

# PROGRAM INFORMATION July 2020



## Reception Center / Intake Process

All youth committed to or housed with the Division of Juvenile Justice begin their term at a Reception Center Clinic where a comprehensive assessment is prepared and a treatment plan is established. This process takes approximately 45 days. Once completed, the youth are transferred to a long-term treatment program which may be at the same facility or may require transfer to a different facility. The facilities designated as Reception Centers are as follows:

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Location</u>
N. A. Chaderjian Youth Correctional Facility	Stockton
Ventura Youth Correctional Facility (female only)	Ventura

### First 24 hours

In cases of multiple simultaneous admissions youth remain under constant observation in the intake area during processing. Blood, saliva, and urine testing, as well as preliminary registration, are all completed to meet Department of Justice requirements. Youth are given two phone calls to advise family of their status and location. An individual gang interview is conducted to identify potential population safety issues (may be up to 72 hours at Ventura facility). Medical, dental, and/or mental health screening for conditions which require immediate evaluation and treatment are conducted by a Registered Nurse (RN) or Social Worker. Height, weight, vital signs, and visual acuity are analyzed.

### Mental Health Evaluation

An initial orientation and Suicide Risk Assessment Questionnaire (SRSQ) are completed within one hour. A Critical Factors Assessment Form (YA 8.371) is completed to assist in identifying immediate mental health needs. High scores on these assessment tools will prompt an emergency referral to a psychologist and may result in the youth's placement on Suicide Intervention status and/or immediate placement on a Mental Health Unit. For youth who did not have high scores, the Intake psychologist shall conduct an interview with the youth within two (2) working days of admission to screen for acute problems.

After the initial assessment, the Intake Psychologist will conduct a comprehensive interview(s) with the youth within 30 days of his/her arrival and prepare a mental health assessment report to review and evaluate the youth's mental health/psychiatric hospitalization history and make a preliminary assessment based on the results of the interview, youth's mental health history, and test results obtained during the intake process.

### Medical Evaluation

Within one hour after arrival, newly committed youth receive a full health screening by an RN which includes a personal interview, relative to health history, covering medical, dental, and mental health observations. Vital signs are recorded. Youth who arrive on prescribed medications are evaluated immediately for the need to continue the medication(s) and necessary medications are immediately ordered and dispersed. Youth with urgent health conditions are evaluated by a clinician, or if after hours, the nurse consults with an on-call practitioner for advice. If needed, a referral to an emergency department is initiated.

Youth receive a complete physical examination by a physician or nurse practitioner within seven (7) days of arrival. During the physical exam females receive a breast exam, and when appropriate, a pap smear. Tanner staging of sexual maturity is determined (generally the first PAP smear is performed 3 years after onset of vaginal sexual activity). Males have their Tanner Stage determined and a genital examination, including testicular exam, is completed. Immunizations are reviewed and administered as applicable. Lab testing is conducted to check for contagious diseases including HIV (with consent), pregnancy, and any other conditions necessitating chronic care (e.g. diabetes, asthma etc.). Medical History data is reviewed during the physical examination and follow-up treatment is established as necessary. A Dental examination with classification of dental needs, including cleaning, and dental x-rays is performed. Necessary dental treatment is begun and may continue after transfer to the youth's permanently assigned facility.

**INTAKE AND COURT SERVICES UNIT**  
P.O. Box 588501  
Elk Grove, CA 95758-8501  
(916) 683-7483  
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### Academic Evaluation

Every youth is given a series of tests to measure academic aptitude in language arts and mathematics. The following tests are utilized:

- Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)
- English Language Arts (ELA) diagnostic
  
- Math Diagnostic
- CareerScope Assessment Profile
- English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (English Language Learners)

Academic records of each youth are reviewed at intake to identify achievement level, including youth in need of special education services. Individuals with exceptional needs as defined by Section 56026 of the Education Code are identified at the time of acceptance pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code §1742. The most recent Individual Education Program (IEP) is reviewed by treatment and education staff as part of the psychosocial assessment. If needed, additional academic testing through the Special Education Department is conducted. The IEP document is reviewed and updated by Special Education staff.

### TREATMENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROCESS

#### I. Psychological Testing

The Intake Psychologist will complete the following Diagnostic evaluations/assessments within 30 days of arrival:

- Semi-Structured Interview
- Psychosis Screening Questionnaire (PSQ)
- Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test 2 (KBIT-2), Test of Nonverbal Intelligence (TONI-IV) or Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence (WASI-2)
- Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI)
- UCLA PTSD Reaction Index

\*\* If required, additional evaluations/assessments will be completed.

Additional materials reviewed during the intake process include, but are not limited to the following:

- Staff observation of youth during the intake period
- Feedback from family members
- Referral package from the county including probation reports, psychological and medical evaluations (if available), Minute Orders from the court, individual education plans, special educational needs information from schools (if relevant) and any information regarding behavior while in local detention

The Intake Psychologist utilizes the above information to create a case formulation that is used both to contribute to the Case Conceptualization in the Case Planning process and to guide mental health referral and treatment recommendations.

#### II. Additional Psychological Evaluation

Depending on what assessment scales are elevated, the youth may be referred for a full psychological evaluation, a psychiatric review for medication, or screening for placement in a specialized program or intervention (e.g., mental health, sex offender, or drug).

#### III. Psychosocial Assessment

The Casework Specialist (CWS) conducts a case file review, including a review of the Ward Information Network (WIN) database, academic testing results, and psychological or community assessment reports. The CWS conducts an in-depth interview with the youth. The CWS completes a Clinic Summary Report and Initial Individual Change Plan after all data has been gathered and analyzed. These documents identify treatment risks/needs and strengths for the youth, and become the starting point for establishment of their individualized treatment plan.

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### IV. Initial Treatment

The Department administers the California Youth Assessment & Screening Instrument (CA-YASI) to all new commitments. All youth are assessed in twelve domains prior to their Initial Case Review, which occurs approximately 45 days after arrival. The CA-YASI identifies areas of high risk and strengths for a youth and is used as an additional tool for caseworkers in developing an Individualized Case Plan. Treatment goals incorporate the information acquired from the multi-disciplinary test results, the CA-YASI, and the youth's commitment offense.

During the Intake process, each youth is given 2 journal assignments: "*What Got Me Here*", which addresses factors related to their current commitment such as commitment offense, family, social peers etc., and "*My Individual Change Plan*", which is designed to encourage youth to focus on behaviors and circumstances that the youth believes he/she should change. These journals are supplemental to other primary curricula and are utilized as a guide for discussion in individual counseling sessions. In addition, all youth complete Introduction to Treatment and participate in Skill of the Week (SOTW). All youth will attend six Introduction to Treatment orientation sessions designed to introduce the youth to basic treatment tools and concepts. SOTW provides the youth an opportunity to practice cognitive-behavioral social skills. SOTW is conducted in a large group setting and led by living unit staff.

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