THE SCAN FOUNDATION
Olmstead Advisory Committee
August 30, 2012
Standardized Assessment:
Issues and Opportunities
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Mission: To advance the development of a sustainable continuum of quality care for seniors.
Vision: A society where seniors receive medical treatment and human services that are integrated in the setting most appropriate to their needs and with the greatest likelihood of a healthy, independent life.
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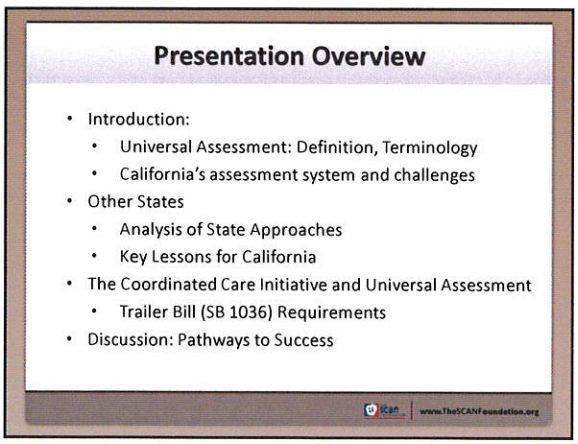
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## Definition and Terminology: Universal Assessment

**Definition:**

A common assessment tool or process to assess an individual's functional capacity and needs that is used across programs and services to guide care planning and resource utilization.

**Terminology:**

Also referred to as standardized assessment, uniform assessment, universal comprehensive assessment.



## The Use and Value of Universal Assessment (UA)

**Use of UA:**

- UA is commonly used for eligibility determination, service and support planning, resource allocation, and quality monitoring.
- UA is often used in an automated system (like CMIPS for IHSS)

**Value of UA:**

- Streamlines the assessment process
- Integrates the care planning process in a consistent manner
- System automation leads to informed policy and planning decisions and allows for efficient allocation of resources.



## California's Assessment System

**Assessment in California:**

- Assessment varies by program
- There is no standardized assessment system across LTSS programs
- Consumers who may be eligible for multiple programs must be evaluated separately by each program for eligibility and for care planning purposes.

## Other States

- More than half of all states use universal assessment tool for at least a component of the population
- Many states have designed automated universal assessments for multiple populations and programs to:
  - Evaluate individual need in a consistent manner across programs and develop care plans
  - Allow for more equitable resource allocation and the collection of standardized data for use in program planning, budgeting, quality monitoring, reporting and rate setting.



## Analysis of State Approaches

- The SCAN Foundation supported C.E. Reed and Associates to analyze the evolution of universal assessment in four states: Washington, Minnesota, Arkansas, and New York
- Focus of report:
  - What these states implemented universal assessment
  - Which assessments were selected and why
  - How they engaged stakeholders through the development, testing, and implementation phases
  - How long did the process take, the associated costs, and what efficiencies were achieved



## What We Learned

- Critical role of stakeholder engagement
- Length of time needed: 3 years minimum
- Resources to design and implement universal assessment varied from $1.4 million to $4.8 million (this does not reflect total cost)
- States anticipate greater efficiencies through elimination of multiple forms and assessments, better flow of information, and consistent eligibility determination

## Exploring Opportunities

California's Coordinated Care Initiative and Universal Assessment



## Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI)

Universal Assessment in the CCI (as outlined in SB 1036):

- State "intent" to pursue a universal assessment to be implemented across Medi-Cal managed care organizations
- Counties continue using IHSS assessment and authorization
- Stakeholder process to begin no sooner than June 2013
- Tool will build upon IHSS uniform assessment process
- Upon completion, tool will be piloted in two CCI counties no sooner than January 2015
- Consumer consent required
- Sunset 2017



## Recommendations for California

- Consider building assessment into an "off-the-shelf" tested tool
- Stakeholder process should provide for meaningful engagement
- Sufficient time should be built into the process
- Desired quality outcomes should be identified and translated into measures outlined in the assessment
- System automation is critical to capturing data and fully testing value of piloted assessment

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