Since our System of Care in New Jersey has expanded so has our Newsletter. For over 9 years the IQ (IMDS Quarterly) Newsletter has been sent out to all IMDS or CANS SuperUsers throughout New Jersey.

Well it is now time to bring it all together...connecting the CANS or Child Adolescent Needs & Strengths, TCOM or Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management and Wraparound. This updated newsletter will help to strengthen our system of care by providing useful information to all system partners, especially those who are trained on the CANS Tools!

So with some trepidation but immense hope for the future, we close the chapter on the ‘old’ and bring in the ‘new’ more interactive newsletter...CANSformation!

We have had the privilege for almost a year of having our newsletter published on TCOM Conversations. Our hope is to continue this and even take it one step further by having contributors from all over the country and beyond!

Since CANS & TCOM have been part of a mass collaboration, so too has the many individuals throughout New Jersey...collaborating with the hope of better our abilities to assist those who we serve-children/adolescents, parents/caregivers.

So a sincere ‘Thank you!’ goes out to the countless number of people who have contributed to the IQ Newsletter over the years.

Now we ‘Welcome!’ many more to the collaborative.

**CANSformation: Purpose & Goals**

A newsletter is a communications tool and is used to disseminate information. One of the main goals of any newsletter is to serve to bond people together and keeping them informed of all activities, functions and advancements. Another important goal of a newsletter is to build interest in areas of innovations. Lastly, which is a foundational tenet of CANSformation is to assert both acknowledge & praise to those people and activities for whom a system of care expands and strengthens.

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**Special points of interest:**

- Spotlight: highlighting those who are making a mark
- Takeaways: useful tips for everyday practice
CANS TOOLS

CANS Tools are both Valid and Reliable

The Validity & Reliability must be understood from a ‘communimetrics’ perspective.

The following CANS information is from Dr. Lyons’ blog on TCOM Conversations. A 6-part series on the Key Principles of CANS

*Permission granted for reprint of original Blog-TCOM Conversations

*6 KEY PRINCIPLES OF CANS TOOLS

Principle 2. Rating for Action

For example, it is impossible to know the meaning of a difference of a 60 versus a 50 or a 17 versus a 13 on a psychometric measure. Norms do not fully solve the problem because they simply convert these arbitrary metrics into percentile ranks which still do not easily translate into use in the field. What are the implications of the difference between a 60 and a 50 or a 17 and a 13 on an IQ test? Plus, establishing and maintaining norms is difficult and expensive, and in some cases may even be impossible, as norms require the accurate measurement of a population. Since Communimetric measures are designed to communicate, meaning is fundamental, so arbitrary measurement does not work from this perspective.

- Act
- Don’t act

While this two option model is the essence of helping, such a stark distinction can be unsatisfying to professionals and the people they serve who may wish for a more nuanced approach. For this reason, the most commonly used action format is the following:

The first stage of helping is to understand the person’s (or family’s) circumstances. Before initiating help this type of discovery phase is critical. Oftentimes this phase is called assessment. However, it may also be related to access and engagement. The output of the process of understanding should be a prioritization based on what can be done to HELP. Given this recognition of the fundamental structure of helping, Communimetric measures are designed to translate the understanding of the person into a plan to help. The structure of a Communimetric measure is designed so that it fits in the space between the output of the discovery process and the input of the planning process.

There are many possible action structures for a communimetric measure. The simplest is a two level model:

- Act
- Don’t act

Principle 2. Rating for Action

The level of each item translates into levels of action. The measure must be non-arbitrary; every rating has an immediate meaning and the meaning relevant to future action.

Concept: Blanton and Jaccard (2006) criticized psychometric measures as arbitrary. In other words, the numbers do not necessarily have any immediate meaning. This is a major limitation to practical applications of measures.

- Act
- Don’t act

While this two option model is the essence of helping, such a stark distinction can be unsatisfying to professionals and the people they serve who may wish for a more nuanced approach. For this reason, the most commonly used action format is the following:
• Do not act
• Watch/prevent/assess
• Act
• Act immediately or intensively

This structure both establishes clear action levels and creates an ordinal scale of measurement that reflects escalating action. These more nuanced scales are useful for program and system level applications of the Communimetric approach.

