

The Narrative Report: Only on the Objective Arts Behavioral Health Analytics Platform (BHAP)

Storytelling can be an important part of data analysis. While the Objective Arts BHAP has become known as the technology infrastructure to support the CANS at a large scale - be it provider, county or state - the technology also offers new ways to explore CANS data at an individual client level: using reports that facilitate storytelling to generate a clearer picture for the clinician. One such tool is the Narrative Report. This report compares multiple CANS results taken over time, to communicate what's changed, and what's important at a glance.

Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS2) -
Example Behavioral Health System
Narrative Report

	Behavioral/Emotional Needs	Transitional-Age- Youth Module	Life Domain Functioning	Risk Behaviors
High Need: Act Immediately and/or Intensively			Living Situation	Runaway
Help is Needed: Address in Services			Job Functioning School Attendance	
Previous Need, Now Improved	Depression Anxiety	Independent Living Skills	Family Functioning Social Functioning Recreational Developmental/Intellectual Decision Making Medical/Physical School Behavior School Achievement	

The Narrative Report begins with a concise summary of needs across all the CANS domains, affectionately referred to as “the Flag”. The summary identifies immediate high needs, current areas where help is needed, and previous needs that have already shown improvement over time. The different levels of need are color coded to facilitate the rapid assimilation of the information.

Below his high-level summary, the narrative report expands upon the key areas, showing specifically how scores have changed over the course of three CANS assessments. This provides the clinician with context that would otherwise be unavailable from a single assessment. Additionally, help text on the report reminds the clinician or social worker of what each CANS item means in detail. While BHAP provides an enormous amount of data-crunching power in the background, here that power is channeled towards making CANS data simple and useful.

3 High Need	2 Help is Needed	1 Previous Need, Now Improved
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Strengths Included | Notes Not Included

Intensive or Immediate Need(s):	2013-07-01	2016-02-04	2016-09-13
Living Situation: The youth has profound problems with functioning in the current living situation. There is a significant risk of being removed from the living situation due to behaviors.	1	1	3
Runaway: There are high concerns regarding the running away. This may include a youth who is currently a runaway or a youth who is perceived to be at imminent risk for running away.	-	-	3

Need(s) that should be addressed:	2013-07-01	2016-02-04	2016-09-13
Job Functioning: The youth has attempted to engage in some type of pre-vocational or work setting and has experienced some problems with work demands (e.g., attendance, job performance, and/or work relations), but not to the point of termination from the position.	NA	1	2

At the top of this section, the Narrative Report calls out the most immediate or intensive needs from the most recent assessment. Color coded to alert the reader to their urgency, the clinician can now see a clear summary of what's most immediately actionable, in context to both previous assessment scores and less critical needs.

Need(s) that were previously addressed and have shown improvement:	2013-07-01	2016-02-04	2016-09-13
Family Functioning: Previously, there were some concerns regarding youth's problems or conflicts with other family members, but these have diminished substantially and no longer require active help. However, it is important to monitor this in case the difficulties return.	2	1	1
Social Functioning: Previously, there were some concerns regarding youth's ability to develop and maintain age appropriate social relations, but these have diminished substantially and no longer require active help. However, it is important to monitor this in case the difficulties return.	3	1	1
Recreational: Previously, there were some concerns regarding youth's utilization of leisure or recreational activities, but these have diminished substantially and no longer require active help. However, it is important to monitor this in case the difficulties return.	3	1	1

Additionally, specific items that no longer indicate high need can be seen on context with previous evaluations. The report can tell the story continuous gradual improvement, or more rapid progress. The narrative report offers an advantage here over individual CANS assessments, where those stories can be hidden.

Strengths which may be helpful in meeting Needs listed above:				2013-07-01	2016-02-04	2016-09-13
Interpersonal: The youth has well-developed interpersonal skills and healthy friendships. This strength is consistently present and helpful when coping with problems.				3	1	-
Optimism: The youth is generally optimistic; however, there is some element of this strength that needs to be developed to be consistently helpful to the youth.				3	1	1
Educational Setting: The interactions between youth, parent, and school are generally positive and there are efforts to identify and address the youth's educational needs. For many youth, this will be accomplished through a regular education setting. If the educational needs are in place, the youth may like school, but still not engage fully or excel in school so that this could be considered an extremely useful strength.				3	1	1
Talents/Interests: Developing and maintaining a talent or interest (e.g., art, playing music, dance, sports, etc.) is a critical element of development for a youth. At this time, the youth has a talent, interest, or hobby with the potential to be a consistent source of pleasure and aspect of self-esteem; however, it is not consistent enough to be depended upon to aid in coping with problems.				2	1	1

The narrative report offers the clinician new insights on client strengths as well as needs. As with the other report items, strengths are also displayed in context of previous assessments. The clinician can now see trends and changes quickly and clearly. The story of how a client's strengths progress over time can be used to inform treatment decisions, and result in more effective and more informed care.

Objective Arts developed the narrative report hand in hand with one of our clients. Using our own collaborative model, BHAP makes best practices and insights from researchers who use our system available to all. In this way, the smaller provider can take advantage of the research and analysis work done by BHAP's larger institutional and county-level clients.

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