

WRIC READER



“What is the What?”

What is ANSA?

The Adult Needs & Strengths Assessment (ANSA) is a structured communication tool for gathering an individual and family’s story to assist with understanding needs and useful strengths to help develop a shared vision for the adult’s support team and for guiding decisions about appropriate interventions across all systems of care.

The ANSA tool is comprised of 57 items that have been found relevant to service planning. Each item is rated on a 4-point scale to indicate the level of action needed to address the item. When rating items, several considerations are taken into account:

- 1) ‘What’ is the need, not ‘why’ does the need exist?
 - ANSA is a descriptive communication tool to describe what is/is not happening.
- 2) What is the actual need, not what is the service needed?
 - Services can easily mask the actual needs to be addressed.
- 3) How much action, intervention, or support does the individual require for this need?
 - ANSA is not a severity scale, it is a communication and planning tool
- 4) How does the individual compare to others in their peer group?
 - Consider developmental and cultural influences
- 5) Has this presented in the last 30-days?
 - Interventions should be based on presenting needs as much as possible while being mindful of historical needs, but not driven by a person’s history as people change over time.



Generally Summary of Scoring: (with excerpt from the ANSA)

- 0 = no need identified; no action needed
- 1 = history of a need or suspicion there may be a need soon; check-in occasionally
- 2 = need is present and interfering with functioning; Intervention and support is needed
- 3 = need presents a safety risk to self or others; immediate intensive intervention needed

Ask your service facilitator or mental health professional for more information

LIFE FUNCTIONING NEEDS	0	1	2	3
1. Physical/Medical				
2. Family				
3. Caregiving Role				
4. Employment				
5. Social Functioning				
6. Recreational				
7. Intellectual/Developmental				
8. Intimate Relationships/Sexuality				
9. Independent Living Skills				
10. Residential Stability				

PROGRAM UPDATES

The WRIC All Vendor Conference was held on March 12 to discuss and review upcoming changes with the CCS and CLTS programs. Please reference the notes and handouts from this meeting at the vendor website: www.lacrossecounty.org/humanservices/vendors

In This Issue

- “What is... ANSA?”
- Provider Spotlight
- Faces of CCS
- Child Abuse Awareness Month
- Upcoming Events

PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT

VARC: Vernon Area Rehabilitation Center

**Service Array: Skill Development & Enhancement,
Wellness Management & Recovery**

Location: La Crosse

VARC is proud to be entering into its second year of serving individuals in La Crosse through CCS! Our team of dedicated employees work hard each day serving children and youth ages 3-18 with developmental disabilities, emotional/behavioral support needs, and physical disabilities. Through VARC, children and teens are supported within their community experiences, which provides them a foundation for developing and strengthening their own abilities.



VARC believes in an individualized approach to services, and prides itself on being innovative and creative with service provision. Our staff are committed toward providing opportunities for success for all clients served, and are driven by our mission to remove barriers of those with varying abilities. VARC provides a variety of 1:1 and group services to support its clients.

We are so grateful to be a part of the La Crosse area community, and look forward to our continued growth!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Angie Ring (Jackson County)
CCS Service Facilitator (Adult)

I became a CCS Service Facilitator with Jackson County in August 2018. I graduated from University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire with a bachelors in Social Work. I came to Jackson County with passions in criminal justice and AODA, and experience in a state correctional facility and a Department of Corrections contracted residential inpatient treatment facility. Through working in CCS I have become passionate in working in mental health. I soon hope to return to school and obtain a Masters in Social Work. Outside of work, I enjoy living in Eau Claire with my family and friends.

Kudos 2 You: Reflections of a Job Well Done

★ **Aptiv:** “Megan has been an amazing help as rep payee”

If you notice another staff/agency/community partner doing good work or going the extra mile, nominate them by sending a brief description to Ryan Ross rross@lacrossecounty.org



National Child Abuse Prevention Month

National Child Abuse Prevention Month recognizes the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect and promotes the social and emotional well-being of children and families. During the month of April and throughout the year, communities are encouraged to increase awareness and provide education and support to families through resources and strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Last year, it was estimated that 1 in 4 children experienced abuse or neglect at some point. Nationally, the department of children and family services identified 674,000 children as victims of abuse and/or neglect last year. Locally, our region reported nearly 2,400 alleged victims of child abuse last year (470 Jackson County, 1270 La Crosse County, 645 Monroe County).

