



# Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Realignment/ Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) Overview

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# DJJ Realignment At a Glance

- On September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Governor Newsom signed legislation to close California's youth prison system, the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
- On July 1, 2021, DJJ stopped all new intakes
- All responsibilities for the custody, care, and supervision of youth who otherwise would have been eligible for DJJ shifted from the state to local counties:
  - Youth with sustained petitions for WIC 707(b) offenses (murder, attempted murder, arson, robbery, rape, kidnapping, assault w/ great bodily injury, and several other serious and/or violent acts)
  - Youth with sustained petitions for offenses described in PC 290.008 (sex offenses)
- The age of juvenile court jurisdiction was extended to 21, 23, or 25 depending on the offense
- Counties are now required to operate, utilize, or have access to a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF)

# DJJ Realignment Subcommittee & Local Plan

- To be eligible for state realignment funding, the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG): each county shall create a **Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) subcommittee** to develop a **plan** to provide appropriate rehabilitation and supervision services to youth who were eligible for DJJ commitment prior to its closure
- Updated plan due to newly created Office of Youth & Community Restoration (OYCR) annually in May which includes:
  - Description of realignment population
  - Description of programs, in custody, in placement, and in community
  - Description of use of JJRBG funds
- In December 2021, the subcommittee voted to, *“Use Juvenile Hall as SF’s interim SYTF and to revise SYTF plan once City leadership makes decisions re: SF’s place of detention; to recommend to City leadership to consider co-locating SF’s SYTF and SF’s future place of detention; and that regardless this place should be healing-centered, family-centered, community-connected, and culturally responsive.”*

# San Francisco Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council's DJJ Realignment Subcommittee Membership

1. Katy Miller, Probation Chief (Chair)
2. Monifah Willis, District Attorney's Office
3. Patricia Lee, Public Defender's Office
4. Joan Miller (Jessica Mateu-Newsome, alternate), Department of Social Services (HSA)
5. Mona Tahsini, Department of Mental Health (DPH)
6. Rachel Noto, County Office of Education/School District (SFUSD)
7. Judge Roger Chan, Superior Court
8. *Vacant*, Juvenile Advisory Council
9. Kisai Henriquez, Huckleberry Youth Programs/ CARC
10. Ron Stueckle, JJPA/ Sunset Youth Services

No fewer than three community members defined as individuals who (1) have experience providing community-based youth services, (2) youth justice advocates with expertise and knowledge of the juvenile justice system, or (3) have been directly involved in the juvenile justice system

## **Additional Community Member/Youth Advocate Seats:**

11. Liz Jackson-Simpson, Community-based provider with expertise in workforce and housing for transitional age youth
12. Will Roy, Individual Directly Impacted by Secure Facility
13. *Vacant*, Family Member of Youth Impacted by Secure Facility
14. Chaniel Williams, Victim/Survivor of Community Violence
15. Monika Loya, SF Bar Association

# WIC 875 Requirements

For youth with sustained WIC 707(b)/PC 290.008 offenses, the court must determine less restrictive placement is unsuitable before committing youth to SYTF, 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.

# Additional WIC 875 Requirements



SYTF DPO develops Individualized Rehabilitation Plan w/ Secure Track Team

Team consists of youth, youth's family, defense, SYTF DPO, SPY clinician, COE/SFUSD College & Career Counselor, and anyone they identify from their circle of support



Secure Track Team meets regularly to update the Individualized Rehabilitation Plan, check in on progress



Youth comes back to court for 90 day progress reports; 6 month review hearings

Court may reduce baseline term commitment up to 6 months at each review hearing



At completion of baseline term commitment, court can discharge to probation or add a maximum of one additional year



Any time during baseline term commitment, court may order youth to Less Restrictive Program (LRP) to continue serving their Baseline Term Commitment

# It's Been a Process

**2021** – DJJ stops all new intakes; Counties convene DJJ Realignment Subcommittees & submit first DJJ Realignment Plans to the state per new legal requirements

