

## County Notice of Proposed Operation and Description of Secure Youth Treatment Facility

*\*Submit this form to your assigned BSCC Field Representative\**

Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 875, subdivision (g)(4) provides:

A county proposing to establish a secure youth treatment facility for wards described in subdivision (a)<sup>1</sup> shall notify the Board of State and Community Corrections of the operation of the facility and shall submit a description of the facility to the board in a format designated by the board.

Submission of this form serves as notice to the BSCC of the proposed operation and description of a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF).

<b>Date:</b>	<b>April 28, 2023</b>
<b>County:</b>	<b>Santa Clara County</b>
<b>Facility Name:</b>	<b>Juvenile Hall</b>
<b>Facility Address:</b>	<b>840 Guadalupe Parkway, San José CA 95110</b>
<b>Intended Date of Operation:</b>	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	<b>Alex Villa</b>
<b>Contact Person E-Mail:</b>	<b>alex.villa@pro.sccgov.org</b>

### REQUIRED INFORMATION:

*Fill in information on form or attach a separate document. If an operational program statement or other document addresses the required information, that document may be submitted as notice of proposed operation.*

Identify each facility that will operate as a SYTF.

Operating Agency (e.g., Probation Dept.)	Facility Name & Address	Facility Type (Juvenile Hall/Camp)	# of SYTF Beds
Santa Clara County Probation Department	Juvenile Hall 840 Guadalupe Parkway San José, CA 95110	Juvenile Hall – Has allocated 3 housing units for this population.	18x3=54
Santa Clara County Probation Department	James Ranch 10950 Malaguerra Ave. Morgan Hill, CA 95037	Camp. William F. James Ranch - Has allocated 2 housing pods for this population.	2x12=24

*If existing beds will be converted to SYTF beds, please indicate by checking the box:*

Describe the juvenile population to be served by each SYTF facility in the county by factors including offense, age, gender and any special programming, such as sex offender or mental health treatment to which the facility may be dedicated.

Comparing the youth population of the county with the population of arrests/citations clearly indicates overrepresentation for Latino and Black youth who encounter the juvenile justice system. While Latino youth represent 35 percent of the overall youth population (2019) in Santa Clara County, they represent 68 percent of youth arrested/cited (2020). Black youth represent three percent of the overall youth population, but seven percent of youth arrested/cited.

<i>Number and Rate of Arrests/Citations (2020) to Youth Population (2019)</i>	White	Black	Latino	Asian/PI	Other	Total
<b>Youth Population (10-17)</b>	48,429	5,105	66,083	70,160	581	190,358
<b>Arrests/Citations</b>	316	163	1,535	99	135	2,246
<b>Youth Population Percent</b>	25%	3%	35%	37%	0%	100%
<b>Arrest/Citation Percent</b>	14%	7%	68%	4%	6%	100%
<b>Rate of Arrest (per 1,000 youth)</b>	7	32	23	1	**	12
<b>Disparity Gap: Times More Likely to be Arrested/Cited</b>	1.0	4.9	3.6	0.2	N/A	N/A

Disparities across racial groups continue at every decision point and there continues to be an overrepresentation of Black and Latino youth within the system that persists to those committed to DJJ. Between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2020 (CY2015-2020), 64 duplicated youth were placed at DJJ (one youth was placed at DJJ twice). Most DJJ youth are male (91%) and ages 17 to 18 years old (59%). Most youth committed were Latino (78%) followed by 11% were Black and the remaining 11% were equally White, Asian, and youth who were in the “Other” category when race/ethnicity was aggregated.