Many measures also have strength or asset or skill type items that are positive in nature and are used differently in planning processes. The standard action levels for these items are:

- Strength/skill fully developed (mastery) and may be central to the planning process
- Strength/skill immediately useful
- Possible strength/skill identified but must be developed
- No strength/skill evident

While the action structures described above are the mostly commonly used among existing Communimetric approaches, they should not be considered exhaustive. There are actually an enormous variety of different types of action frameworks that might be relevant in different circumstances.

**Background:** I first proposed the action levels as an alternative way to think

To assist in chart review studies, I began training reviewers to consider whether something needed to be done in order to distinguish the mild from the moderate level. To better distinguish the moderate from the severe level, I suggested people consider whether or not the need was dangerous or disabling.

In the conversion of the CSPI to the CANS in 1999, we met with parents and professionals in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. At this two day meeting, the original Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool was

Communimetric measures can be effectively mapped into sophisticated treatment planning approaches. Also, algorithms can be developed to support decision making that divides items into actionable (2 or 3) versus not actionable (1 or 0). At the time of this writing there are now five independent research groups who have demonstrated the reliability and validity of this approach to decision support using the CANS (for example, see Chor, et al., 2012 [2]; Israel, et al., 2015[3]). This scaling approach also fits very well into machine learning analytics that allow branching logic with decision breaks at meaningful levels of each item[4].

Despite the item level design and the action level structure, it also has proved possible to create traditional psychometric scales using Communimetric items.[5]

These scales can be useful for research and evaluation purposes and systems level outcomes monitoring.

In sum, the action level structure of a Communimetric measure creates a meaningful approach at the person level to effectively support planning and level of care decisions, but simultaneously provides useful information in support of more sophisticated analytics.

“The TCOM approach is grounded in the concept that the various perspectives in a complex service system creates conflicts. The tensions that result from these conflicts are best managed by keeping a focus on common objectives—a shared vision. In human service enterprises, the shared vision is the person (or people served). In health care, the shared vision is the patient; in the child serving system, it is the child and family, and so forth. By creating systems that all return to this shared vision, it is easier to create and manage effective and equitable systems.”

Praed Foundation 2017

PLAN FOR TRANSITION

Are you incorporating the Strengths & Needs Tool with Wraparound Values and the Child Family Team Process?

CANS & Wraparound...with TCOM as our GOAL...

- Transformation means that it is focused on the personal change that is the reason for intervention.
- Collaborative means that a shared visioning approach is used—not one person’s perspective.
- Outcomes means the measures are relevant to decisions about approach or proposed impact of interventions.
- Management means that this information is used in all aspects of managing the system from individual family planning to supervision to program and system operations.

Start with the What?...then come up with Why?...this will lead you to HOW?

Understanding our Work
What are trying to accomplish?

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<th>II. Product</th>
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Glatt & Dusek, 1997

SAVE THE DATE
14th Annual TCOM Conference
The Drake Hotel
October 3-5, 2019

EVIDENCE AND TRANSFORMATION
Taking Person-Centered Care to Scale
Autism ID Event
Passaic County Sheriff Dept. has partnered with Family Support Organization of Passaic County to give FREE ID’s to Individuals who have been diagnosed with Autism.

WRAPAROUND

Autism ID Event
Passaic County Sheriff Dept. has partnered with Family Support Organization of Passaic County to give FREE ID’s to Individuals who have been diagnosed with Autism.

TCOM Conversations
This blog is intended to serve as the forum to provide resources, answer your questions, and spark meaningful discussion for all members of the international TCOM collaboration through the Praed Foundation.

TCOM Conversations is jointly hosted by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago and The Praed Foundation “We are committed to improving the well-being of all through the use of personalized, timely and effective interventions.”

For more info about joining the blog contact Katherine Sun, University of Chicago-Chapin Hall at ksun@chapinhall.org

You can also follow the many CANS developments that are taking place nationally as well as internationally by clicking on Twitter @Praedfoundation.