



HUMBOLDT COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Justice, Rehabilitation and Community Safety

JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MARCH 14, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. REVIEW OF EXISTING SECURE YOUTH TREATMENT PROGRAM
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
5. ADJOURNMENT

HUMBOLDT COUNTY SECURE YOUTH TREATMENT PROGRAM

Introduction

Effective July 1, 2021, the State of California realigned the custody, care and supervision of youth who were eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) prior to its closure to the county of disposition. Each county was, in turn, required to develop a plan describing the facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision and reentry strategies that are needed to provide appropriate rehabilitation and supervision services for the realigned population.

The Humboldt County Juvenile Realignment Plan was developed through the County's Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (MAJJCC) subcommittee on juvenile justice realignment. The subcommittee is composed of the chief probation officer, as chair, a representative from the district attorney's office, the public defender's office, the department of social services, the department of mental health, the county office of education or a school district, and a representative from the court. The subcommittee also included community members who had experience providing community-based youth services, youth justice advocates with expertise and knowledge of the juvenile justice system or had been directly involved in the juvenile justice system. In addition, there was active community participation in the public meetings developing the plan, and their insight, input, and guidance were relied on heavily in its formulation.

Commitment History of Humboldt County

As part of the plan development process, the Humboldt County Probation Department (HCPD) reviewed the cases of youth committed to DJJ by the Humboldt County Juvenile Justice System in the past decade. The data collected from the review was de-identified and shared with the subcommittee and community partners.

From January 1, 2010, to December 1, 2020, Humboldt County committed 11 youth to the state program, or about 1 youth per year. Two additional youth were added to the reviewed data set who were committed to DJJ in 2008 but were still serving their sentence in 2010, bringing the total to 13 youth. This is an extremely small number of youth and caution should be used in extrapolating patterns or conclusions from it.

The 13 youth committed to DJJ were all male. They ranged from 15 to 19 years of age at the time of their commitment. The ethnicity of the committed youth were White 54%, American Indian 38%, and Hispanic 8%. For context, the general community distribution in Humboldt County for these ethnicities is White 83%, Hispanic 12.1%, and American Indian 6.4%. The disproportionate representation of indigenous youth in the

DJJ data set is consistent with similar disparities in the general juvenile justice, dependency, and adult criminal justice populations.

All the youth ordered to DJJ were committed for serious offenses. These included manslaughter, robbery, sexual assault, assault with great bodily injury, and burglary with a firearm. Most had extensive delinquency referral histories indicating ongoing involvement with the juvenile justice system prior to their commitment.

All the youth had prior contact with the Child Welfare System (CWS). Most had multiple child welfare referrals. Of the DJJ youth from Humboldt County, 92% had at least 1 substantiated referral, and 31% were removed from the custody of their parents at some point prior to entering the juvenile justice system.

The Probation staff also reviewed each committed youth's educational experience. The probation records as it applied to their education found some gaps in data; however, even with that limitation, over half of the youth committed had an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). When considered in conjunction with the CWS history, it indicates significant adverse childhood experiences and trauma.

All of the youth in the dataset had a mental health diagnosis and most had multiple diagnoses. The most prevalent mental health concerns were Substance Use Disorder (SUD), Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and conduct disorder. This was reaffirmed by the probation data and assessments. The probation records found behavior patterns of drug use, assaultive behavior, assaultive behavior on detention staff, and weapon use. Most of these behaviors persisted through multiple law enforcement referrals with one young person having 39 referrals prior to being committed to DJJ. The probation records further revealed that alternative placements and interventions were attempted before the youth was committed. These included foster care, short term residential treatment programs, an intensive in-custody mental health treatment program, and out-patient services.

SECURE YOUTH TREATMENT PROGRAM

The Humboldt County Secure Youth Treatment Program (SYTP) is established to provide services to court ordered youth who meet statutory criteria. The program combines a standard set of services and supports as described later in this document with a rehabilitation plan tailored to each youth. The Individualized Rehabilitation Plan (IRP) is developed through a multi-disciplinary team process that includes service providers, the youth, their family, and other long term supports.