Sources: [Center for Disease Control \(CDC.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/); [Wisconsin Department of Children and Families \(dcf.wisconsin.gov\)](https://www.dcf.wisconsin.gov/)

Resources:

[US Department of Health & Human Services: Resources, Trainings, and Activities](#)

[Center for Disease Control: Information, Videos, and Trainings on the Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences](#)

[ACEs Connection: Online Community Group Dedicated to Building Resilience and Healing Trauma in Local Communities](#)

[Wisconsin's Trauma Informed Care Initiative](#)

[Recognizing the Signs & Symptoms of Child Abuse Training](#)

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

PROGRAMS

Protective Factors	Nurturing and Attachment	Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development	Parental Resilience	Concrete Supports for Parents	Social and Emotional Competence of Children	Social Connections
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Add children's books about feelings to your program's library.	Organize "stroller walks" with new parents. Talk about their challenges as you walk.	Put the protective factors on your outreach materials.	Create a board-game library for families.	Have tips handy for caregivers dealing with parenting challenges.	Make "how are you?" phone calls to families in the program.	Invite a community partner to present a new resource for families.
Role play emotions with kids—what do you do when you're happy, sad, or frustrated?	Host a potluck or cultural celebration.	Plant a pinwheel garden as a reminder of the bright futures all children deserve.	Arrange a kickball or soccer game for parents and kids.	Talk to parents about how trauma can impact children at different developmental stages.	Recognize parent accomplishments.	Visit a program where you refer families, so you will know what it's like.
Train your staff on how trauma and loss affect children.	Encourage parents to support each other through phone trees, carpools, or playgroups.	Invite community partners to an interfaith family day.	Offer parents materials for a craft that they can make with their child.	Talk to parents in your program about discipline alternatives.	Help parents set goals and solve problems.	Let parents use the center's computers for personal business (e.g., writing résumés, email).
Teach kids to resolve conflicts peacefully.	Create a "positive parenting club," and produce a video of parents sharing their success stories.	Create a calendar of community events for families.	Create a cozy "book nook" where parents can read to their children.	Have a conversation with a parent about where their child is developmentally.	Invite local businesses to donate services for a free "spa day" for parents.	Invite a nutritionist to demonstrate how to buy and prepare healthy dinners on a low budget.



<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/>



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Children's Bureau
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb>

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

PARENTS

Protective Factors	Nurturing and Attachment	Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development	Parental Resilience	Concrete Supports for Parents	Social and Emotional Competence of Children	Social Connections
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Establish a daily routine so your child knows what to expect.	Get outside! Start a parent-child walking or biking club with neighbors.	Talk to your faith community about starting a parent-support ministry.	Have a family game night! Even young children can play board games on an adult's "team."	Explore the world from your child's point of view.	Set goals for yourself and list the steps you will need to take to accomplish them.	Find out what classes your library or community center offers. Sign up for one that interests you.
"Catch" your children being good. Praise them often.	Make a play date with friends who have children the same ages as yours.	Plant a pinwheel garden with your child in your front yard, near your mail box, or on your front porch.	Ask your children who is important to them.	Reflect on the parenting you received as a child and how that impacts how you parent today.	Make time to do something YOU enjoy.	Dial "2-1-1" to find out about organizations that support families in your area.
Role play emotions with your child—what do you do when you're happy, sad, or frustrated?	Find and join a local parent or community café, like Circle of Parents®. http://www.circleofparents.org/	Hold, cuddle, and hug your children often.	Make something with your child. Arts and crafts are fun for adults, too!	Find a local parenting group (e.g. MOPS). http://www.mops.org/	Talk to a trusted friend when you feel stressed, overwhelmed, or sad.	Ask your school principal or PTA to host a community resource night.
Teach your child to resolve conflicts peacefully.	Join a Girl Scout or Boy Scout troop with your children.	Host a potluck dinner with neighborhood families to swap parenting stories.	Volunteer at your child's school.	Spend time observing what your child can and cannot do. Discuss any concerns with your child's teacher.	Treat yourself to a spa day at home: Take a bubble bath, try a facial mask, and paint your nails a new color.	Organize a "Clothes Swap Potluck" to swap children clothes.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Protective Factors	Nurturing and Attachment	Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development	Parental Resilience	Concrete Supports for Parents	Social and Emotional Competence of Children	Social Connections
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Offer acting classes to build kids' ability to name and recognize emotions. Partner: Theater company	Hold a family ice cream social. Partner: Ice cream shop or local grocery store	Sponsor a "community visioning" event to gauge interest in launching a protective factors agenda in your community. Partners: Community wide	Promote family-friendly employment policies, such as onsite child care. Partner: Local businesses	Ask businesses to consider including parenting tips in their advertising or on product packaging. Partner: Business leaders	Offer workshops for parents on stress relief and relaxation. Partner: Child care resource and referral agency	Sponsor a health fair. Partners: Health-care providers, social services, community-based organizations, local businesses
Engage youth to create a presentation on bullying and help them find performance venues. Partners: Theaters, schools	Collaborate with a business to sponsor a family day or family night at a sporting event. Partners: Local businesses, professional or semi-pro sports franchise	Host a Strengthening Families leadership brunch or dinner. Partners: Faith-based organizations, elected officials, community-based organizations, philanthropists	Encourage screening for parental depression in pediatric offices. Partner: American Academy of Pediatrics chapter	Create a parent resource library at your office. Partner: Local businesses, service providers	Host a Parent Support and Appreciation Conference to recognize parent leaders. Partner: Hotels, business leaders, elected officials, social services, health department, and other community organizations	Host job-training classes or a job fair. Partners: Local businesses, employment agencies, universities, State/local government agencies
Provide families with books and toys focused on young children's feelings and experiences. Partner: Children's stores	Create rituals for welcoming new families to your community. Partners: Realtors, Newcomers Clubs, PTAs	Ask local businesses to provide transportation for families to local churches, temples, or mosques. Partners: Businesses, faith-based organizations	Set up a parenting display near the children's book section at your library. Include information and books on behavior, emotions, etc.	Offer parenting classes or visitation support for incarcerated parents. Partner: Correctional facilities	Organize a stroller exercise or parent-child yoga class at a local community center. Partners: Community center or yoga studio	Start a winter coat drive and open a community food pantry. Partners: Local dry cleaners, social services, faith-based organizations, grocery stores
Create a community swap event for families to trade items such as books, school supplies, or clothes. Partner: Civic association	Create a video library for parents, focused on children's social-emotional development. Partner: Libraries	Publish a list of "10 things you can do to strengthen families" in your community. Partners: Local media, businesses	Share resources with family-friendly businesses on protective factors, child development, parenting skills, and stress reduction. Partners: Early childhood programs, health-care providers, grocery stores	Host a workshop on observing and supporting young children at play. Partners: Psychologists, pediatricians	Host a health and spa day for moms and dads. Partners: Local businesses, community-based providers	Host a financial literacy workshop for families to help with financial management Partners: Business leaders or bankers

