

PROGRAM INFORMATION July 2020



Female Treatment Program

There are a number of different vocational programs available for the females. These would include jobs on the living unit (e.g., cleaning, laundry, librarian, kitchen and blood borne pathogens cleaners). Institutional opportunities include working in Central Kitchen, with grounds maintenance, in canteen (filing orders from other youth), serving as teaching assistant and working as a groomer in a pet grooming facility. Dog grooming for pets that are brought in from community residents is an excellent and longstanding program. Many of DJJ's former females have gone on to fairly highly paid positions in the community and have established their own businesses. Recently, introduced into the facility is the coding program offered through The Last Mile.

Purpose

The overall model in DJJ is an Integrated Behavior Treatment Model, utilizing a cognitive-behavioral treatment framework (i.e., helping to change feeling and behavior through changing ways of thinking), and working to build interpersonal social skills and self-monitoring and self-regulation skills.

Location

•Ventura Youth Correctional Facility, 3100 Wright Road, Ventura, CA 93010 Telephone: (805) 485-7951

Diagnostics and Placement

For every youth (male or female), there is an initial evaluation and assessment period, where staff from across disciplines (psychology, psychiatry, social work, custody, education, rehabilitation therapy, medical etc.) evaluate the youth for identification of risks and individualized treatment needs and strengths, and then following that initial assessment, an Individualized Case Plan would be developed in collaboration with the youth (and family as indicated) for identifying specific treatment domains to be addressed, along with goals and action steps for each of those domains. All youths are assessed for Educational needs. We have an accredited high school, with the girls having separate classes in a separate location from the male youths. For the youths who are high school graduates or have their GED, there are college courses offered from Ventura College and Lassen Independent Study Program and a variety of vocational training programs.

Treatment Groups

Available to all youths based on their individualized needs. There are a variety of evidence-based treatment groups provided to address such as issues as anger and aggression, substance use, social skills, and healthy living. For Mental Health youths, there are some other groups addressing managing moods and self-expression. Mental Health youths also receive services from a certified Rehabilitation Therapist. All youths are also assigned an individual Youth Correctional Counselor, who meets regularly with their assigned youths to review their treatment domains and progress.

Mental Health Services

Psychology and Psychiatry services are available for all youths. For mental health youth, there are additional resources. The youth receive at least one weekly contact with a psychologist and more frequently if needed. There are two (2) full time psychologists, along with both psychology practicum students and social work interns to address many of these females that have significant histories of trauma abuse, neglect and other mental health needs. The staff is trained in trauma informed care and the psychologists and psychiatrist are currently providing Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy (TF-CBT) to a number of our female youth based on individual needs.