Program Eligibility

The juvenile court may order a youth be committed to the SYTP only if they meet the following criteria:

1. The youth is a ward of the court who is 14 years of age or older.
2. The youth is adjudicated and found to be a ward based on an offense listed in Section 707(b) of the Welfare and Institutions Code. This offense must be the most recent offense for which the youth has been adjudicated.
3. The court finds on the record that a less restrictive, alternative disposition for the youth is unsuitable. The court shall make its determination based on all of the following criteria:
 - a. The severity of the offense for which the youth has been most recently adjudicated, including the youth's role in the offense, the youth's behavior, and harm done to the victims.
 - b. The youth's previous delinquent history, including the adequacy and previous attempts by the juvenile court to rehabilitate the youth.
 - c. Whether programming, treatment, and education offered and provided in a secure youth treatment facility is appropriate to meet the treatment and security needs of the youth.
 - d. Whether the goals of rehabilitation and community safety can be met by assigning the youth to an alternative, less restrictive disposition that is available to the court.
 - e. The youth's age, developmental maturity, mental and emotional health, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and any disabilities or special needs affecting the safety or suitability of committing youth to a term of confinement in a secure youth treatment facility.

Program Location

The STYP is located in the Humboldt County Juvenile Hall located at 2006 Harrison Avenue, Eureka, California. It is a secure 30 bed facility laid out with the sleeping rooms opening onto a large shared rectangular living space. Classrooms, dining area, and programming rooms are accessible from the common area. The detained youth in the juvenile hall range from ages 12 to 25 (SYTP youth may be held through age 23 or 25 depending on their adjudicated offense). They include youth freshly arrested for alleged criminal behavior and wards pending disposition, placement or serving a

commitment. Detained youth, regardless of their status, commingle as they attend school, participate in programming, share meals, and recreate.

In addition to the Juvenile Hall, Humboldt County has a second juvenile detention facility located directly adjacent to the Juvenile Hall called the Regional Facility. The building, constructed in 1997, is a separate secure 18 bed facility, with program space, shared living space, and classroom. It is used for programming and population overflow.

Youth in the SYTP program have the benefit of the standard array of services and resources available to all youth detained in the facility. This includes visitation, recreation, meals, commissary access, etc. as authorized Title 15 and Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations

Assessment Tools:

Youth ordered to the SYTP are assessed utilizing the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT). PACT is a fourth generation risk/need assessment tool utilized to develop case plans through the identification of risk and protective factors. The PACT is completed and updated every six months as part of a youth being ordered to the program and included into the individual rehabilitation plan.

At the time of detention, Children's Behavioral Health staff conduct an assessment of youth utilizing the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool. This assessment is updated every six months and at the time a youth is ordered to the SYTP program. The CANS is used to develop the individual rehabilitation plan.

The Casey Life Skills Assessment (CLSA) is used to assess current or former foster youth to develop the Transition Independent Living Program (TILP) case plan which is updated every six months. The CLSA will be used on all youth in the SYTP to develop the individual rehabilitation plan regardless of placement status.

Medical Services

Humboldt County contracts with Wellpath to provide medical services to youth in the Juvenile Hall. This includes intake health screenings, health inventory and communicable disease screening, detoxification, daily sick calls, provision of offsite medical care, and coordination of follow up medical referrals upon release from custody. Wellpath staff the Juvenile Hall with a nurse practitioner Monday through Friday during business hours. After-hours, a registered nurse is scheduled to administer medications to youth, and an on-call physician is available for other more acute medical concerns.

Educational Services

The Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE) operates the Von Humboldt Court School within the Juvenile Hall. The school is year-round with classes provided Monday through Friday. The HCOE court school provides a learning environment that focuses on themes that address academic and mental health needs, incorporating activities to empower youth and promote self-esteem. Youth ordered to the SYTP who have not graduated high school will attend Von Humboldt with their peers in the facility. All students have full access to the state's standards-based curriculum that lead to a high school diploma. Students complete academic assessments upon enrollment to support individual needs. Students receive an Individual Learning Plan depending on their academic needs and progress towards their high school diploma. The court school is staffed with a credentialed teacher, instructional aide, counselor, support caseworker and administrator. The staff is trained in Trauma-Informed Practices and has implemented Positive Behavioral Supports Intervention and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support. Support for career/vocational training is provided through HCOE.

Youth who have identified special education needs through an individualized education plan (IEP) or a 504 plan will be provided educational supports. These supports will be provided through the Humboldt County Office of Education.

