

MEETING MINUTES

DIVISION	Department of Health and Human Services, Iowa Medicaid		
MEETING TITLE	REACH Implementation Team: Assessment Tool Subcommittee		
FACILITATOR	Carol Mau		
DATE	3/4/25	TIME	4:00 PM CT
LOCATION	Virtual		

MEETING OBJECTIVES

Implementation Team meetings create the opportunity for key stakeholders to facilitate and support the adherence to the Iowa REACH Initiative Implementation Plan objectives and activities and to provide coordinated oversight and recommendations to ensure the success of the Iowa REACH Initiative.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

- Marisa Cullnan
- Alissa Tschetter-Siedschlaw
- Catherine Turvey
- Laura Larkin
- Laura Leise
- William Linder
- Carol Mau
- Seth Piro
- Sue Gehling

AGENDA TOPICS

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Assessment Tool Overview: CANS and CAFAS

- Mathematica provided an overview of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) and Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment (CAFAS) assessment tools.
- Participants would like more information on the costs associated with each assessment tool, including training and recertification, and whether these costs would be covered by Iowa Medicaid.
- Participants expressed support for the implementation of the assessment to be considerate of intellectual and developmental disability, physical disability, medical need, and involvement with other systems and programs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants suggested a side-by-side comparison to show the gaps, similarities, and differences of each tool as well as a pros/cons list of non-negotiable assessment items.
Examples of CANS Customization for State Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mathematica presented three examples of CANS customization for state context: Illinois, Michigan, and Washington states. Participants asked for information on state billing practices for screening services and Medicaid codes to pay for assessments. Participants voiced interest in obtaining feedback from other states and providers about how the CANS and CAFAS tools are working, specifically regarding social validity and how they inform treatment planning. Participants would like more information on the qualifications and training required to use the CANS and CAFAS assessments.
Examples of CAFAS Customization for State Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mathematica presented two examples of CAFAS customization for state context: Kansas and West Virginia. Participants discussed data management practices, including the need to ensure a process for returns on investment so that data sharing is protected and mutually beneficial. Participants would further like to tie the functional assessment to how the child may score on other assessments. Participants noted the need for the assessment tool to be sensitive to differences in male and female behavior, specifically when assessing behavior that is externalized or internalized. Participants discussed the CAFAS tool potentially has more descriptors for externalizing behaviors and not as many for internalizing behaviors, which could lead to underscoring for girls. Participants suggested an enhancement specific to internalizing behaviors that could be accessed with this tool. Participants discussed concerns with a single-entry point to conduct the assessment. Participants discussed the benefits of having a state-wide reimbursement process in which anyone who is qualified can get training, then administer the tool, and submit for reimbursement. Therefore, training and/or assessments could be done in the school setting, which could better integrate academic and mental health systems.
Public Comments	None



VOTES				
ITEM #	DESCRIPTION	MOTION	SECOND	VOTE
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA