YDC SERVICES AND PROGRAMMING

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YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

An Overview

Youth Development Centers are secure facilities that provide educational, recreation, vocational, mental and physical health, nutritional, and risk/needs specific programming.

This type of commitment is the most restrictive, intensive dispositional option available to the NC courts. The juvenile code limits this disposition to those juveniles who have been adjudicated for violent or serious offenses or who have a lengthy delinquency history.

COMPONENTS OF PROGRAMMING

- 1. Education
- 2. Clinical & Therapeutic Services
- 3. Staff Engagement & Behavior Management
- 4. Religious Services
- 5. Recreation

EDUCATION

Education Services comprise the largest portion of our programming in YDCs.

Students receive instruction based on their academic level and goals, including courses aligned for a high school diploma, high school equivalency (HiSET), or web-based post-secondary courses.

EDUCATION, CONT.

After arriving at a YDC, students' reading and math skills are assessed. Teachers combine personalized instruction with online learning. Students study English, Math, Science, and Social Studies—and may explore Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses such as:

- Career Management,
- Personal Finance,
- Entrepreneurship
- Horticulture,
- Principles of Business

HiSET students are supported through partnerships with local community colleges. Students with special education needs receive services according to their Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Although many students enter below grade level, data shows significant academic gains during YDC attendance and after release.

CLINICAL & THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

Within 30 days of YDC admission, students receive Comprehensive Mental Health Evaluations and Psychological testing. Within 60 days, students receive the UCLA PTSD Inventory Evaluation. These help inform what therapeutic services each student needs.

Clinical & Therapeutic Treatments:

- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress
- Traumatic Grief Component Therapy for Adolescents
- Cognitive Processing Therapy
- Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing
- Motivational Interviewing
- Dialectical Behavioral Therapy
- Specialized Treatment for Youth who have engaged in Sexually Abusive Behavior

STAFF ENGAGEMENT & BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION



CREATING PROGRAMS:

THE RISK-NEEDS-RESPONSIVITY MODEL AND ITS CONNECTION TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Risk-Needs-Responsivity Model (RNR) is a framework used to guide effective rehabilitation for justice-involved youth. It rests on 3 principles:

- 1. Match the level of programming intensity to the *risk* the youth poses to the community
- 2. Target changeable factors (criminogenic *needs*) driving the offending (e.g. impulsivity, peer influence, etc.)
- 3. Tailor programming to the youth's developmental stage, motivation, and strengths (*responsivity*)

GOAL: TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESSES THAT PROMOTE DESISTANCE (I.E. PSYCHOSOCIAL MATURITY)

Psychosocial Maturity is the ongoing adolescent development of identity, autonomy, self-regulation, and perspective-taking. The term was coined in the Pathways to Desistance study - one of the largest longitudinal studies of serious adolescent offenders - which found that as youth mature psychosocially, they tend to naturally "age out" of criminal behavior.

By aligning programming with the RNR model, we can reduce the risk of reoffending *and* accelerate psychosocial maturation – helping young people build the capacities they need to thrive and desist.

PSYCHOSOCIAL MATURITY

There are 3 major components of Psychosocial Maturity:

- 1. Temperance the ability to control impulses (self-control), especially aggressive impulses
- 2. Perspective Taking the ability to consider other points of view, taking the vantage point of others, and the ability to see the bigger picture
- 3. Responsibility & Accountability the ability to take personal responsibility for your behavior, developing your sense of self, and the ability to avoid negative peer pressure

IN CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Each YDC Program seeks to address all three components of Psychosocial Maturity. In building programming around them, we operationalize the RNR model in a developmentally appropriate way – because the same developmental processes that turn adolescents into responsible adults are the ones that help them desist from crime. Instead of focusing on control or compliance, we're teaching the competencies that make self-control and prosocial behavior possible.

EXAMPLES

MODEL OF CARE: CHATHAM YDC

An evidence-based approach to residential care through its Value-Based Therapeutic Environment (VBTE) model.

It's designed to help at-risk and justice-involved youth develop the **social**, **emotional**, **behavioral**, **and moral skills** needed for successful reintegration into their communities.



CORE PROGRAM COMPONENTS











Service Planning Skills Curriculum Learning Theory Motivation Systems Therapeutic Interactions

PATHWAYS TO PSYCHOSOCIAL MATURITY: MOC

Temperance (the ability to control impulses, delay gratification, and manage anger or frustration.)

* Focused Therapeutic Interactions/ Prosocial Skill training/ Role-Play & Feedback.

Perspective-Taking (the capacity to understand others' viewpoints, empathize, and engage in reciprocal relationships. Thinking ahead, setting long-term goals, and evaluating consequences before acting)

Value Based Therapeutic Environment teaching six core values: Respect, Responsibility, Spirituality, Compassion, Honesty, and Empowerment.

Accountability (willingness to be accountable for one's actions, fulfill obligations, and demonstrate reliability.)

Corrective/Re-directive Interactions & Accountability packets



CORE PROGRAMMING COMPONENTS

Restorative Justice-

Facilitated
 dialogue, Process
 Circles,
 Restorative Teams
 and Repairs

Financial Literacy

 Income, expenses, fines, budgeting, saving, delaying gratification.

Motivational Interviewing

 Building rapport and relationships, eliciting change talk, and exploring ambivalence.

WHAT IS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

It's a shift in how we typically think about handling conflict and harm between people and their communities

OUR LEGAL SYSTEM ASKS...

- What rule has been broken?
- Who broke it?
- What punishment do they deserve?

WHAT RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IS NOT...

- Restitution
- Group Therapy
- Teen Court

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ASKS:

- Who's been hurt?
- What are their needs?
- What were the causes of this situation?
- Whose obligation is it to meet those needs?
- Who else needs to be involved?

3 BASIC PRACTICES



LISTENING CIRCLES

A structured dialogue process that helps reveal connections, create relationships, build rapport, or resolve differences



FACILITATED DIALOGUES

Implemented after incidents of harm has occurred between two people; offers a space for them to take accountability and resolve the conflict



VICTIM-OFFENDER DIALOGUES

Allows people who have been harmed to express how they've been affected to the person that harmed them.

PATHWAYS TO PSYCHOSOCIAL MATURITY: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE



TEMPERANCE

- Honoring Restorative Justice Guidelines and values in Circle
- Regulating and Creating Structure of how They Engage with Others
- Making choices to be engaged and remain in the community



PERSPECTIVE-TAKING

- Listening to Others' Stories
- Broadening Their Own Perspectives through Others' Experiences
- Building Community and expectations
- Sharing their own stories



RESPONSIBILITY & ACCOUNTABILITY

- Creating a space where accountability is possible
- Having to address responsibility for your actions, and the responsibility created by the harms you cause
- Opportunities to "make things right"

PATHWAYS TO PSYCHOSOCIAL MATURITY: RISE UP

Temperance (Ability to control impulses, delay gratification, and manage anger or frustration)

Listening Circle guidelines / agreements; Anger Management Group

Perspective-Taking (Capacity to understand others' viewpoints, empathize, and engage in reciprocal relationships. Thinking ahead, setting long-term goals, and evaluating consequences before acting)

Participation in Listening Circles with staff and peers

Accountability (Willingness to be accountable for one's actions, fulfill obligations, and demonstrate reliability.)

• Fines for major rule violations with opportunity to earn 50% of the money back after engaging in Restorative Justice Practices to "make it right".

QUESTIONS

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