

# Youth Development Academy (YDA) - Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF)

## 529.1 OVERVIEW

The Youth Development Academy (YDA) is the San Diego County Probation Department's Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF). YDA-SYTF is offered in a secure setting identified to meet the requirements of SB 823 (2020). Youth committed to the program by the Juvenile Court will receive a program structured and designed to support the principles of trauma-informed culturally responsive care and a developmental and therapeutic approach to youth rehabilitation. YDA's philosophy aspires for youth to remain in secure treatment for the shortest term necessary to achieve specific rehabilitative goals and promote safe and successful reentry. Family and positive support groups for the youth will be included in the planning and progress of the youth throughout their commitment.

## 529.2 SCREENING FOR SYTF

Before the Disposition hearing, the YDA-SYTF reentry team will receive notice of all YDA-SYTF recommendations from the Probation Officer (PO) making the recommendation to the court and will prepare (or will begin preparation) for the initial Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) meeting and Individualized Rehabilitation Plan (IRP) (Welfare and Institutions Code § 875(d) (1)).

### 529.2.1 YOUTH RETURNING FROM THE DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE (DJJ)

Probation will collaborate with the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and the Probation's Community Supervision Unit to identify, screen, and transfer youth from DJJ to YDA-SYTF. Additional guidance provided in the Youth Development Academy (YDA) - Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) Administrative Procedures.

## 529.3 YOUTH COMMITTED TO YDA-SYTF

Youth will be housed with consideration of gender identity, offense, sophistication, mental health, security risks and other unique factors as appropriate.

Within 21 judicial days of the court committing a youth to YDA-SYTF, the reentry officer, working in collaboration with a MDT, will meet to create the Client Action Plan (CAP) and the MDT support plan for the community supervision PO to include in the Individualized Rehabilitation Plan (IRP). Additional guidance of the IRP is provided in the Youth Development Academy (YDA) - Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) Administrative Procedures.

### 529.3.1 THE INITIAL MDT MEETING

Upon notice of a YDA-SYTF recommendation or notice of commitment, the YDA Senior Probation Officer (SrPO)/Care Coordinator will coordinate and schedule a MDT meeting within two weeks. The meeting should include participants who will convene to provide input in the development of the youth's IRP. The SrPO/Care Coordinator will lead the initial MDT meeting. MDT participants collaborate to collectively share and review assessments and screenings to identify and prioritize

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the youth's needs, goals, and YDA services that can be addressed during the youth's commitment time at YDA-SYTF.

MDT Participants:

The MDT shall include the youth and their family, and their input shall be included in the IRP (Welfare and Institutions Code § 875(d)(2)(D), Welfare and Institutions Code § 875(d)(2)(D)(A)), and the MDT may consist of, but is not limited to the following participants (Welfare and Institutions Code § 875(d)(1)):

- (a) Guardian/Care Giver/Positive and Supportive Community Member
- (b) Probation Correctional Counselor
- (c) Probation Alcohol Drug Program Specialist (ADPS)
- (d) Behavioral Health Services Representative
- (e) Contracted Program Provider Representative
- (f) San Diego County Office of Education Representative
- (g) Community Partners
- (h) Public Defender's Office Representative
- (i) District Attorney's Office Representative

The reentry officers, in collaboration with the MDT, will complete the CAP and MDT Support Plan and provide them to the casework PO in preparation for the 30-Day review hearing.

- (a) Purpose of Initial MDT
- (b) Welcome youth to YDA
- (c) Clarify the roles of MDT participants
- (d) Explain confidentiality and purpose of MDT
- (e) Discuss with youth the expectations and benefits of active participation in programming, and what the youth can expect from the MDT participants while at YDA-SYTF
- (f) Incorporate the youth's and their family's input in case planning and discuss their willingness to participate and adhere to the IRP
- (g) Provide MDT participants (including the youth and their families) an opportunity to collaboratively develop and complete the MDT Support Plan and CAP

#### **529.4 MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM (MDT) MEETINGS**

##### **529.4.1 MONTHLY**

After the initial MDT meeting, monthly occurrences will be scheduled with all the MDT participants. The reentry officer will lead the MDT meetings. During each meeting, the following will occur:

- (a) MDT will review the youth's progress toward rehabilitative goals and IRP

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- (b) Updates and changes to the IRP will be made
- (c) Phase level and promotion eligibility will be discussed
- (d) Effective Use of Reinforcements will be used to encourage positive behaviors
- (e) The Reentry PO will complete monthly MDT notes and save them in the Probation Case Management System (PCMS) as part of the CAP for the casework PO to review

#### 529.4.2 EVALUATION OF A LESS RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT

- (a) YDA-SYTF youth are subject to ongoing evaluation by the MDT for suitability for a less restrictive environment.
- (b) Should the MDT find that a less restrictive environment is appropriate, the Reentry PO will make a recommendation to the casework PO on behalf of the MDT for consideration at the youth's review hearing as detailed in section, Request For Less Restrictive Placement, in the Youth Development Academy (YDA) - Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) Administrative Procedures.