Figure 1: Youth Placed at DJJ from SCC by Year

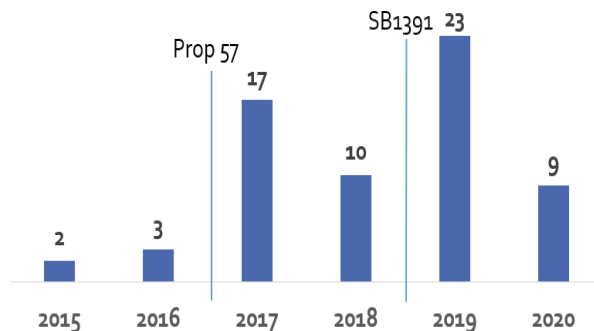
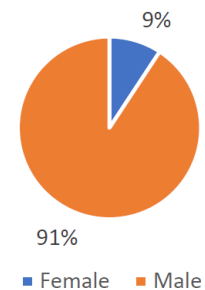


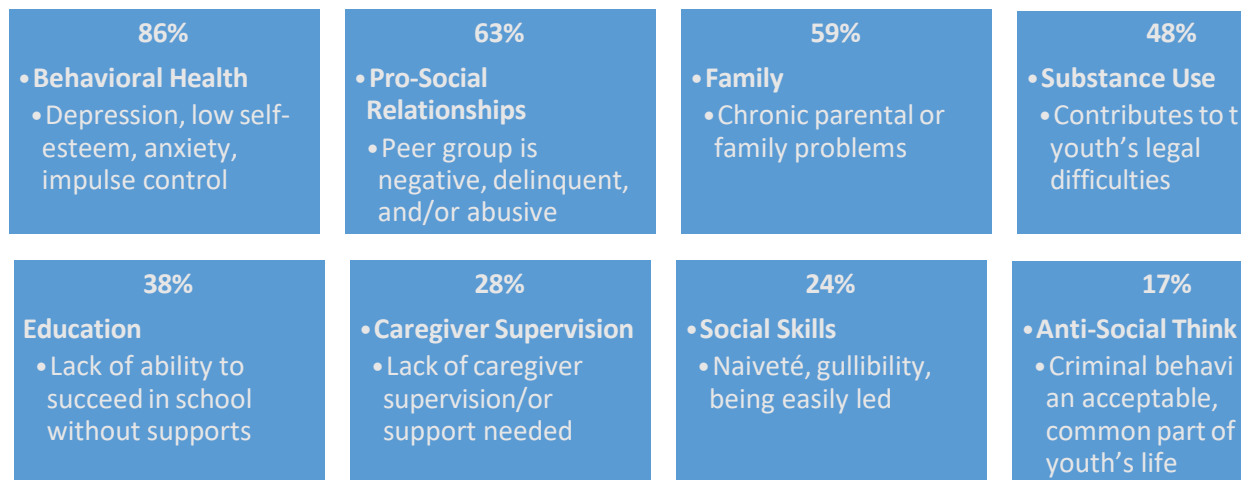
Figure 2: Sex by Percentage of Youth



The age distribution for youth committed ranged from 15 to 24 years old. Only 26 youth (41%) had a previous Ranch history, 13 of those youth exited their last Ranch placement successfully (50%). For the 30 youth who have exited from DJJ during this time frame, the average length of time at DJJ was two years (24 months). While nine percent (N=6) of youth committed to DJJ during this time frame were girls/young women, it is important to note that most years no girls were committed to DJJ. During this same period, there was an average of 10 girls committed to the Ranch program and JH, respectively. However, that doesn't negate the need for specific programming for girls in our custody, which will be

discussed in the program section of the plan along with Probation’s partnership with the Vera Institute’s Initiative to End Girl’s Incarceration (EGI) which has contributed to the low number of commitments to custodial settings. Additionally, on average between 13 to 15 percent of youth in custodial settings are LGBTQ and/or gender nonconforming and specific training staff receive will also be discussed later in the plan.

The Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS) was designed to assist staff to supervise youth effectively and efficiently, both in institutional settings and in the community. According to the JAIS tool used for the youth, the following needs have been identified and are being used to develop the Secure Youth Treatment Facility program and services.



Youth adjudicated to DJJ had a variety of offenses, but the largest percentage of youth were committed for Felony Crimes Against People as the primary offenses, which includes Homicide, Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Rape, Robbery and Kidnapping.