Youth who complete Von Humboldt through obtainment of a high school diploma or other equivalency will be provided the opportunity to enroll and virtually attend the Redwoods Community College District. Enrollment in College of the Redwoods (CR) allows the youth access to an array of student services. A student development advisor from CR will meet with the youth in the Juvenile Hall to assist them in course selection, connection to educational supports, and address any other educational barriers that may arise. Youth could transfer to CSU or UC if applicable to a youth's individual circumstances. In addition, Adult Education classes will prepare youth for entering employment, learning about careers, entering college, or improving English as a second language. These classes will assist students in transition from secondary to post-secondary education or employment.

Youth will be provided space and access to a computer to attend classes. Where video participation is an element of the course, neutral clothing will be provided to not identify the youth as being in a detention facility. A classroom is used to facilitate and support high school graduates in continuing education or vocational training.

Restorative Justice: Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports

The Humboldt County Juvenile Hall has established a behavior modification program to ensure SYTP youth are recognized for their positive behavior, but it also addresses problematic behavior through effective reinforcement and restorative practices. By utilizing the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

framework, staff rely on incentives, daily step scores, and frequent conversations about expectations to encourage youth to be safe, responsible, and respectful while being housed in Juvenile Hall. SYTP youth will also take part in Aggression Social Skills Training (ASST) facilitated by a Probation Officer (PO) and a Juvenile Corrections Officers (JCO) serving as co-facilitator.

PBIS is a multi-tier system that provides an evidence-based framework providing instruction and support for positive and prosocial behaviors, and supporting social, emotional, and behavioral needs for all youth and preventing problem behavior. Facility-wide implementation of PBIS requires training, coaching, and evaluation for staff to consistently implement the key components that make PBIS effective. Humboldt County Juvenile Hall administration developed a PBIS site team consisting of a Facility Manager, senior level JCO's (who act as coaches for other staff), Behavioral Health staff, school teachers, school administrators, and support staff. The team meets monthly to develop and implement the PBIS framework.

The PBIS framework consists of the following principles:

1. establishing, defining, teaching, and practicing three to five positively stated facility-wide behavioral expectations that are representative of the local community and cultures; HCPD behavioral expectations are safe, respectful, and responsible;
2. developing and implementing a consistent system used by all staff to provide positive feedback and acknowledgment for students who display facility-wide behavioral expectations;
3. developing and implementing a consistent and specialized support system for youth who do not display behaviors representative of facility-wide positive expectations;
4. developing a system to support decisions based on data related to youth progress, effective implementation of behavioral practices, and screening for youth requiring additional behavior supports;
5. using a continuum of evidence-based interventions that is integrated and aligned to support academic and behavioral success for all youth; and
6. using a team-based approach to support effective implementation, monitor progress, and evaluate outcomes.

Behavioral Health Services

Humboldt County Children's Behavioral Health (CBH) provides individualized behavioral health services to youth in the SYTP. The program supports 1 mental health clinician who works in conjunction with a supervising mental health clinician, 2 mental health clinicians and 2 case managers who are assigned to the New Horizons Program. Additionally, a full time peer coach will be available to work with youth in the program

and provide support, coaching, and mentoring. Because of the small number of participants in the program, a SYTP youth's behavioral services is integrated into the existing service array with additional enhancements as identified in the individual rehabilitation plan. This creates a cadre of CBH staff who are providing services to the SYTP participant.

Youth in the SYTP are provided an individual counseling session with a Mental Health Clinician each week. In addition, CBH staff support youth throughout the week on an ad hoc basis as the need arises. The youth and their family and/or long-term supports are offered counseling on a bi-monthly basis. The frequency and scheduling of family counseling is subject to the availability of the youth's supports in the community. Medication support services are provided by a CBH Psychiatrist on a weekly basis as needed. Clinical staff providing services to SYTP are trained in Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR). TF-CBT is an evidence-based treatment for youth and their parents/caregivers impacted by trauma. EMDR is a psychotherapy that enables people to heal from symptoms and emotional distress. This training provides staff with a trauma informed lens through which counseling and group work is conducted. TF-CBT training will be offered within the first year of the program. Additional training will be offered as new staff are added to the program.

A Substance Use Disorder (SUD) assessment is completed by behavioral health staff on each youth ordered to SYTP. Those identified with a substance use disorder participate in group counseling following the Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (A-CRA) model. The timing of participation is determined by the multidisciplinary team to coincide with commitment and reentry planning efforts.

