

# Provider Training

June 2025

# Understanding Substance Use Disorders and Behavioral Health Screening Tools

# Agenda

- Goals
- Objectives
- Wrap Up — Q&A

# Goals

Matching individuals with the right intensity and type of services needed ensures that care is effective and efficient, tailored to the patients' developmental stage, severity of their condition, and family dynamics.

These tools inform treatment planning and resource allocation by evaluating various dimensions of patients' needs.



# Objectives

The primary objectives of this training include:

- Understanding the purpose and importance of the following screening tools:
  - Level of Care Utilization System (LOCUS) and Child and Adolescent Level of Care Utilization System (CALOCUS)
  - American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)
  - Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale (COWS)
  - Comprehensive Assessment of Needs and Strengths (CANS)
  - Early Childhood Services Intensity Instrument (ECSII)
- Overview of administration and scoring
- Addressing common challenges and barriers
- Promoting ethical and accurate assessments



# Overview of LOCUS and CALOCUS

LOCUS is a standardized assessment tool used to determine the appropriate level of care for adults with mental health and substance use disorders. This philosophy collaborates with children and families to enhance their needs, strengths, and resilience within their communities.

CALOCUS is a tool parallel to LOCUS, specifically designed for assessing the service needs of children and adolescents with mental health and substance use issues.

## Key dimensions:

- Risk of harm
- Functional status
- Co-morbidity
- Recovery environment
- Treatment and recovery history
- Engagement

## Levels of care:

- Level 1: Recovery Maintenance and Health Management
- Level 2: Low-Intensity Community-Based Services
- Level 3: High-Intensity Community-Based Services
- Level 4: Medically Monitored Non-Residential Services
- Level 5: Medically Monitored Residential Services
- Level 6: Medically Managed Residential Services



## Key dimensions:

- Risk of harm
- Functional status
- Co-morbidity
- Recovery environment
- Resiliency and treatment history
- Acceptance and engagement

# CALOCUS (cont.)

## Levels of care:

- Level 1: Basic Services
- Level 2: Outpatient Services
- Level 3: Intensive Outpatient Services/Partial Hospitalization
- Level 4: Medically Monitored Non-Residential Services
- Level 5: Medically Monitored Residential Services
- Level 6: Medically Managed Residential Care

# Applying ASAM Criteria in Clinical Practice

The ASAM Criteria in Clinical Practice is a set of guidelines for assessing and treating patients with substance use disorder and co-occurring conditions:

- Purpose: Ensure patients receive individualized, evidence-based care at the appropriate level of intensity.
- Goal: Improve treatment outcomes by matching treatment settings and services to specific patient needs.

# Applying ASAM Criteria in Clinical Practice (cont.)

ASAM levels of care:

- Level 0.5: Early Intervention
- Level 1: Outpatient Services
- Level 2: Intensive Outpatient/Partial Hospitalization:
  - 2.1: Intensive Outpatient Services (IOP)
  - 2.5: Partial Hospitalization Services (PHP)

# Applying ASAM Criteria in Clinical Practice (cont.)

ASAM levels of care (cont.):

- Level 3: Residential/Inpatient Services:
  - 3.1: Clinically Managed Low-Intensity Residential Services
  - 3.3: Clinically Managed Medium-Intensity Residential Services
  - 3.5: Clinically Managed High-Intensity Residential Services
  - 3.7: Medically Monitored Intensive Inpatient Services
- Level 4: Medically Managed Intensive Inpatient Services

# Applying ASAM Criteria in Clinical Practice (cont.)

Six dimensions to perform a comprehensive assessment:

1. Acute intoxication/withdrawal potential
2. Biomedical conditions/complications
3. Emotional, behavioral, or cognitive conditions/complications
4. Readiness to change
5. Relapse/continued use/continued problem potential
6. Recovery/living environment

# Effective Assessment and Management of Opiate Withdrawal: COWS

- COWS is a clinician-administered tool designed to evaluate and quantify the severity of opiate withdrawal symptoms. This assessment informs treatment decisions and tracks progress.
- The use of COWS ensures an accurate assessment of withdrawal symptoms, aids in tailoring suitable treatment interventions, and promotes patient safety and comfort during withdrawal.

Key components:

1. Resting pulse rate
2. Sweating
3. Restlessness
4. Pupil size
5. Bone or joint aches
6. Runny nose or tearing
7. GI upset
8. Tremor
9. Yawning
10. Anxiety or irritability
11. Gooseflesh skin



# COWS (cont.)

## Scoring:

- Each symptom is rated on a 0-4 or 0-5 scale.
- Total scores and their significance:
  - 5-12: Mild Withdrawal
  - 13-24: Moderate Withdrawal
  - 25-36: Moderately Severe Withdrawal
  - More than 36: Severe Withdrawal

## Implementing COWS and best practices:

- Conducting assessments:
  - Perform in a supportive environment.
  - Ensure accurate and consistent scoring.
- Using results:
  - Integrate scores into personalized treatment plans.
  - Adjust interventions based on withdrawal severity.

The CANS assessment is a multipurpose tool designed to identify the needs and strengths of individuals, particularly children, adolescents, and their families, to inform care planning and decision-making.

## Assessment Domains:

- Life functioning: areas like school performance, family relationships, and social connections
- Behavioral/emotional needs: issues such as anxiety, depression, or trauma
- Risk behaviors: potentially harmful behaviors, including self-harm or substance use
- Caregiver resources and needs: the strengths and needs of the caregivers themselves

## Rating Scale

Each item within the CANS is rated on a four-point scale:

- 0: No evidence of a need for action
- 1: Watchful waiting or preventive action is recommended (mild need).
- 2: Action is needed (moderate need).
- 3: Immediate or intensive action is required (severe need).

Strengths are also rated on a four-point scale, indicating whether the strength is a centerpiece of planning (0) or if there is no evidence of the strength (3).

ECSII is used across various settings, including:

- Early intervention programs
- Childcare settings
- Pediatric healthcare services
- Social services

## Assessment Domains:

- Developmental functioning
- Behavioral/emotional needs
- Medical/developmental conditions
- Caregiver capacity
- Environmental considerations
- Service intensity needs

## Rating Scale:

- Level 0: no evidence of a need for action
- Level 1: mild/preventive with some concerns, but manageable with minimal services
- Level 2: moderate need requiring some formal services
- Level 3: significant need demanding intensive services.
- Level 4: severe need requiring very intensive, often multidisciplinary services

# Service Accommodations for Members with Co-occurring Medical and Intellectual/Development Disability Needs

- Integrated treatment approach
- Service accommodations
- Specialized support
- Accessibility and flexibility
- Community and support services
- Policy and advocacy

## Wrap up — Q&A



# Thank you

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