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**Alameda County Probation Department
Secure Track Youth Treatment Program
Step-Down Options for Consideration (DRAFT)
March 30, 2023**

Less Restrictive Options

Consistent with Article 23.5. Secure Youth Treatment Facilities, the following less-restrictive options are available to the juvenile court for consideration based on the individual needs of each youth. These options support the County's commitment to offering less restrictive options, including the use of community-based models, aligned with the goal of successful rehabilitation in accordance with the youth's Individual Rehabilitation Plan (IRP), and in the interest of public safety.

1. **Camp Wilmont Sweeney (Ages 15 – 19) – [Actively Available since July 1, 2021](#)**
 - a. Currently an unsecure facility which has been used to step-down five (5) Secure Track youth.
 - b. The current program offers an inside/outside model where youth participate in programs in the facility and in the community. Youth are also employed in the community and are allowed to earn weekend home passes as they progress through the program.
 - c. The County is moving forward with plans to secure the facility with a perimeter fence to allow the juvenile court access to a less restrictive second, yet secure option.
 - d. Once the camp is secured, more robust programming will be implemented at this site (vocational, CTE, etc.)

2. **Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (Ages 14 – 18) – [Actively Available since July 1, 2021](#)**
 - a. On a case-by-case basis, when appropriate STRPs will continue to be leveraged as a less restrictive option for the Court's consideration.
 - i. In and out of County

3. **Community-Based Transitional Housing Program in Oakland (for youth 18+) – [Scope of Work in development in partnership with Contra Costa, Marin County and San Francisco Probation - Projected Implementation Fall 2023](#)**
 - a. On-Site staffing includes: a Program Manager, a Clinical Case Manager, an Employment and Education Specialist, four (4) Residential Counselors, and a Housing Specialist.
 - b. Services: Comprehensive screening and assessment, intensive case management, mental health services, crisis support and stabilization, counseling, life skills

development, education and employment support, connections to caring adults, family engagement, family therapy, and recreational activities.

- c. Could include GPS monitoring, and/or intensive, moderate, or low supervision contacts from the assigned Probation Officer, as ordered by the Court.
4. **Transitional Housing Program + Foster Care (for youth 17.5) - Actively Available since March 2022**
 - a. Vetted and approved a local THP+FC program called Journey2Success that house youth at age 17 ½ so that youth do not have to stay in the more structured setting of a STRTP if they have completed their goals and are ready to step down to a less restrictive setting but cannot return to family or do not want to return to family they were removed from.
 5. **Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp (for youth 18+) – Contract Pending with CDCR - Projected Implementation June 2023**
 - a. Eligibly criteria include:
 - i. Release date of no less than six (6) months and no more than seventy-two (72) months from date of approval
 - ii. High School Diploma/GED & DNA sample required
 - iii. No serious rule violations for the past sixty (60) days
 - iv. Exemptions may be requested for youth with history of certain behaviors and/or serious and violent offenses (i.e. runaway history and/or murder), while exemptions not permitted for other actions (i.e. arson and/or medically unfit)
 6. **Alameda County Career Technical Education HUB – Pending Development - Implementation TBD**
 - a. A local coalition which includes stakeholders from Oakland Unified School District, City of Oakland, Alameda County, Peralta Colleges, faith-based organizations, and community-based organizations have developed plans and continue to seek and identifying funding to build and establish a CTE HUB location in the city of Oakland to serve system impacted transition aged youth. The site is slated to include on-site housing.

Currently Used Less Restrictive Strategies for Placing Youth

1. **Family Finding and Recruiting Alameda County Families to be Resource Parents for Placement Youth**
 - a. Family Builders, the FFA that Alameda County has contracted with to approve Resource Parents for placing youth with, have a dedicated social worker assigned to the JJC to work with youth in custody to find family members to place youth with who have been removed from their parents. – **Contract in place since 2017**

- b. Family Builders has agreed to start a social media campaign with Alameda County Probation to locate families in the community willing to be resource families to place our justice involved youth with to comply with least restrictive options when considering placement for youth who have been removed from their parents or guardians by the court. – **Will be implemented by June 2023**
- c. RFA families can now be outside the state of California, therefore, Alameda County Probation is also actively looking for family members outside the state and recently placed a youth with his grandmother in Seattle. - **Actively Available since July 2022**
- d. Using Level of Care tool, Alameda County families can get paid at an adjusted higher rate if they are housing youth that qualify for higher needs rates, thus increasing incentives to take in hard to place youth with mental health or behavioral issues. – **Will be implemented by April 2023**
- e. Alameda County Placement Unit has recently signed up with the Department of Social Services for the State to be included in their Resource Family Campaign to use social media to recruit Alameda County families to complete the foster care requirements to become licensed Resource Families for our youth on Placement orders. – **Will be implemented by June 2023**

2. Child-Specific Support – Strategy utilized since 2022

- a. Beginning in FY 2021/22, the State began offering a new source of funding for individual youth services or care that will keep them in a family setting or in the least restrictive environment. Some examples of covered services include: additional intensive mental health services that are not billable to Medi-Cal, respite care provided by ISFC/TFC parents as part of a step-down plan, a higher stipend so a caregiver can serve as a “professional” foster parent, enhanced rates for FFA-based ISFC programs that provide additional supportive services to youth and families, provision of coaching visits for parents, payment for extracurricular activities, supplementing current wraparound contracts, paying for open bed space to allow for immediate placement, respite care, or to hold a bed when a youth needs more acute treatment temporarily, intensive family finding activities, and costs of travel and activities to support bonding between a youth and family members to re-establish familial connections.