#### 529.4.3 PRE-RELEASE

The Reentry SrPO/Care Coordinator will monitor youth's court hearings and provide oversight of the Pre-Release MDT. A Pre-Release MDT will take place when a youth is transferring to a less restrictive environment or being released under community supervision. The following shall take place at the Pre-Release meeting before the youth's transition to a less restrictive environment or the community on supervision:

- (a) Youth's accomplishments while at YDA will be reviewed and reinforced
- (b) Discharge court orders will be reviewed with the youth and their family or caregiver
- (c) Reentry PO will ensure all community referrals and appointments are set in collaboration with contracted service providers and casework PO
- (d) Address medical needs and assist with medical enrollment as needed
- (e) Address mental health needs and assist in enrollment for services as needed
- (f) Transportation arrangements will be made and necessary resources (clothes, shoes, bus passes, maps, program information flyers, appointment dates and times, etc.) will be provided to youth before release as needed

Prior to the youth's transfer to a less restrictive environment or release to the community, the Reentry SrPO/Care Coordinator will notify the victims.

### **529.5 REVIEW HEARINGS**

#### 529.5.1 PROGRESSION

During the term of commitment, the youth will have a review hearing no less frequently than once every six months (Welfare and Institutions Code § 875(e)(1)). The casework probation officer will generate a report to submit to the court for these hearings which will include:

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- (a) The YDA-SYTF Reentry officer will provide monthly updates about the youth's overall progress toward completion of tasks and goals in the CAP to include the youth's documented behavior, programming accomplishments, and acceptance of personal responsibility.
- (b) The Reentry PO, in collaboration with the MDT, will use the monthly MDT updates to make recommendations to the casework PO for the youth's 6-month progress review hearings. The recommendation will be in favor of or against the reduction of the baseline term on behalf of MDT (Youth Development Academy (YDA) - Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) Administrative Procedures).
- (c) After the youth's review hearing, the court may order the youth to remain in custody for the remainder of the baseline term or may reduce the youth's baseline term by an amount not to exceed six months. (Welfare and Institutions Code § 875(e)(1)).

#### 529.5.2 PROBATION DISCHARGE/RELEASE

After the baseline term, the court will review the youth's progress in meeting the goals of the IRP. The casework PO will write a report for the court to make a recommendation for one of the following:

- (a) The youth is to be discharged for a period of probation supervision in the community under conditions ordered by the court, or
- (b) The youth is to remain in custody due to the substantial risk of imminent harm to others in the community if released from custody.

#### 529.6 FURLOUGHS

YDA uses furloughs within the parameters of the Judicial Council guidelines to support reentry by offering youth in the final stages of their custodial treatment the opportunity to attend education, employment, and/or special programming in the community. Youth may have the opportunity to visit the services they will utilize upon their re-entry.

##### 529.6.1 FURLOUGHS FOR ELIGIBLE COMMUNITY SERVICES

At the later stages of the commitment, youth may be eligible to attend education and employment services in the community while returning to the facility at the end of the day.

##### 529.6.2 GOALS

The goal of furloughs is to acclimate the youth to services and locations, build rapport with service providers, reduce anxiety, and increase the youth's confidence to continue the services and functions upon release. Furloughs recommended by the MDT will be presented to the court by Probation as appropriate to further youth's self-sufficiency and pro-social skills before reentry.

#### 529.7 PROGRAMMING AND INTERVENTIONS

Probation and its partners and contractors will provide the YDA youth with appropriate services based upon their IRP, including but not limited to, Rehabilitative and Therapeutic Programming, Prosocial Development groups, Positive Youth Development classes, Career Technical Education, and Academic Services.

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### **529.8 ENGAGEMENT AND RECOGNITION**

A graduation ceremony will be held for YDA participants who complete the program. The treatment team, facility management, family/caregiver, and community support groups may participate.

Recognition ceremonies, family engagement events, and other organized activities will be held to celebrate and encourage youth who consistently participate in their prescribed programming, demonstrate responsible behavior, refrain from violence, and help with community responsibilities.