

**Date:** November 20, 2019

**CYF Memo:** # 14- 19/20

**To:** CYF Mental Health Treatment Providers (Organizational and Fee for Service)

**From:** Yael Koenig, CYF Deputy Director

**Re:** **San Diego CANS Posters**

Behavioral Health Services (BHS) is committed to supporting providers with the clinical utility of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) which includes consensus ratings by multiple individuals. To assist providers with achieving a collaborative, consensus-based assessment when rating CANS items, BHS reproduced CANS posters developed by Child Welfare Development Services (CWDS) to support the decision-making process.

The CANS posters are currently utilized by Child Welfare System (CWS) during Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings. BHS providers usage of the posters supports the goal of establishing a shared understanding of the client and family's strengths and needs and inter-rater reliability. The posters can be utilized by providers several ways:

- Reference guide for clinicians when completing the initial CANS
- Visual resource for clients and families to help them better understand the ratings
- Validation tool for clinical supervision to assure that needs and goals align

The posters have been distributed at Program Manager's meeting on November 14, 2019. PDF of posters are attached and available on the RIHS website at <https://theacademy.sdsu.edu/programs/rihs/cyf-outcomes/>

Four Posters are available:

- Assessing for Needs Poster - Decision flow chart of whether information represents a NEED
- Action Levels: Needs Poster – Ratings have the accompanying action level explanation
- Assessing for Strengths Poster - Decision flow chart of whether information represents a STRENGTH
- Action Levels: Strengths Poster - Ratings have the accompanying action level explanation

BHS values the partnership with providers and promotes all efforts to utilize the CANS in a collaborative and clinical manner.

**Attachments:** Assessing for Needs Poster  
Action Levels: Needs Poster  
Assessing for Strengths Poster  
Action Levels: Strengths Poster

**CC** Probation Department  
Child Welfare Services (CWS)  
Optum Public Sector San Diego  
County of San Diego Quality Management  
Child Welfare Development Services (CWDS)  
Responsive Integrated Health Solutions (RIHS)  
Child & Adolescent Services Research Center (CASRC)



3

Currently not a strength. Considerable building/effort required to identify or create strengths.

2

Strength is potentially useful. Strength requires building in order to be useful to the individual or for planning.

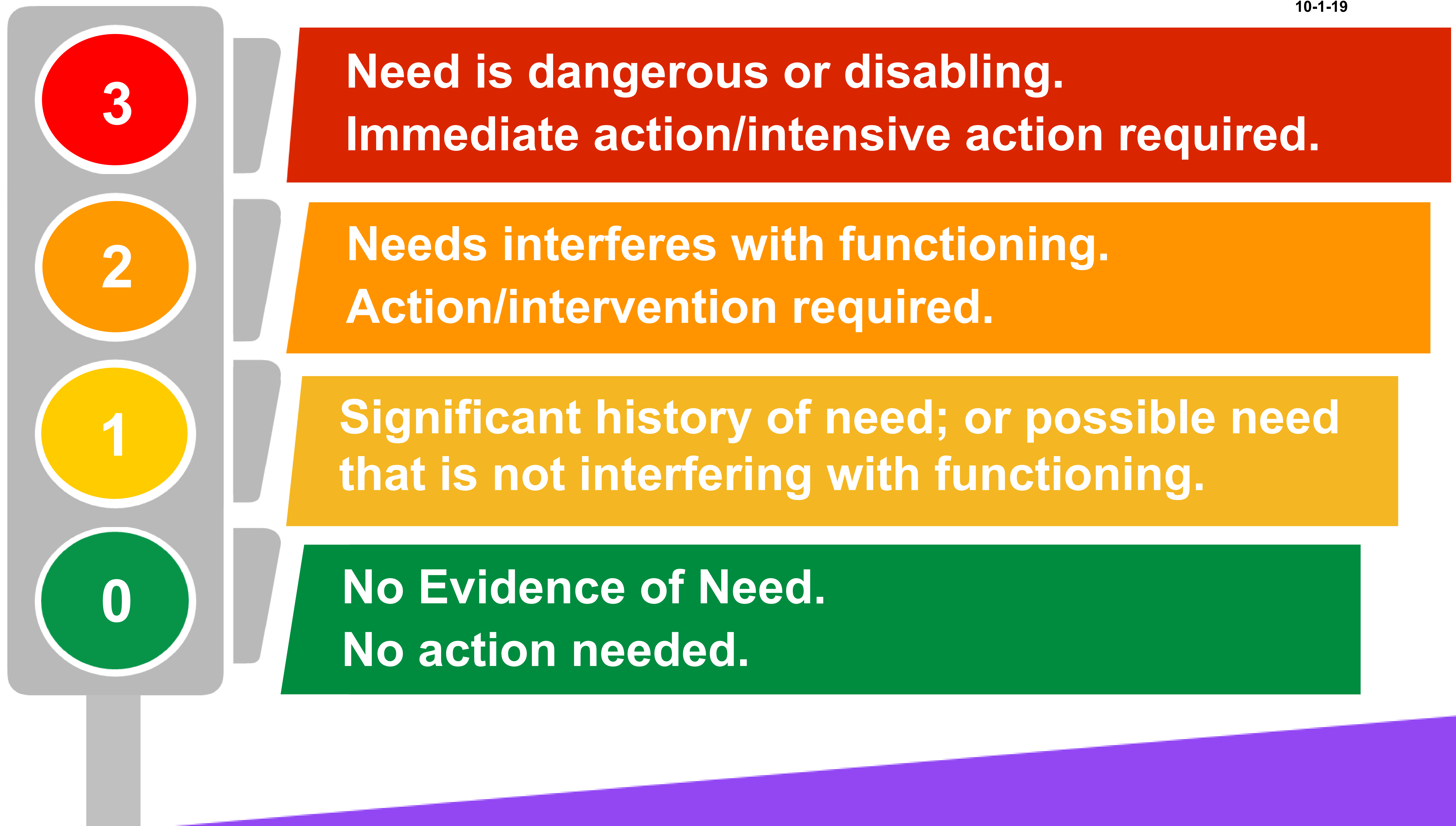
1

Well-developed centerpiece strength. Easily accessible and very useful for the individual and for planning.