The re-entry plan also addresses continuity of services as the youth moves from the secure setting to the community. This includes maintaining mental health care, medical care, and substance use disorder aftercare with individual counselling, case management and field services as appropriate. It also seeks to build on natural supports developed with family or other community members. Services may be expanded to address anticipated needs once released from the SYTP. The plan should also anticipate and facilitate the transfer of service from juvenile justice to community-based focus as the youth prepares to complete probation supervision.

Cognitive Behavioral Treatment Programming

The SYTP includes participation in Aggression Replacement Training (ART). ART is an evidence-based curriculum that provides training in social skills, anger control, and moral reasoning. Trained behavioral health staff will offer the ART curriculum over a 10-week period. Because of the small numbers of youth in the SYTP, the group will include

youth ordered to the New Horizons program as well. Participation of ART should occur during the initial stages of the Program, and youth may repeat ART groups throughout the youth's commitment to the program.

In addition, SYTP youth will be provided the opportunity for interactive journaling through a series called *Forward Thinking*. *Forward Thinking*, is curricula developed by the Change Company and utilized by the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and other detention facilities. It includes books on: links between thoughts, feelings and behaviors; handling difficult feelings; relationships and communication; victim awareness; reentry planning; substance use behaviors; and family.

Seeking Safety will be offered to SYTP youth as well. Seeking Safety is an evidence-based treatment curriculum that focuses on co-occurring trauma and substance use disorder. The offering and pacing of Seeking Safety will be determined by behavioral health staff and identified in the individualized rehabilitation plan.

Finally, Aggression Social Skills Training (ASST) is offered to SYTP youth twice a week and is bifurcated into two components. Social Skill Streaming and Anger Control groups. Each group serves as a distinct cognitive behavior restructuring opportunity aimed at changing youth behavior. During the groups staff will teach, explain, and model the skills, while youth will have the opportunity to "role play" the skills and receive peer feedback. Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS), similar to ASST is taught by the senior probation officer assigned to SYTP on an individual basis to the youth. Additionally, the youth will participate in a skill of the week taught and practiced in the detention facility throughout the week.

Enrichment Programs

Humboldt County contracts with the Ink People, Center for the Arts, to provide professional artist mentor services to youth in the Juvenile Hall. The services include Origami, Painting, Music, and Poetry classes on a weekly basis. Participants in the SYTP will participate with the general juvenile hall population.

Humboldt County contracts with the Niroga Institute to provide dynamic mindfulness training to staff. Trained staff and youth will then facilitate mindfulness exercises on a daily basis to SYTP youth facilitated by video guided mindfulness activities. The practices can also be used on an ad hoc basis to provide support for youth in crisis.

The Humboldt County Library offers books in print, e-books, audiobooks, eMagazines, and an online library catalog to detained youth.

The Juvenile Hall will be adding a youth-maintained garden in the open recreation area of the facility. This portion of the program remains on hold while construction is still underway.

Humboldt County has entered into a Memorandum Of Understanding with HCOE and the Humboldt Independent Physician's Association to present the Boys To Men program to detained youth.

Project Rebound, a CSU funded program for justice-involved college students, provides a 10-week course to promote education and educational mentorship for youth in the SYTP and New Horizons Program.

Youth Educational Services is a student led community engagement program at Humboldt State University. The program provides a weekly Juvenile Hall Recreation Program which is available to SYTP participants.

Youth have the opportunity to participate in weekly Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings provided by local organizations.

Non-denominational religious services are offered every Sunday.

Independent Living Skills (ILS)

In the community, ILS is a voluntary program designed to assist youth transitioning from the foster care system to independence. Youth who have been in foster care on their 16th birthday are eligible for ILS services until the day before their 21st birthday. Youth are referred to the program by their Social Worker or Probation Officer. Community ILS services are provided by the Department of Health & Human Services, Social Services Branch under Child Welfare. Community ILS is an integrated program within the Transition-Age Youth Division.

All youth participating in the SYTP are provided similar services to those voluntary services provided to eligible foster or former foster youth. Youth ordered to complete SYTP are assessed using the Casey Life Skills Assessment (CLSA) on behaviors and competencies upon entry and upon completion of detention. The assessment is used to develop the youth's Independent Rehabilitative Plan to achieve their self-identified long term goals. The CLSA is also used to develop the Transition Independent Living Program (TILP) case plan for appropriate, current, or former foster youth, and updated every six months.