Offense Category	Percentage of Youth
<b>Felony Crimes Against People</b>	65.38%
<b>Return From Other Status/Courtesy Hold/Other Admits</b>	15.38%
<b>Other Crimes</b>	7.69%
<b>Property Crimes</b>	7.69%
<b>Weapon Crimes</b>	3.85%

The cases with *Return from Other Status/Courtesy Hold/Other Admits* were mostly youth who failed the Ranch due to absconding. The original committing offenses include Robbery, Carjacking, Battery W/Serious Bodily Injury, Burglary, Cruelty to Animals, and Assault with a Deadly Weapon with Great Bodily Injury.

Over a third of youth were committed with more than one offense. It is important to note that many of the additional offenses were also Felony Crimes Against People.

Number of Offenses Related to DJJ Commitment	Percentage of Youth
Two Offenses	38%
Three Offenses	19%
Four Offenses	4%
Five Offenses	2%

**Offenses of Current DJJ Youth**

Of the 30 youth who are currently at DJJ, 10 (33 percent) were committed with offenses such as Murder and Attempted Murder, eight (27 percent) for Carjacking, four (13 percent) for Robbery, two for Assault with a Deadly Weapon with Great Bodily Injury and one for Burglary of an Inhabited Dwelling with a Firearm. Three for sex related offenses and the remaining two were other felony crimes against people.

**TO THE EXTENT KNOWN, PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:**

Describe the proposed or actual population capacity of the SYTF (ADP and maximum as applicable).	No
If the county proposes or plans to accept commitments of SYTF youth from another county or counties, describe the capacity of the SYTF that will be dedicated or available to out-of-county commitments.	No
If the SYTF is a unit of a facility that also houses detained or committed youth other than Section 875 committed wards, indicate which unit or part of the facility will be utilized as a SYTF and describe how youth committed to the SYTF will be separated from non-SYTF youth in the facility.	No
Describe how the SYTF will be secure as required by WIC § 875 including any proposed modifications to achieve security.	Santa Clara County (SCC) will be using its current Juvenile Hall to initially house this population. SCC has designated 3 housing units of 54 youth/young adults committed to its SYTF program. SCC has begun modifications to “soften” the physical unit by hiring a contractor to evaluate the unit and give suggestions as to softening the unit for long-term residency. SCC has begun the work on the first unit by making all previous double occupancy rooms to single occupancy by removing one of the beds in these rooms. Painting and flooring has been completed in this one unit to make it unique from other housing units within Juvenile Hall utilizing soft color pallets and flooring tiles to make it a more “Homelike” environment. There are other modifications in the plans to lessen the “Institutional” look of the housing unit to achieve the goal of making the housing unit more “Homelike”.

Describe how the programming, treatment, and education offered and provided is appropriate to meet the treatment and security needs of the youth serving baseline and modified baseline terms under WIC § 875.

The program has several key phases that guide the youth through the various program elements. The County has been working with Dr. Bruce Perry's Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT) as a guiding foundation of the program. Perry's research found that to facilitate recovery, the loss of control and powerlessness felt by a youth during a traumatic experience must be counteracted. Recovery requires that the young person be "in charge of key aspects of the therapeutic interaction." He emphasizes that the brains of young people can be remolded with patterned, repetitive experiences in a safe environment. "Relationships are the agents of change and the most powerful therapy is human love," Perry concludes. The program intends to involve the youth in helping define and drive their Individualized Rehabilitation Plan (IRP) in collaboration with caregivers, program staff and community partners. The aim is to maximize relationships as therapeutic agents of change. This plan is the rehabilitative map for the youth, and it is imperative to have broad input and participation from critical partners in the youth's life.

The Department is working on a programmatic redesign of the Ranch facility with the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute (UCCI). UCCI was contracted to implement a four-phase process to assist in the design and implementation of an evidence-based model of programming for the James Ranch. This work is being completed in collaboration with Probation's Research and Development (RAD) Team and incorporates input from Ranch staff, youth, and key stakeholders. The four phases include a comprehensive assessment with action-orientated recommendations, training, implementation, and coaching support, and developing a continuous quality improvement system. The Probation Department has been able to leverage and expand this work to include the Secure Youth Treatment Facility program since the target populations have some similarities and connections, in that some Ranch youth have later committed new offenses that led to a DJJ commitment. UCCI conducted a detailed review of the facility's practices and compared them to best practices within the juvenile/criminal justice and correctional treatment literature. Facility strengths, areas for improvement, and specific recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of the services delivered by the facilities will be offered.

