

Frequently Asked Questions about the Michigan Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (MichiCANS) Tool for Community Mental Health Service Programs (CMHSPs) and Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs)

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) created this frequently asked questions (FAQ) document to help partners better understand the Michigan Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (MichiCANS) tool and answer common questions related to the tool. This document will continue to evolve during the implementation process.

1. What is the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) and MichiCANS?

The CANS is a multipurpose information integration tool designed to summarize information gathered from multiple sources and the assessment process. It is not a standalone clinical assessment or evaluation. Rather, it is a multipurpose information integration tool meant to be used as the comprehensive summary of information gathered from a variety of sources, including assessment results. The CANS is comprised of a core set of 50 items and is customizable based on the needs of the state/agency that is utilizing the tool. The version of the tool that MDHHS has developed is called the MichiCANS. This tool is used to support *Family Driven, Youth Guided* care planning and level of care decisions, facilitate quality improvement initiatives, and monitor outcomes of services.

2. What does the MichiCANS include?

The MichiCANS has two components – the Screener and Comprehensive. MDHHS intends to use both tools in conjunction with each other, as the information collected through the Screener is used to inform the completion of the comprehensive. The Comprehensive includes all the information obtained from the Screener plus additional domains, modules, and submodules. Both tools gather information on the child/youth's and parents/caregivers' needs and strengths. Strengths are the child/youth's assets: areas in life where they are doing well or have an interest or ability. Needs are areas where a child/youth requires help or intervention. Strengths and needs are organized through the use of ratings. These ratings help the provider, child/youth, and family, understand where intensive or immediate action is needed.

- **The MichiCANS Screener** gathers limited information on the child/youth's and parents/caregivers' needs and strengths.
 - Community Mental Health Service Programs (CMHSP) will use the Screener at the initial access point (before the intake assessment). Based on the results of the Screener, the CMHSP will either initiate a crisis response, refer the child for an intake assessment at the CMHSP, or refer the child for services outside of the CMHSP.
 - Children's Services Administration (CSA) staff will collect information through the Screener on all youth entering foster care. CSA staff will not complete the Comprehensive at this time. If information gathered via the Screener indicates the youth should be referred to the CMHSP for services, the MichiCANS Screener will be

provided to the local CMHSP Access Center to inform immediate decisions. CMHSP Access staff will:

- review the MichiCANS Screener results from CSA and update the results if new information is available. CMHSP Access staff will not administer a duplicative Screener if CSA has already completed a Screener unless a circumstance warranting an additional Screener is identified.
- **The MichiCANS Comprehensive *is only completed at the CMHSP*** after the Screener is completed. The MichiCANS Comprehensive gathers additional, comprehensive information on the child/youth's and parents/caregivers' needs and strengths to directly inform the service plan and treatment.

3. Will CMHSPs and PIHPs be required to complete the MichiCANS with infants, toddlers, children, youth, young adults, and families in order to access services?

Yes, the MichiCANS Screener and Comprehensive will have to be completed in order for infants, toddlers, children, youth, and young adults to access services.

4. What age demographic will PIHPs and CMHSPs use MichiCANS with?

The MichiCANS Screener will be used with all infants, toddlers, children, youth, and young adults ages birth through age 20 (until the day prior to 21).

Based on the results of the Screener, the MichiCANS Comprehensive will be used with all infants, toddlers, children, youth, and young adults ages birth through age 20 with Serious Emotional Disturbance and/or Intellectual and Developmental Disability.

In addition, based on the results of the Screener, the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) will be used for intake and treatment planning with infants, toddlers, and children ages 1 month through age five who have (1) SED or (2) SED and IDD.

5. Will the MichiCANS be used with children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

Yes, this tool will be used with all children, youth, and young adults from birth through age 20, including those presenting with SED and/or IDD, including ASD. Additional assessment will be required if an indication of ASD is present.

6. Will the MichiCANS replace the Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) and Preschool and Early Childhood Functional Assessment (PECFAS)?

Yes, the MichiCANS will replace the CAFAS and PECFAS on October 1, 2024.

7. When does the MDHHS anticipate the MichiCANS will become a requirement?

October 1, 2024.

8. When is the MichiCANS completed? At intake and then how often?

The Screener will be used at the point of access to determine if children/youth may require CMHSP services. Information from the screening process will help determine the child/youth's needs and strengths which may result in a crisis response, intake, or referral for services. The Comprehensive version will be completed at intake to help guide treatment service planning. The MichiCANS will be updated annually, or more often if there is a significant change in life circumstances and/or a behavioral health event.

9. How will mobile crisis teams use the MichiCANS during the initial crisis contact?

The MichiCANS Screener is not required to be completed during the emergent situation unless onsite staff determine it is appropriate.

10. What data exists on the reliability and validity of this tool, and its effectiveness in achieving positive outcomes?

Please refer to The Praed Foundation's "CANS Reliability and Validity: Executive Summary." <https://praedfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2018/03/cans-reliability-and-validity-exec-summ.pdf>

11. Will the MichiCANS identify the need for additional assessments?

Yes, the MichiCANS may identify the need for additional assessments. In addition, information from outside assessment tools also informs the MichiCANS ratings and level of care decisions.