Youth in the SYTP detention facility are encouraged to apply for jobs within the facility related to janitorial, laundry, landscaping, mindfulness coach, etc. to earn independent living skills, employment skills, and benefit from a job reference. Youth

applying for jobs while in the facility will be offered similar independent living skills of seeking employment as they would out of custody. They will complete an application and go through an interview process. Compensation for work will be offered through earning commissary privileges.

Youth in SYTP are provided ILS workshops while in the program. These ongoing two-hour training sessions or workshops cover various living skills and are presented by community experts. Topics include budget, communication skills, healthy relationships, health and wellbeing, employment, college campus tours, financial aid/Extended Opportunity Programs and Services, landlord/tenant issues, cooking, and routine car care.

Upon release from the secure portion of the SYTP, youth may be eligible to participate in other ILS activities in the community. Community based ILS hosts special events designed to enhance self-esteem and build specific skills for Transition-Age Youth. Examples include Fall Feast Celebration, Winter Holiday Event, Graduation Event, Trinity River Rafting Event, TAY Barbecue, and opportunities to participate in The Youth Education Summit and North Coast Youth Summit. Events will be replicated for youth participating in the SYTP where possible. HCPD and ILS will coordinate services for a youth transitioning from in-custody participation to community participation.

Community based ILS offers individual services as well. This includes one-on-one assessments and developing a plan for independence, assistance with financial aid forms and college applications, housing, emancipation information, employment Extended Foster Care re-entry, enrollment in Eureka Adult School, referrals for various community resources and services, and preparation into the California Conservation Corps or Job Corps. The ILS Coordinator also assists youth in obtaining their birth certificates, California ID cards, Driver's Licenses, Driver's Permits and other important documents.

To encourage participation, the ILS program provides cash incentives for eligible youth participating in workshops. Youth who graduate high school or obtain a GED receive a home start-up kit containing dishes, silverware, glassware, sheets and a comforter, utensils, a tool kit, and other items as a gift upon graduation.

Multi Disciplinary Team (MDT)

Members of the MDT include but are not limited to the following people: the youth, the assigned probation officer, the assigned juvenile corrections officer or representative, the supervising mental health clinician assigned to the juvenile hall, TAY or Peer coach support involved children's behavior health and the youth's family or other long term supports as identified by the youth. A senior probation officer is assigned to

supervise and provide case management, ensure linkages with service providers, and report progress to the court for youth ordered into the SYTP program.

Structurally the MDT operates similar to a child and family team meeting. The MDT includes youth and/or family identified lifelong connections. The lifelong connections will be encouraged and supported to establish or continue a relationship with the youth while detained. This will include visitation.

The assigned probation officer and facilitator are responsible for organizing the MDT and creating the IRP. The MDT meets at least monthly to review and update the individual rehabilitation plan to ensure that progress is being made on the measurable identified goals.

Focus on re-entry planning starts 12 months prior to the completion of the baseline term and should be developed six (6) months prior to release. The plan should include concurrent planning with alternative placement and resources if the primary option is not successful.

Individual Rehabilitation Plan

Pursuant to Section 875 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, Youth ordered to the SYTP have an individual rehabilitation plan developed and approved by the Court within 30 days of commitment. The individual rehabilitation plan (IRP) is the central document for identifying, organizing, tracking, and implementing a rehabilitation strategy for youth in the SYTP. It is created within the first 30 days of a youth entering the program and is developed through the (MDT) process. It may also include other treatment providers as needed, and tribal representatives as applicable. The deputy district attorney and youth's attorney may provide input to the IRP prior to the court's approval of the plan. The assigned officer is responsible for creating, updating, and maintaining the current IRP and appraising the court of the youth's progress in regard to the IRP. The IRP is reviewed monthly by the MDT and updated, at minimum, every six months.

An IRP form is attached to this document.

Cultural Services:

Cultural services are based on the individual youth. Appropriate cultural youth services could include Humboldt Asians & Pacific Islanders (HAPI) in Solidarity, Centro del Pueblo, Latino Net, Queer Humboldt, Black Humboldt, etc. These services will be identified and coordinated through the MDT process.

In addition, the County has long standing relationships with several of the local native tribes and rancherias. The HCPD engages the tribe in the SYTP youth's case as it

develops in the criminal justice system and are encouraged to participate in the development of the IRP. Further, some of the tribes have tribal wellness Courts which support the SYTP youth and their families in coordination with the Probation Department.

