**In-Home Screeners and CANS FAQ**

**Q: When Should a Screener be completed?**

A: Screeners are completed on ALL investigations being opened as an In-home case, including cases where children are placed with relatives or fictive kin caregivers. Screeners can be completed as early as the worker and supervisor determine a case is going to be opened for ongoing services.

**Q: Is it mandatory parents have their children participate in CANS assessment?**

A: No. The CANS assessment is optional and parents can refuse the CANS assessment for their children and ultimately, choose a different mental health provider outside those who complete CANS assessment. However, a screener is still be completed on every child.

**Q: Are Screeners completed on cases opened as a FINSA?**

A: Yes. Screeners are completed on In-Home ongoing cases opened as a FINSA, as well as, any substantiated case.

**Q: Who needs to sign the release of information for the CANS assessment?**

A: The custodian (parent or kinship provider) of the children will sign DCBS release of information to allow DCBS to refer for CANS. The CMHC will complete their own release of information with the custodian.

**Q: Where do I send Screeners once completed?**

A: Screeners are sent to Debra Collins and they are then sent to the Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) completing the CANS assessments. Workers need to notate at the top of the screener that it is an In-Home Screener before sending to Debra.

**Q: If the children in the home are already receiving Mental Health Services, does the screener still have to be completed?**

A: Yes, this allows for DCBS to further assess the needs of the children and ensure they are linked to appropriate services.

**Q: Do we only complete screeners for the children listed as victims or that we have a substantiation on?**

A: No. Screeners need to be completed on ALL youth in the home even if they are not listed as the primary victim or do not have a finding.

**Q: Is it required that families use CMHCs (Adanta, Cumberland River Comp Care, Entrust, Somerset Behavioral Health) for services?**

A: No. The parents have the right to choose whichever provider they want to provide mental health services to their children.

**Q: Is there a cost to families who have no insurance or private insurance?**

A: There should not be a cost or co-pay for families with no insurance or private insurance. The CANS assessments for In-Home cases should be covered by the SOC grant.

**Q: Are screeners required for substantiated and closed cases?**

A: No, screeners are utilized once case goes to ongoing status.

**Q: Can FSOS’s enter screeners?**

A: Yes, FSOS are able to assist workers in completing and entering screeners.

**Q: How long are in home screeners valid?**

A: Screeners are valid for 30 days prior to completion of CANS assessment.

**Q: Screeners are required for open substantiated and FINSA cases, are they required for status cases?**

A: Yes, screeners will be completed for status cases as well to assess the youth’s behavioral and mental health needs and link to appropriate services.

**Q: If children are residing or placed out of region, can the worker/FSOS have access to search CANS providers out of region when submitting the behavioral health referral?**

A: SAFESPACE Liaison for the receiving region may be utilized to provide information related to available CANS providers/services in the area.