UCCI also started trainings for all facility staff (including clerical, school, medical, behavioral health, etc.) in Core Correctional

Practices (CCP). UCCI has trained juvenile hall staff in Cognitive Behavioral Intervention (CBI-CY) and groups are scheduled to start soon. Programs will incorporate a Structured Social Learning (CBI) model approach and focus on targeting criminogenic risk factors through cognitive restructuring, emotion regulation, and structured skill building. These identified components can better assist youth in conforming to program guidelines and expectations and developing motivation and skills needed for continued progress and success throughout the program, including reentry. The model will utilize guidelines for effective use of reinforcement and responses to behavior, with a strong emphasis and frequent use of reinforcements to promote positive choices, decision making, and goal attainment.

Newly designed program components will be rolled out in segments after formal training has taken place. Formal pilot periods will be identified, and Probation staff will be coached on implementation of the program components. Coaching will involve hands on modeling of service delivery, as well as feedback on the implementation of newly adopted material.

UCCI will facilitate a Continuous Quality Improvement Training and model internal coaching strategies. UCCI will work with Probation to develop/refine performance measures that gauge (1) the engagement of youth, (2) professional development of Probation staff, and (3) program management in meeting program goals. Performance measures will include development (where needed) and training on the use of group observation forms, client experience surveys, staff evaluations, and pre- and post-testing. These learnings will be leveraged and implemented at the Juvenile Hall, as appropriate, and CCP and CBT will be the building blocks of the interactions and programming for the SYTF program.

**In-Custody Specific:**

**The SYTF in-custody programming will be initially focused on the following components:**

- Evidence-based core programming to address criminogenic needs (i.e., CBT or thinking errors, substance use).
- Service array considers ways to engage youth over a longer period of custody time, including but not limited to:
  - Enrichment activities (i.e., music, art, sports, service projects, animal therapy, etc.).
  - Life skills that apply to the real world.
  - Innovative approaches to education and vocational services.

- Youth are connected to credible messengers/mentors that follow youth into community.
- Counseling addresses complex trauma and stress, while providing youth resilience building skills for potential challenges they will face when released.

The continuation of the Positive Intervention Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) model will be used in the secure youth treatment facility program but will be modified to account for the length of the program and youth needs.

The new program will incorporate the following goals:

- a. **Ease the transition into the program.** Create a transition so youth are familiar with expectations upon admission to the SYTF. This will help reduce the orientation period to provide staff and youth more time to focus on overall program goals as driven by the IRP.
- b. **Acknowledge youth's previous efforts/behavior in JH.** Like DJJ, youth waiting for the program would usually be at a higher level of privileges. The new model will reward youth by giving them "credits" to apply to future level progressions within the SYTF.
- c. **Encourage modeling pro-social behaviors.** As the youth progress in the program, there will be leadership/mentorship components built into each phase.
- d. **Balances short/long-term commitments/goals.** The longer average commitments require incentives/goal setting needs to be individualized accordingly to allow everyone to obtain the program's incentives/rewards, regardless of their commitment time.
- e. **Increase collaboration/goal setting between youth and staff using consistent progress reporting.** Youth will be actively involved in an IRP process that identifies their program goals. Progression through the level system, for the most part, is not automatic. It will require active youth engagement and collaboration between staff and youth to achieve their IRP goals. Special attention will be paid to who participates in the development of the IRP. Ideally, a medical provider such as a pediatrician would be an example of a critical participant.

**Vocation and Education Opportunities and Supports:**

The County is working with multiple partners to develop four pathways to provide vocation and education opportunities for youth. These pathways may not be mutually exclusive and could be completed concurrently or sequentially, depending on youth needs

and interests. Each youth will be supported through a partnership with the County Office of Education to develop an education plan inclusive of high school diploma and college/career pathways.