Upcoming Events



Meetings

• Vendor Clinical Support Groups:

- ◇ 1st Thursday (4/4): 1:30-2:30pm @ La Crosse County Human Services #2002
- ◇ 3rd Tuesday (4/16): 10-11am @ **La Crosse County Administration #1107**

Who Should Attend: Any direct provider of CCS services. Teleconference available

• Residential Clinical Support Teleconference Groups:

- ◇ 2nd Tuesday (4/9): 9-10am @ (605) 472-5637 Code: 994794#
- ◇ 4th Monday (4/22): 2-3pm @ (605) 472-5637 Code: 994794#

Who Should Attend: Any direct provider of CCS residential services

• CCS Statewide Meeting

- ◇ April 16 from 8am-4pm at Glacier Canyon Conference Center, WI Dells. Information and Registration at [DHS.wisconsin.gov/ccs](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/ccs)

Who Should Attend: Open to anyone involved in CCS services

Trainings

CCS Core Curriculum

April 3	10:00am-11:30am	Mental Health Diagnoses and Interventions Overview	La Crosse County Admin 1107 For more Info & Registration
April 10	10:00am-11:30am	Substance Use Diagnoses and Interventions Overview	La Crosse County Admin 1107 For more Info & Registration
April 17	10:00am-11:30am	Recovery Principles & Models	La Crosse County Admin 1107 For more Info & Registration
April 24/ May 1	10:00am-11:30am	Non-Violent Crisis Response (pt 1) & (pt 2)	La Crosse County Admin 1107 For more Info & Registration
May 8	10:00am-11:30am	Coordinated Service Teams (CST) Overview	La Crosse County Admin 1107 For more Info & Registration

Other Trainings

April 11	11:00am-12:00pm	WI Client Rights: Updates for 2019	WPPNT Teleconference 877-820-7831 Code: 107633#
April 25	11:00am-12:00pm	Safeguarding Sobriety and Reducing Relapse	WPPNT Teleconference 877-820-7831 Code: 107633#
April 26-27	All Day	NAMI-WI Statewide Conference	Madison, WI Info & Registration
May 2-3	All Day	Families & Children with Disabilities Conference	Stevens Point, WI Info & Registration
May 22	8-4	Mental Health First Aid	Viterbo University, La Crosse Info & Registration

Community Events

- ★ Life in Harmony, Music Therapy: Annual Recital April 12 & 13. Heider Center, West Salem. For more information visit www.lihmt.com/recital

Contact Us

WRIC Counties

Jackson County
420 Highway 54 W
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La Crosse County
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Submissions: May is Mental Health Awareness Month. If your agency is hosting an event, or if you are aware of a community event, Please send to Ryan Ross ross@lacrossecounty.org by April 26th.