**2022** – JPD selects first grantees for Credible Messenger Life Coaches and entire new menu of options for long-term programming in SYTF via DCYF RFP; DJJ realignment subcommittee team visits Roca in Baltimore

**2023** – DJJ closes and sends all youth back to home counties (SF had no youth at DJJ when DJJ closed); based on Roca Baltimore site-visit, JPD begins training all sworn staff and select partners in Roca's ReWire CBT model; JPD implements physical improvements to SYTF Units and other spaces in JJC for SYTF youth; JPD issues SYTF Reentry Housing solicitations (with little success)

**2024** – JPD launches in-person City College classes in partnership with Rising Scholars Network; creates Reentry Services plan and behavior development program; memorializes SYTF programming in DCYF's 5-year grantmaking cycle

**2025** – JPD rolls out behavioral development program (RISE); awards Reentry Services Grants; continues physical improvements; launches Career Technical Education (CTE) cohorts and individual financial coaching; continues to identify Less Restrictive Programs across region & state

# Current SF DJJ Realignment Population *as of 12/4/25*

## Probation Active Caseload:

- 73 youth have prior sustained 707(b) petitions (21.4% of total probation caseload, excluding AB12)

## Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) Commitments

- 2021 to Date: 19 young people have been committed to San Francisco's SYTF
- Currently in SYTF: 11 young people currently in SYTF
  - Base Term Range: 2-7 years
- Less Restrictive Program (LRP): 3 young people currently in an LRP

## Juvenile Hall Commitments w/ 707(b) Offenses

- 2021 to Date: 5 young people have been committed to San Francisco Juvenile Hall w/ 707(b) offenses
- Currently in Juvenile Hall Commitment w/ 707(b) Offenses: 0



# On Site Government Partners

## Department of Public Health/Special Programs for Youth (SPY):

- Operates Special Programs for Youth (SPY) within JJC to provide trauma informed, culturally relevant, and accessible health services including **primary medical care, dental care, behavioral health services, and health education**

## County Office Of Education (COE)/SFUSD:

- Operates **Woodside Learning Center, a year-round high school** within JJC for youth up to age 19
- Offers two **Career Technical Education (CTE) Pathways** in Urban Agriculture and Culinary Arts, taught by certified instructors, including hands-on experience and training opportunities in JJC's garden and culinary space that translate into professional and practical skills.
- Hired **College & Career Counselor** to support high school graduates with college and career exploration, registration, enrollment, and all related coordination for City College students, and support the CTE instructors in planning and execution of programming.

# Higher Education Network Partners

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**Student Support Networks exist at many public educational institutions across California and provide educational opportunities and support to justice-involved students at every level of higher-education.**

**JPD works closely with all of these networks to support committed young people both while in and out of custody.**



**Rising Scholars: California Community Colleges**



**Project Rebound: California State Universities**



**Underground Scholars: Universities of California**



# SYTF Programming

## **City College of San Francisco: Rising Scholars Program**

- In-person classes on SYTF units
- Asynchronous classes online
- Annual Orientation event at JJC

## **Financial Capability Investment**

- Individual financial coaching; opening bank accounts for all SYTF youth

## **Air Tutors**

- Online tutoring program in multiple disciplines and across many subject areas.

## **International Sports Sciences Association**

- Online training modules to become certified personal trainer, nutritionist, or yoga teacher.

## **iCEV**

- Online vocational program including architecture, construction, transportation, business, marketing, IT, family and consumer Sciences, and others.

## **Rivet School**

- College for nontraditional students, offering online degrees in as little as 2-3 years, with personalized coaching, financial aid, and planning and nine months of career coaching and job placement support after degree completion.



# SYTF Programming

## **Art of Yoga Project**

- Courses regarding mindfulness using yoga, meditation, creative arts, and writing.