In the SYTP, Two Feathers Native American Services contract with the County to provide culturally appropriate counseling services, SUD counseling, mentoring, and case management to native youth detained in the juvenile hall.

The North Coast Indian Development Council has a memorandum of understanding with the County to provide counseling, employment, and cultural services to native youth as part of the Da' luk youth program. This includes youth detained in the juvenile hall. These supports remain available as the youth transitions back into the community.

Vocational Services

Youth in the SYTP may enroll in job readiness curricula or vocation focused courses through College of the Redwoods. An educational liaison provided by the college assists the youth in determining the classes best suited to their career/educational goals. SYTP youth have access to normal financial aid streams; however, the County may subsidize whatever funding gaps may arise. These classes will be offered in a virtual format with computer access and materials being provided to the youth in the facility.

In addition, the County, in conjunction with Humboldt County Office Of Education (HCOE) offers a Career Technical Education in Controlled Environment Hydroponic Horticulture course at the Humboldt County Juvenile Hall. The course will include a weekly lesson provided by the instructor, weekly assignments to be accessed through an online portal, and two hours a week training using hydroponic equipment to grow produce. Youth may continue to participate in the course through HCOE Community Schools or various Eureka charter schools upon re-entry into the community.

The County plans, also in conjunction with HCOE, to develop a culinary program for SYTP youth that is operated out of the Juvenile Hall kitchen and is predicated on the produce grown in the hydroponics program. This will be developed in subsequent fiscal years.

Youth in the SYTP are encouraged to apply for jobs within the facility related to janitorial, laundry, landscaping, mindfulness coach, etc. to earn independent skills, employment skills, and a possible job reference.

During re-entry into the community, youth may be referred to the Community Corrections Resource Center for participation in employment assistance services. The

services are provided by vocational specialists employed by the County Employment Training Division (ETD). The services include work experience and on the job training placements. Helping Humboldt is a day program for individuals re-entering the workforce participating in landscaping, trash removal, and graffiti remediation. Tools, clothing, and other employment supports may be provided by the SYTP as identified in the individual rehabilitation plan.

Youth may also access a Vocational Counselor from ETD specialized in working with Transitional-Age Youth to meet one on one. Services may include educational support, job search guidance, resume building and interview practice.

Youth may be eligible to participate in a STEP UP program. STEP UP may offer one on one case management, job search assistance, job related skills training, interview preparation, financial assistance for books, tuition, transportation, work clothing, etc.

For native youth, the Northern California Indian Development Council's Da' luk program can offer employment assistance and support. These include work experience, occupational training, functional context education, and worksite training.

Less Restrictive Program

Pursuant to Section 875(f)(1) of the Welfare and Institutions Code, the court may order the youth transferred from SYTP to a less restrictive program, such as a halfway house, a camp or ranch, or a community residential or nonresidential service program. The purpose of the less restrictive program is to facilitate the safe and successful reintegration of the youth into the community. The court shall consider transfer requests at the scheduled treatment review hearings or at a separately scheduled hearing. Probation provides the court a recommendation on any proposed change in placement based on the youth's progress in the IRP, community safety, and transition of community services. The court shall set the length of time the youth is to remain in the less restrictive program, not to exceed the remainder of the baseline or modified baseline term, prior to the probation discharge hearing.

The SYTP offers a program of community passes whereby the youth is allowed structured periods outside of the Juvenile Hall. The passes are initially for brief periods of time in the company of a SYTP staff member to accomplish portions of their re-entry plan. The youth may earn longer passes based upon their behavior both in the facility and in the community. At the end of each pass, the youth returns to the Hall and resumes participating in SYTP programming. The pass system is monitored by the assigned probation officer and incorporated into the IRP.

Another form of less restrictive program is home supervision. Probation utilizes electronic monitoring to allow youth to return to the community in a less restrictive program and continue rehabilitation. Home supervision with electronic monitoring allows youth to transition to the residence of a long-term support or alternative housing in the local community. This allows HCPD to provide intensive supervision as the youth adjusts to being out of custodial detention. Electronic monitoring will initially provide a high level of supervision upon immediate transition from the base SYTP. As a youth continues to meet rehabilitation goals and compliance with the IRP the contract will expand to allow privileges and reduce restrictions.

