

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)ⁱ 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).

Date:	July 29, 2021
County:	Merced County
Facility Name:	Iris Garret Juvenile Justice Complex
Facility Address:	2840 W. Sandy Mush Rd., Merced, CA 95341
Intended Date of Operation:	August 2021
Contact Person:	Lisa Maples
Contact Person E-Mail:	Lisa.Maples@countyofmerced.com

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
Merced County Probation Department	Iris Garret Juvenile Justice Complex	Camp	15

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

<p>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.</p>	<p>Commitments to the SYTF will require youth to be adjudicated as a ward of the Juvenile Court based on an offense described in Welfare and Institutions Code 707(b), defined under WIC 1990(b), in cases where the Juvenile Court has made a finding that less restrictive alternative dispositions are unsuitable.</p> <p>Merced County Probation Department anticipates serving males ages 14 to 23, and up to age 25 depending on the length of the disposition order by the Juvenile Court. Exclusionary factors for commitment to a SYTF would consist of females and/or any youth requiring sex offender treatment. These youth will be referred to partnering agencies who will be able to best meet their treatment needs. Additionally, youth with mental health treatment needs will be heavily involved with our in-house Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) team.</p>
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TO THE EXTENT KNOWN, PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

<p>Describe the proposed or actual population capacity of the SYTF (ADP and maximum as applicable).</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Merced County Probation Department anticipates serving male youth ages 14 to 23, and up to age 25 depending on the length of the disposition order by the Juvenile Court. Our ADP has currently not been established; however, our maximum capacity will be 15 youth.</p> <p>At this time, Merced County has no plans to accept commitment of SYTF youth from other counties.</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>Indicate whether you intend to separate SYTF from non-SYTF youth in the facility, and if they will be separated, describe how they will be separately housed and programmed.</p>	<p>We will utilize our Building 2 housing units to serve the target population. Utilization of housing will consist of separation based on age/criminal sophistication while also keeping in mind the need for those youth who may have special needs or behavioral issues. At this time, Merced County has no plans to separate SYTF from non SYTF youth in Building 2.</p> <p>Building 2 -Post-Adjudicated housing only: E-wing: Vacant F-wing: Reserved for youth who are having programmatic issues due to behavioral issues G-wing: 14-18 Pre-Graduate H-wing: 18-25 Post-Graduate</p>
<p>Describe how the SYTF will be secure as required by WIC § 875 including any proposed modifications to achieve security.</p>	<p>The SYTF will secure youth in accordance with WIC 875 (g), in a unit or portion of our existing county juvenile facility, that is operated to provide appropriate programming, treatment, and education for wards having been adjudicated for the offenses specified in subdivision (a) of WIC 875.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>The facility has adopted an integrated treatment model to reintegrate justice system-involved youth to their families and communities with the knowledge and skills necessary to live successful, crime-free lives. Our facility has a diversified and highly-trained multi-disciplinary treatment team that uniquely provides the services and programs youth need. Each youth's risks and needs are identified utilizing our Positive Assessment Change Tool (P.A.C.T.) and other facility assessments such as aptitude tests, Individualized Education Program (IEP) and behavioral health evaluations. Youth participate in standardized cognitive-behavioral intervention curricula that support evidence-based practices and target the youth's identified needs. Our facility focuses on strengthening four (4) service areas (pillars) to ensure youth successfully transition into the community. The four primary areas of focus are: Well-being, Family Stability, Education and Training, and Employment. Our highest priority will be to maintain the safety and security of youth housed in our secure facility.</p>
<p>Describe the staffing proposed for the SYTF, including staffing ratios.</p>	<p>As the SYTF is classified as a "Camp", the proposed staffing ratios will be 1 (one) staff to fifteen (15) youth. Our diversified and highly trained staff will consist of Juvenile Institution Officers (JIO), who will provide safety and security of our facility as well as monitor youth activity; while, Peer Support Specialists (PSS) will deliver evidence-based programming. Other staff who will provide services to our youth consist of clinical staff, educational staff and medical personnel.</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>If a less restrictive program is deemed appropriate, SYTF youth will transition into our Bear Creek Academy (BCA).</p> <p>The BCA Program strives to make positive changes in youth, through education and vocational training opportunities. The BCA Program encourages youth to re-engage with their families and communities by allowing them to participate in community-based programs, services, and activities. Being exposed to other supportive services and resources will help these youth obtain the necessary knowledge and skills to successfully transition back into the community.</p>

ⁱ 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.