#### Pathway 1: Youth Have Not Yet Completed High School

- County Office of Education to assist with High School Diploma or Hi-Set (high school equivalent)

#### Pathway 2: Youth Eligible for Higher Learning

- A college liaison will provide the linkages and assist with individualized planning and coordination.
- The following community colleges can work with youth online: San Jose City, Gavilan, De Anza, Foothill, and Mission.
- The Probation Department and County Office of Education are committed to exploring and developing connections to four-year colleges and universities for youth and will provide additional information in a subsequent iteration of the plan.

#### Pathway 3: Vocational Electives

- A variety of elective vocation programs will be available in the SYTF, including, but not limited to:
  - Certification Completion within 12 months
    - Computer Coding
    - Culinary
    - Garden/Landscape
    - Pet Grooming
    - Yoga instructor
    - Personal Training
  - Certification Completion 12 months +
    - Auto Body/Mechanic
    - Barber Program
    - Clean Energy/Solar Program
    - Upholstery

#### Pathway 4: Apprenticeships

- Pre-apprentice and apprenticeship opportunities will be available upon completion of the Vocational Electives, as appropriate.

A program commitment is to work with our partners to ensure that youth can continue with these vocational and educational opportunities and support as they transition into the less restrictive program and reentry portions of the SYTF program. The Department is also committed to supporting youth in job search and placement, related to the vocational electives as youth express interest in continuing into apprenticeship and career opportunities.



### **Gender Responsive Programming**

The Probation Department has partnered with the Vera Institute Justice's Initiative to End Girls' Incarceration (EGI) which has been providing no-cost technical assistance to the County of Santa Clara through a partnership with the Juvenile Justice Gender Responsive Task Force, a collaborative body co-chaired by the Juvenile Court, Office of Women's Policy, and Probation. Vera has convened government stakeholders, community-based organizations, and directly impacted young people to review data analysis, discuss current system gaps, and identify a set of prioritized solutions to fill these gaps to help the county meet its goal of getting to zero youth incarcerated on the girls' side of the county's juvenile justice system.

Vera is a 60-year-old national nonprofit that brings data, evidence, and solutions to build and improve justice systems that ensure fairness, promote safety, and strengthen communities. EGI is working to zero out the country's confinement of girls and gender expansive youth by 2030. Through partnerships in several jurisdictions, including Santa Clara County, the Initiative aims to create reforms and programs that will better support the well-being of young people in their communities, address the root causes of their incarceration, and permanently close the doors to girls' juvenile detention and placement facilities.

All female SYTF youth would receive similar programming to our male youth in SYTF, which includes programming from FLY (law education), AARS (substance use), Catholic Charities (family relationship counseling, anger management), New Hope (gang intervention). All vocational and educational pathways include models that are gender and culturally responsive, trauma-informed, and consider the individual needs of each youth. The Young Women's Freedom Center (YWFC) currently provides female and Transgender, Non-Conforming (TGNC), youth with a leadership development program using Inside/Outside approach and "Lift Us Up, Don't Lock Us Down" curriculum to reduce youth recidivism and justice system involvement, using both group and individual sessions modalities. The Girl Scouts of Northern California offers leadership training classes through the "Got Choices" Program, which includes a service curriculum focused on promoting a healthy lifestyle. The Girl Scouts provide weekly leadership training classes focused on self-esteem, gang and crime prevention, and positive life choices. Specialized programming is available to all youth related to intimate partner violence, inappropriate sexual behavior, and programming is gender responsive.

### **LGBTQ+ Youth**

Non-conforming, LGBTQ youth are identified through the Juvenile Hall screening and admit process, Sexual Orientation Gender Identity (SOGI) questionnaire. The Probation Department works closely with The Office of LGBTQ Affairs in providing professional development, training, and consulting. This approach helps to increase the volume of government entities and individuals who are trained in working with the LGBTQ+ Community. All staff are required to take a four-hour training related to ensuring fairness for LGBTQIA people in the criminal justice system and a two-hour training related to gender identity.