The MDT will initially meet weekly upon release to a less restrictive program in the community. The meeting frequency will be evaluated by the MDT and continue as appropriate with a minimum of monthly convenings. Court reviews should continue monthly to provide updates and evaluate the youth for satisfactory termination.

For youth under the age of 18, the use of Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) or extended foster care setting as a less restrictive program may be appropriate. Such placements are used to target a specific treatment need that are not available locally.

Re-entry Supports

In the last 12 months of the youth's baseline term, the IRP becomes focused on building a plan for re-entry into the community. The plan identifies the services and supports necessary for the youth to transition from custody to self-sufficiency. It sets out clear measurable objectives based on the youth's identified goals along with measures to promote community safety. Each plan is tailored to youth and results in coordination of services from a variety of providers. They will be supported in their re-entry process by their assigned probation officer, mental health clinician, case manager, and other persons identified by youth and MDT.

Upon exiting the SYTP, each youth is provided a Re-Entry Portfolio that includes community resources and contact information, a copy of birth certificate, Social Security Card, high school transcripts, FAFSA applications, resume, list of people willing to be references, housing application, completed cost of living budget, and contact information list for lifelong connections. California Identification Card and/or California Driver License will be provided to youth meeting the eligibility criteria.

Housing is a core element of the youth's IRP. This may be a family or long-term support's residence depending on the youth's system of support. Alternatively, it may be transitional housing, individual housing, or other housing that supports their transition

back to the community. The MDT may utilize program funds to remove barriers to housing and support the youth finding a place to live.

Income is a second core element of the re-entry plan. The youth should be focused towards establishing employment. This may take the form of job seeking, vocational training, post-secondary education, or obtaining SSI disability. The MDT coordinates services with a variety of community partners to support the youth in building financial independence. These services vary depending on the needs and interests of the youth.

The re-entry plan also addresses continuity of services as the youth moves from the secure setting to the community. This includes maintaining mental health and medical care. It also seeks to build on natural supports developed with family or other community members. Services may be expanded to address anticipated needs once released from the SYTP. The plan should also anticipate and facilitate the transfer of services from juvenile justice to a community-based focus as the youth prepares to complete probation supervision.

The re-entry plan includes identification of pro-social activities in which the youth is interested. These may include sports, cultural events, and other youth events. The DHHS Transition Age Youth (TAY) division and California Youth Connection (CYC) facilitate a wide range of events and services appropriate for youth re-entering the community.

Finally, the re-entry plan identifies and addresses barriers for the youth's success. This may include transportation, food, and material supports to aid in accomplishing goals.

Financial Supports

The SYTP program provides financial supports for youth re-entering the community who are over the age of 18. The method of support depends upon the youth's status when leaving the juvenile hall.

Youth who exit detention with a current placement order on their 18th birthday are eligible for support as a non-minor dependent. This includes extended foster care services, Adoption Assistance, Kin-Guardianship Assistance, Non-Related Legal Guardianship, or Indian Non-Minor Dependent payments through age 21. In order for a NMD to be eligible for EFC benefits, the non-minor must remain under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court as a dependent or delinquent and be under the placement and care responsibility of the county child welfare or probation department or Title IV-E tribe. Placement authority is evidenced by the court order of placement. Title IV-E case plan requirements regarding six-month court or administrative reviews and subsequent 12 months court permanency planning hearings continue for this population. The mutual

agreement is the document that the NMD signs specifying their intention to remain in EFC and comply with program requirements and eligibility conditions. The mutual agreement further specifies what the NMD receives from the child welfare, probation, or Title IV-E tribe agency. The mutual agreement is not a condition of payment for AFDC-FC benefits for NMDs, but it must be completed within six months of the NMD turning 18 in order for the NMD to continue to participate in EFC. A copy of the mutual agreement must be kept on both the services and eligibility. The placement order shall remain in effect or be **suspended** for youth ordered to an SYTP commit to maintain eligibility of extended foster care services upon completion. NMD satisfactorily completing probation following a commit in SYTP would transition to CWS via the 450WIC process.

Youth who exit detention and do not have a placement order or are over the age of 21 are not eligible for non-minor dependent benefits. In these cases, the SYTP program will mirror the non-minor dependent payments while the youth is under probation supervision.

