



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

OFFICE OF COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES

Administering the Comprehensive Services Act for At-Risk Youth and Families

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TO: CANVaS Designated Super Users
CANVaS Report Administrators
CPMT Chairpersons
FAPT Chairpersons
CSA Coordinators

FROM: Carol Wilson, Policy Analyst
Office of Comprehensive Services (OCS)

DATE: October 4, 2011

SUBJECT: CANVaS Algorithm Pilot Implementation Status

The first phase of testing the algorithm or decision support model in CANVaS ended September 30, 2011. As you recall, during the time frame of July 1, 2011-September 30, 2011, Family Assessment and Planning Teams (FAPTs) were asked to provide feedback to OCS regarding those instances where the system recommendation or lack of recommendation was inconsistent with the FAPT's decisions regarding the appropriate services for a child. Although not all of them were reviewed to this extent, a number of the feedback forms were selected and compared to the individual child's CANS assessment to determine why there was a discrepancy between the system's recommendation (or lack of recommendation) and the FAPT's decisions. This process was exceptionally useful not only in identifying areas where the algorithm needs revision but also in highlighting training needs for case managers who complete the assessment instrument.

The next phase of the pilot involves further review and compilation of feedback forms submitted for FAPTs held in September and working with Dr. Lyons and RCR Technology to make the necessary adjustments to the algorithm.

Rather than disable the algorithm during this time, the pilot implementation period continues and FAPTs should continue to view the algorithm results as tentative. Please make sure your FAPT members and case managers are aware that the algorithm is still in "pilot" status and will be until otherwise notified.

Since the first phase (collection of feedback) has ended, it is no longer necessary to provide OCS with feedback forms for children reviewed by FAPT after September 30th. Many, many thanks to those of you who did provide this feedback as it has been instructive and is guiding the revision of the algorithm as well as supporting the need for specific training on how to rate the CANS.

Please contact your OCS Technical Assistance Coordinator or me if you have any questions about the algorithm implementation.