12. Will the MichiCANS determine level of care decisions?

Yes, the MichiCANS will provide an indication of appropriate level of care. A logic model, called a Decision Support Model (DSM) will run in the background of the Electronic Health Record (EHR) to provide recommendations for related levels of need and services. These DSMs help ensure statewide standardization of initial recommendations related to level of care. Clinicians will continue to use their clinical judgement in determining services. MDHHS will use these models to support data driven decisions and evaluation.

13. Will the MichiCANS be embedded into already existing EHRs?

Yes, it will be embedded into existing PCE EHRs for the October 1, 2024, requirement. Other CMH EHR vendors are also working with to fully integrate the MichiCANS. The ability to complete a MichiCANS assessment will also be accessible via CareConnect360 (CC360).

14. How will end users increase their skill level in using the MichiCANS?

Training will be required for all MichiCANS users. After initial training and certification, MDHHS will develop learning collaboratives to support continued learning in the use of the MichiCANS. In addition, technical assistance will be available to provide end users with additional information related to the MichiCANS.

15. What specific MichiCANS training is needed for end users?

All staff completing the MichiCANS Screener and/or Comprehensive are required to complete specific training and pass an initial certification assessment.

To become a certified user of the MichiCANS, clinician/raters who administer the MichiCANS are **required** to complete initial training, which includes two sessions:

TCOM Orientation (3.5 hours) and **MichiCANS Overview** (3.5 hours).

Individuals are required to pass a certification assessment following training to be considered certified in the use of the tool. Clinicians/raters must also complete and receive a passing assessment score annually for re-certification purposes.

Supervisors who oversee clinicians/raters that use the MichiCANS tool will participate in the above-mentioned trainings and will need to pass the assessment to be considered certified in the use of the tool. In addition, they will need to complete **Supervisor Training** (3 hours).

The Department is also providing **MichiCANS Action Planning** training, which is not required for certification, but will assist users with the overall use and understanding of the tool and its role in service planning.

16. Does all staff, including those who only complete the MichiCANS Screener, need to be certified in the use of the tool?

Yes, all staff completing the MichiCANS, even if they are only administering the Screener, are required to complete the full training and achieve successful certification.

17. Who conducts MichiCANS training?

The University of Kentucky will provide initial training for all users and supervisors. Beginning October 2024, MDHHS will begin utilizing certified state trainers to conduct ongoing training.

18. Can training be completed by watching recorded training sessions?

No, training must be completed via live virtual training.

19. When will training take place?

Soft Launch participants will receive certification training in December 2023. These participants will need to complete and pass their certification assessment prior to the beginning of the soft launch, which is January 8, 2024.

For those not involved in the soft launch, training will take place from April-September 2024 in anticipation of statewide implementation beginning October 1, 2024.

20. What if my organization is participating in the Soft Launch and we hire additional staff after the December 2023 training?

If this occurs, please contact the MichiCANS Leadership Team at MDHHS-MichiCANS@michigan.gov to determine a solution.

21. How will sites inform children, youth, and families about the use of the MichiCANS?

All sites using the MichiCANS (including soft launch sites) must inform children, youth, and families/caregivers about the use of the MichiCANS tool and process.

Talking points:

- The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is transitioning to the use of a tool called the MichiCANS to be fully implemented statewide by October 1, 2024.
- The MichiCANS is a collaborative tool that will be used when a family is initially seeking services, as a part of the screening and assessment and planning processes.
- The MichiCANS tool is completed through a collaborative process which involves staff listening to your child/youth and family's experiences. Together, you and your team can prioritize action steps and track changes and progress.
- The MichiCANS is crafted to explore and communicate the needs and strengths of your child/youth and family, in partnership with you.
- The MichiCANS tool prioritizes the experiences of children, youth, and families to ensure that you and your family are heard and valued throughout the assessment and care planning process.

*For Soft Launch Sites- The Department will gather feedback from all participants including clinicians and families. Please inform families that as one of the initial organizations using the tool, clinicians and families will have the opportunity to provide feedback to prepare for statewide implementation.

22. What needs to occur if actionable items are identified via the use of the MichiCANS during the soft launch?

- While the MichiCANS will not be used to determine eligibility during the soft launch, any MichiCANS actionable items identified during the soft launch timeframe must be addressed in the planning process.
- MichiCANS data and any/all information related to the soft launch are currently being used for testing/pilot purposes and does not take the place of required processes and/or documentation currently being used to determine eligibility for any services.
- Any items identified as actionable via the MichiCANS should be addressed following usual clinical practice.

23. How can I find more information related to the CANS?

More information related to the CANS can be located at <https://praedfoundation.org/> or www.iph.uky.edu

24. How can I find more information about the MichiCANS? A website is currently under construction and will be available soon. More information about MichiCANS is located at <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/keep-mi-healthy/mentalhealth/mentalhealth/childrenandfamilies>

In addition, if you are part of the soft launch, you may request access to the Soft Launch SharePoint by emailing MDHHS-MichiCANS@michigan.gov

Please email any questions about MichiCANS to MDHHS-MichiCANS@michigan.gov

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