To be eligible for either monthly payment, the youth must meet eligibility criteria. Their eligibility is documented and updated in the IRP. The assigned probation officer completes the Monthly Stipend Eligibility document and obtains verification of meeting criteria.

Eligibility includes a combination of 100 hours a month of approved activity in:

1. Secondary education services, secondary education services include enrollment in high school, adult education classes, special education services identified in IEP, or any other course leading to a high school diploma or equivalent. Verification of participation may include unofficial transcript, electronic copy of current course schedule, or letter from the institute or other similar documentation.
2. Post-secondary or vocational education institutions, post-secondary or vocational education enrollment in for credit or non-credit courses are considered for qualification. Holiday breaks are considered continuous enrollment. To maintain eligibility, the summer break would need to be supplemented through other eligibility factors to maintain the stipend over the break. Youth dropping or otherwise completing courses mid-session would need to qualify under another category of eligibility. The youth will provide the senior officer assigned to the aftercare SYTP unofficial transcripts, electronic copies of the student's current course schedule, or a letter from the institute or other similar documentation.
3. Activities to address barriers to employment, addressing barriers to employment, the MDT will develop an IRP to include participation in a program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment based on a

youth-centered assessment of skills and needs. Such activities may include, but not be limited to, unpaid employment, volunteer activities, unpaid internships, or apprenticeships. Additionally, participation in programs addressing drug or alcohol addiction treatment. These activities could be self-directed, completed in conjunction with the youth's caregiver, or part of an organized program.

4. Employment. In order to satisfy these criteria, the youth must be engaged in full- or part-time employment activities which include, but are not limited to, paid employment, paid internships, apprenticeships, Ticket to Work (for individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income), vocational rehabilitation, or work study programs. As long as the youth is scheduled to work at least 100 hours a month, they shall be deemed to meet this participation condition even if the youth does not actually work that number of hours due to holidays, illness, excused absences or other circumstances beyond the youth's control. Earned income will not affect the youth's ability for eligibility of the monthly stipend during the six-month period following release. The officer will obtain verification of employment. Acceptable documentation verifying employment may include, but is not limited to, youth's work schedule, pay stubs, a statement of hiring from the employer, or a statement of acceptance from the apprenticeship or internship program. Verification should be obtained in the manner that respects the youth's privacy, and the confidentiality of their probation status.

5. Incapable of participating in services listed above due to medical conditions. Medical condition criteria include youth who are incapable of participating in any of the above eligibility criteria activities due to short-term and long-term medical conditions, as verified by a healthcare practitioner. A healthcare practitioner is defined as any individual provider who is licensed or otherwise authorized by the state, county, or city in which the provider is located to provide services related to physical or mental health. If a youth does not undertake remedial measures to treat a verified terminal medical condition, they will still be deemed to have a qualifying medical condition under this subparagraph. A youth who is eligible for a disability program including, but not limited to, Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disabled Adult Child benefits, State Disability Insurance, or Regional Center Services is deemed to have a medical condition that renders them incapable of doing one of the other activities. Verification of disability benefits status may include an award letter, notice of action, copy of the check, or benefit identification card. The officer is responsible for obtaining one of the following: (1) the written verification from a healthcare practitioner stating that the youth have a medical condition and that they cannot consistently meet the full eligibility requirements and that incapability is supported by regularly updated information in the IRP. Youth with a verified medical condition who are not terminal are expected to

participate in monthly stipend eligibility. Medical care can be included in the 100 hour eligibility expectation. The senior officer will include verification of medical restraints from medical staff.

The above outlined criteria must add up to a total accumulation of one hundred hours for a youth to maintain eligibility. Upon re-entry into the community, a youth can be eligible for the monthly stipend eligibility for a minimum of six months and a maximum of one year. The MDT will determine eligibility, a concurrent plan to generate income, and community re-entry length of time to receive the stipend. Additionally, the MDT will develop a plan for financial independence upon sunset of the stipend.

Probation Supervision

Pursuant to Section 875(f)(4) of the Welfare and Institution Code, upon conclusion of the confinement term, the Court discharges the youth to probation supervision. The period of probation supervision is intended to further the reentry plan and mitigate community safety risks.

The assigned probation officer and the MDT continue to provide services during this period with a gradual transition to community-based services. The transition is intended to prepare the youth for complete independence from the juvenile justice system. The youth's progress is monitored by the court through regular reviews.