### **Enrichment activities via the Multi-Agency Assessment Center (MAAC):**

The MAAC within Juvenile Hall coordinates contracted community-based organizations to provide an array of enrichment activities and supportive services including law education, gang intervention, substance use cessation, family/relationship counseling and anger management. These programs will be available to all youth in the Juvenile Hall portion of the SYTF. Additional activities below were developed with feedback from youth in juvenile hall on their interests, feedback from stakeholder forums, and research on EBP.

### **Enrichment Activities** may include:

- Animal Therapy
- Art
- Computer Literacy
- CPR
- Creative Writing
- Credible Messengers/Mentoring
- Dance
- Faith-Based Services
- Gardening
- Leadership Skills
- Library
- Life Skills/ Self Sufficiency
- Mindfulness
- Music
- Pet Training/Adoption
- Pro-Social Activities
- Sexual Health Education
- Tattoo Removal Services
- Victim Awareness

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yoga</li> </ul> <p>Other enrichment program opportunities will be developed in coordination with our partners.</p> <p>Later in the plan we will describe how programming will address evidence-based, promising, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive services that overlay all our programs and services, acknowledging that these components are core to positive youth development.</p>
<p>Describe the staffing proposed for the SYTF, including staffing ratios.</p>	<p>The current staffing for SYTF housing units will be 3 staff per shift. This exceeds the minimum requirements under BSCC Regulations and PREA standards for a Housing unit with a maximum capacity of 15 youth/young adults. Staff will be assigned based on a 2-year rotation to enhance relationship building within SYTF.</p>
<p>If the county will use or proposes to establish or utilize a less restrictive program to which SYTF-committed youth may be transferred by the juvenile court, describe the less restrictive program including whether it is operated by a community service provider.</p>	<p>The Probation Department will be utilizing the William F. James Ranch as a least restrictive program option. The Santa Clara County Probation Department continues to maintain all operational requirements related to the James Ranch Operational Program Statement (JROPS) with no intent to modify any aspects therein. This notification serves as the Probation Departments expressed intent to comply with the provisions of WIC 208.5 wherein, “any person whose case originated in juvenile court shall remain, if the person is held in secure detention, in a county juvenile facility until the person attains 25 years of age.” As a result, this notice serves to advise that there may be youth over the age of 18-years-old housed within the William F. James Ranch until their appropriate reentry into the community.</p>

<sup>i</sup> Welfare and Institutions Code section 875, subdivision (a), provides:

- (a) In addition to the types of treatment specified in Sections 727 and 730, commencing July 1, 2021, the court may order that a ward who is 14 years of age or older, be committed to a secure youth treatment facility for a period of confinement described in subdivision (b) if the ward meets the following criteria:
  - (1) The juvenile is adjudicated and found to be a ward of the court based on an offense listed in subdivision (b) of Section 707.
  - (2) The adjudication described in paragraph (1) is the most recent offense for which the juvenile has been adjudicated.
  - (3) The court has made a finding on the record that a less restrictive, alternative disposition for the ward is unsuitable. In determining this, the court shall consider all relevant and material evidence, including the recommendations of counsel, the probation department, and any other agency or individual designated by the court to advise on the appropriate disposition of the case. The court shall additionally make its determination based on all of the following criteria:
    - (A) The severity of the offense or offenses for which the ward has been most recently adjudicated, including the ward's role in the offense, the ward's behavior, and harm done to victims.
    - (B) The ward's previous delinquent history, including the adequacy and success of previous attempts by the juvenile court to rehabilitate the ward.
    - (C) Whether the programming, treatment, and education offered and provided in a secure youth treatment facility is appropriate to meet the treatment and security needs of the ward.
    - (D) Whether the goals of rehabilitation and community safety can be met by assigning the ward to an alternative, less restrictive disposition that is available to the court.
    - (E) The ward'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 the ward to a term of confinement in a secure youth treatment facility.