## **Border Youth Tennis Exchange (BYTE)**

- Weekly professional sports instruction and curated enrichment curriculum of trauma-informed coaching, sport for development, sport psychology, and positive social and emotional expression.

## **F.A.C.E.S.**

- In-person individual counseling sessions to young people ordered by the court to participate in DV/IPV counseling services. These sessions last 26 weeks and are specifically designed to support transitional age young adults.

## **Occupational Therapy Training Program (OTTP)**

- Hands on therapeutic activities including assessment, therapeutic individual intervention, therapeutic groups, psychotherapy, family therapy, employment, and case management.

## **Scholastic Interest Group**

- Financial literacy and entrepreneurship education through credible mentorship.

## **Sharp Circle**

- Mentorship from individuals with lived experience that aims to facilitate positive behavioral change by accepting responsibility and developing healthy accountability relationships, culminating in the creation of a recidivism prevention plan, referred to as a "Life Ownership Plan".



# SYTF Programming

## Success Centers

- Credible Messenger Life Coaches initiate trusting relationships, provide mentorship and coaching, and facilitate youth engagement with pro-social activities. Credible Messengers work in collaboration with JJC staff on the units 7 days a week, 9AM to 9PM.

## Success Stories

- Workshop series run by formerly incarcerated facilitators that aims to reshape how young people who have caused harm see themselves by breaking down toxic masculinity and reevaluating value systems.

## Victim Offender Education Group (VOEG)

- Year-long restorative justice group program run by formerly incarcerated facilitators that helps young people understand how their life experiences and decisions led them to their current circumstances and how their crimes have impacted their victim(s), culminating with participants meeting with victims for a healing dialogue.

## Beat Within

- Weekly workshops on literacy, self-expression, critical thinking skills, and building healthy and supportive relationships and publication showcasing participants' writing and art.

## Sunset Youth Services

- *Digital Arts and Technology Program*: youth learn creative self-expression and project-based learning through songwriting, digital recording and engineering, filmmaking, beat sequencing, DJ instruction, instrumentation, podcasting, and photography.
- *Vocational Program*: Every 8 weeks, cohorts trade off focusing on culinary skills and audio production.
- *Parenting*: Triple P Parenting programming and additional supports for young parents in JJC.

# JJC Providers Advisory Board

- Originally started as the SYTF Provider Advisory Board, the JJC Providers Advisory Board is a regular convening of 18 CBOs who provide programming and services in the JJC to both the pre-adjudicated and committed populations.
- This includes all DCYF-funded programs as well as some volunteer programs.
- The JJC Provider Advisory Board convenes multiple times per year:
  - Check in on implementation for new programming/new population
  - Update with any new programs or programmatic impacts
  - Provide JJC updates and get feedback on policies and protocols
  - Offer a networking space for providers who don't often get to interact with one another

# SYTF Daily Structure

- Individual Daily Schedules
- In-person City College classes & Career Technical Education sessions are held in the mornings, Monday-Thursday
- All other programming in the afternoon
- Two Counselor IIs assigned to each SYTF unit
- Large Muscle Activity (LMA)/Fitness Center & Basketball
  - Fitness Center, Unit 3, is a dedicated space for SYTF youth
- Special Family Visits
  - Regular visits with up to 7 family members at once; in 2026 JPD will be providing food and/or activities



# Physical Improvements



## Furniture

Desks, nightstands, shelving, installed in sleeping rooms

Upgraded dining furniture and living space furniture



## Repainted units

Youth on the units consulted on the colors used



## Upgraded hygiene products



## Upgraded linens & rugs

Youth choose towels, sheet sets, blankets, and rugs for their sleeping rooms



# Physical Improvements



## Family Visiting Room

Dedicated space in MPR was redone in collaboration with Sunset Youth Services, who does our parenting programming for young parents in our facility



## Outdoor Space

Installed an outdoor kitchen area along with picnic tables; built shed and Urban Agriculture participants have filled over 30 stainless steel planters



