AACAP’s Child and Adolescent Service Intensity Instrument (CASII)

The Child and Adolescent Service Intensity Instrument (CASII) is a standardized assessment tool that provides a determination of the appropriate level of services needed by a child or adolescent and his or her family. It is unique in its capacity to determine service intensity need, guide treatment planning, and monitor treatment outcome in all clinical settings. The CASII is developmentally informed and compatible with the System of Care approach -- embracing individualized service planning, offering child and family teams, and providing a broad service array. CASII recognizes use of home and community based services and natural supports as part of the “medical necessity” and treatment implementation equation. CASII is applicable to children living in the community with their parents or extended family, and to children in foster care, and institutional settings.

The CASII assesses the service intensity needs of children and adolescents presenting with psychiatric, substance use, psychosocial and/or developmental concerns. It incorporates holistic information on the child, within the context of his/her family and social ecology, assessing across six key dimensions: risk of harm (including trauma issues), functional status, co-occurring conditions, recovery environment, resiliency/response to services, and involvement in services.

The CASII links the results of clinical assessment with a defined level of service intensity, using a clinically derived and empirically tested algorithm. It is a user-friendly and clinically relevant tool. The CASII is culturally informed, and supports active participation by child and family during assessment and thereafter. The CASII can be used at all stages of intervention and is designed for use in all child-serving systems (behavioral health, physical health, education, child welfare, juvenile justice, etc.) to facilitate integrated attention to the child’s needs. It promotes effective communication between providers and systems and informs clinicians’ engagement with the child, family, and community.

The CASII has a strong evidence base supporting its reliability and validity, and has gained wide usage in a range of health care settings over the past 13 years.