0

Strength is useful. Strength is evident and can be accessed; strength could be useful for planning.

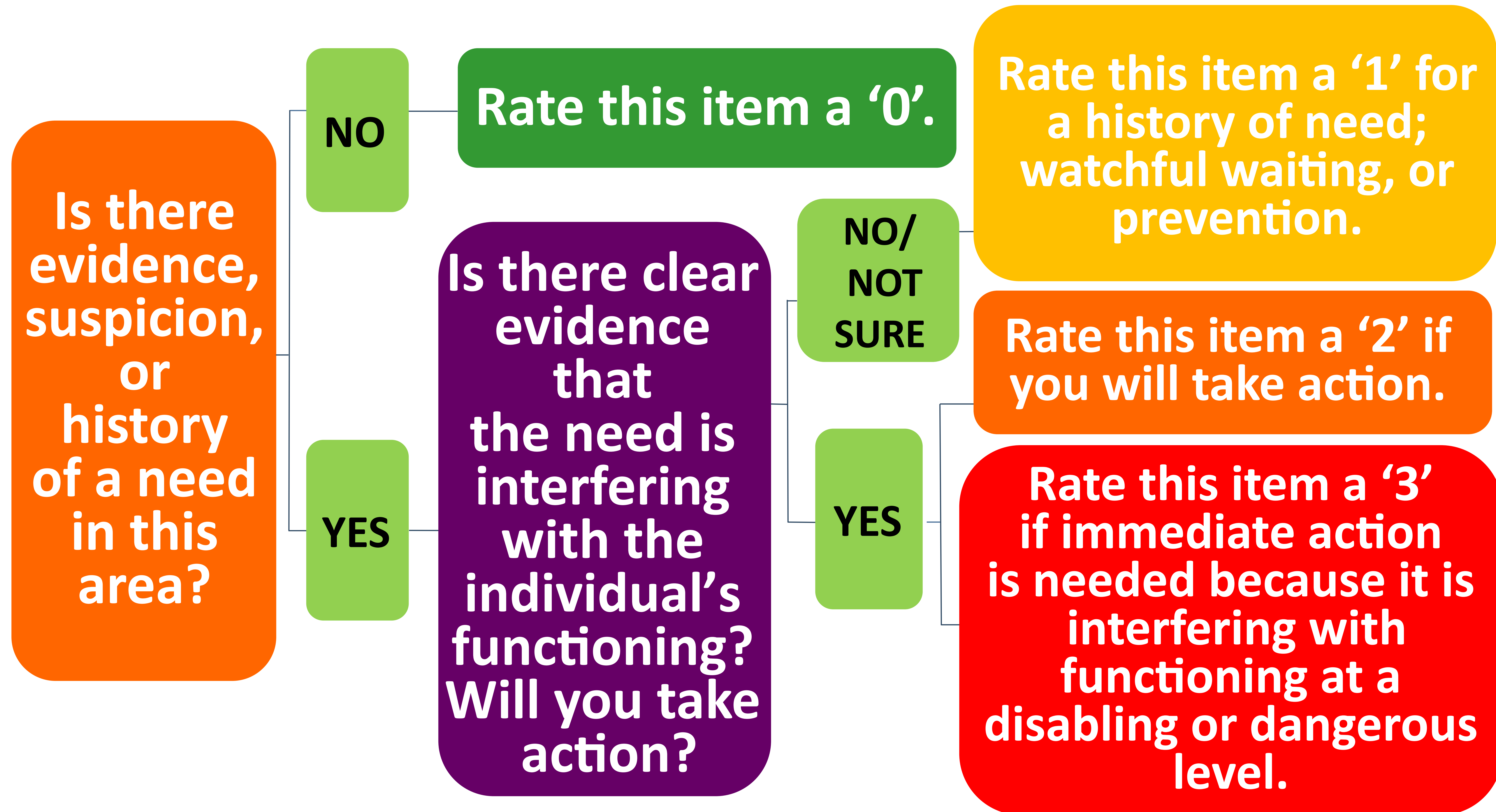
# Action Levels: Strengths



# Action Levels: Needs

# ASSESSING FOR NEEDS

Decision of whether or not information represents a **NEED**





# ASSESSING FOR STRENGTHS

Decision of whether or not information represents a **STRENGTH**

Is there  
evidence  
of a  
**STRENGTH**  
in this  
area?

**NO**

Rate this item a '3'  
for no known strengths. Deter-  
mine appropriateness for  
identification or classification.

**MAYBE**

Is the  
strength  
useful and  
something to  
work with, but  
the youth  
cannot use  
today?

Rate this item a '2' for an  
identified strength. Deter-  
mine appropriateness for  
further development.

**YES**

Is it a  
strength that  
will be used  
in planning?

Rate this item a '1' if it is  
a useful strength and  
there is opportunity to  
further develop.

Rate this item a '0' if it  
is a powerful/  
centerpiece strength.