OA*

¹ For additional CANS and PSC-35 resources and information visit <https://cchealth.org/mentalhealth/outcome-measures.php>.

As a reminder, CCBHS submits all CANS and PSC-35 data from County and contract providers on a **monthly basis**. In order to meet this DHCS deadline for reporting, all CANS and PSC-35 data are due to CCBHS on the 15th of each month for data gathered since last submission.

Training: Each contract provider agency is to select at least one staff to be an OA Champion. Champions are responsible for participating in an up to two-hour web conference on how to use OA and subsequently go on to train other staff at their agency. In addition, OA also has a Help and How To sections, as well as a Helpline during the first year of implementation. The training will be offered before go live.

If you should have any questions, contact the relevant staff listed below.

Data Reporting and Analysis

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General CANS Implementation Inquiries

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