## Fitness Center

Repurposed empty unit; includes commercial grade weight training circuit system and treadmill, an elliptical, and other assorted fitness items



## Culinary Space

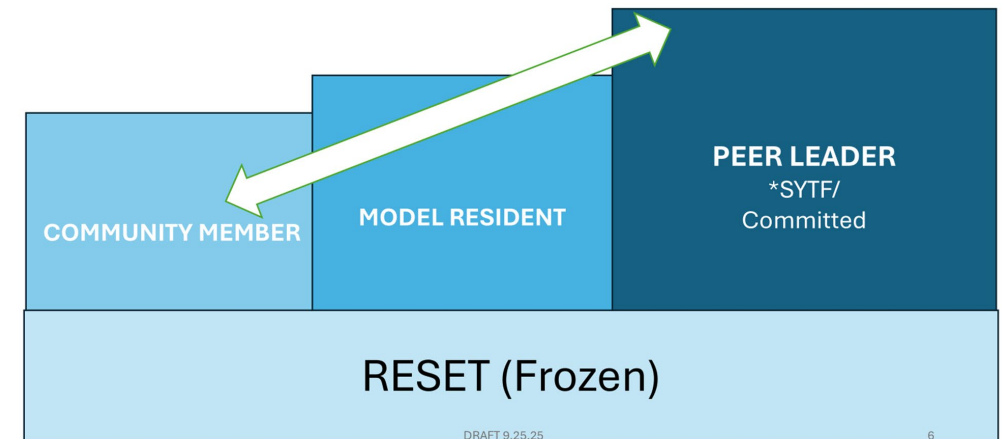
Currently turning an empty unit into an interim culinary arts space to support baking, cooking, and other professional culinary skills.

To provide an incentive for each youth to engage productively with the individual rehabilitation plan approved by the court, each probation department operating an SYTF must implement a system to track the positive behavior of youth in a regular and systematic way.

## RISE: Restoration, Improvement, Success, and Elevation

- Points & Levels positive behavior development system rooted in Rewire Cognitive Behavioral Theory (CBT) and developed in partnership with Roca, Inc.
  - Promotes and incentivizes positive behaviors w/ clear strategies to address negative behaviors through a trauma-informed skill building repair process
- Youth can move through three RISE levels with increasing privileges
  - All youth start at Community Member level
  - Highest Level, Peer Leader, reserved for SYTF youth; includes later bedtime, more commissary items, and other enhanced privileges and programming
  - Regardless of level, basic rights always met
- Any serious behavioral incident results in youth moving to Reset status
  - Skills and restorative activities assigned to youth are directly connected to behavior and are intended to help young person reflect, learn, and grow from previous behavior
- The RISE Team (Director, Assistant Director, Senior Counselor, Credible Messenger, & administrative staff) meets M-F, to discuss incidents, Reset status, levels
  - Youth can request to be heard at the RISE team if they disagree with points assigned, their Reset status, or when they would like to participate in special programming.

### RISE Positive Behavior Development Program



# Less Restrictive Programs (LRPs)

- WIC 875: *the court may order that the ward be transferred from a secure youth treatment facility to **less restrictive program**, such as a halfway house, a camp or ranch, or a community residential or nonresidential service program. The purpose of a less restrictive program is to facilitate the safe and successful reintegration of the ward into the community.*
- JPD received a one-time grant for \$2 million from the Office of Youth & Community Restoration (OYCR) to support LRP services and programming
  - Direct grants for Reentry Coordination & Intensive Case Management
  - Rent, furnishings, and all related costs for housing
  - Barrier removal, e.g. transportation, groceries, cell phone, internet, etc.
  - Structured residential programs
  - Tuition for college
  - Incentives for following program & court terms
- Young people in SF have stepped down from SYTF to LRPs, including:
  - Home with family
  - Their own apartment to attend college
  - Structured residential program

# Less Restrictive Programs (LRPs)

- JPD has established contracts with the following programs serving as LRPs:
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Youth Center & Clinic (San Francisco):
    - Just Home Transitional Housing Program
    - Rapid Rehousing Program
  - Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp (Amador County)
  - RAMP LA (Los Angeles County)
  - Welcome Home Oasis (Los Angeles County)

# Reentry Services

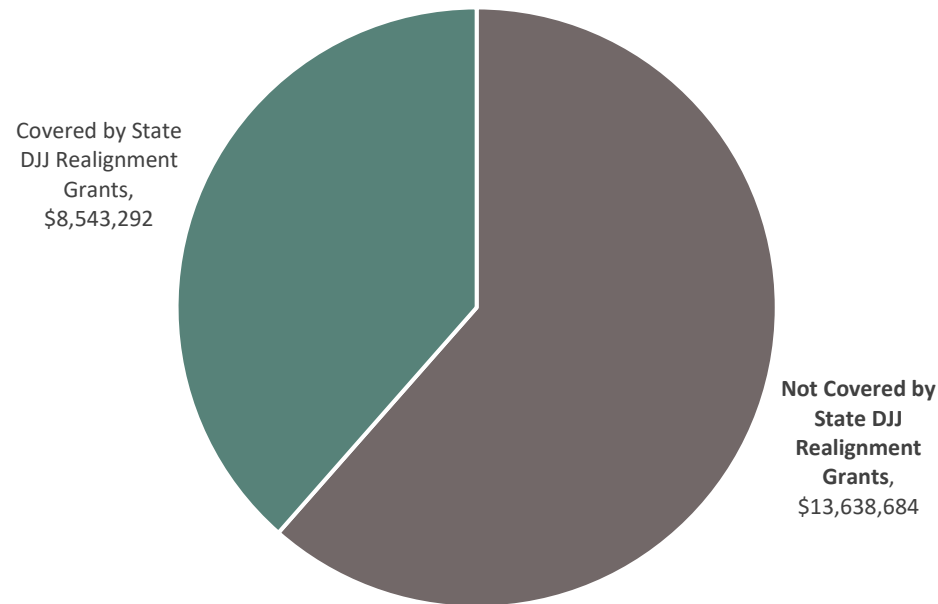
Reentry Services Providers: Sunset Youth Services & Sharp Circle

## Reentry Services Description

- Each organization has a Reentry Coordinator & Intensive Reentry Case Manager(s)
- Build Early Relationships
- Assess and Plan for Reentry
- Provide Direct Support & Resource Coordination
- Relentless and Intensive Post-Release Engagement
- Skill Building & Systems Navigation
- Emotional & Social Reintegration
- Innovative Reacclimation
- Collaboration & Accountability

# DJJ Realignment Budget Impacts

San Francisco Juvenile Probation  
DJJ Realignment Actuals/ Costs  
FY21-22 to FY 24-25



Between FY21/22-FY24/25, JPD incurred nearly **\$22.2 M** in costs associated with DJJ Realignment responsibilities. JPD received **\$8.5 M** in DJJ grants from the state: JJRBG, AB178, Data, YPFG, OYCR-LRP. This leaves a **shortfall of \$13.6 M**, which has been covered by General Fund and other grants/apportionments.

## Less Restrictive Programs Grant (OYCR-LRP)

In 2024, JPD received a one-time two-year, \$2 Million grant from OYCR to support reentry services and housing for youth released to a Less Restrictive Program (LRP). All funding is committed and will be fully expended by 2027 for this ongoing need. Residential housing programs are particularly cost intensive.

# Transfer Motions to Adult Court

- From 2017-2024: there were no motions to transfer youth from juvenile to adult court in San Francisco
- In 2025, six motions to transfer have been filed and two transfer hearings have been held
  - Both youth who completed their transfer hearings were retained in the juvenile system

