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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY of A.R.I.S.E. (A Restorative Integration for Successful Engagement)

Overview: A.R.I.S.E. provides support and improves youth's quality of life through therapeutic services, extended education and vocational training while housed in a secure youth treatment facility.

Challenge: Following the passage of Senate Bill 823, Senate Bill 92, and Assembly Bill 200, also collectively known as the statewide realignment of California's Department of Juvenile Justice system, the challenge was to develop a comprehensive rehabilitation and treatment program in county for youthful offenders ordered committed long term, with time frames typically consisting of five to ten years. In addition to program development, this included the remodeling of a juvenile detention center into a more home-like secure youth treatment facility, remodeling a separate property into a non-secure treatment facility to be used as a step down, and revising community re-entry supervision approaches to meet the new expectations, all with the input and assistance of a variety of stakeholders and collaborators, including the District Attorney, Public Defender, Community Based Organizations, activists with lived experience in the Criminal Justice System, and the Superior Court.

Solution: As part of building a successful program and recognizing the importance of employee investment, the initial staff were personally selected and participated in an extensive training plan, which was developed expressly for this program, ensuring the training provided would ensure a full understanding of treatment modalities and rehabilitation needs. The training program utilized evidence based practices that were trauma responsive and culturally informed, and a Treatment Team modality was implemented to provide support, set goals and ensure the increasing maturity of youth in the program. By coordinating with Community Based Organizations and Community Colleges, youth have been provided with every available tool for success upon their eventual release. One such example is Searchlight Society, which provides a variety of vocational training including Website Design and Computer Programming, and ten youth recently earned certificates in Business Development, with well-articulated strategies in becoming small business owners themselves upon release in professions which will not be hampered by criminal histories.



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Innovation: By offering individual, group and family therapy to both the youth and their family, we have been able to improve family engagement and community reintegration. Additionally, because approximately one-fourth of the youth in the facility have children of their own, we provide parenting classes and visits with their children in person at the facility, to promote bonding. These classes provide the opportunity to understand how to have healthy relationships with their child or children. For the families who may have transportation issues we also provide transportation for the family to and from our facility.

Results: The program has been in operation for one year, and to date one youth has been released. He continues to be supervised in the community by our Probation Officers. Upon release he was assisted with securing gainful employment and given guidance in continuing his college education; he has been successful in both of these endeavors. In addition, he still receives support from our Mental Health staff, and will do so until he is able to transition to mental health services in the community.

Replicability: The ARISE Secure Youth Treatment Facility is currently being touted as the model for DJJ Realignment in counties throughout California, and has been toured by the Director of the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR), who expressed that our program exceeded expectations regarding the extensive training of our staff, the home-like environment of the facility, and the extensive opportunities in college education and vocational training our program provides to the youths, as well as the continued care provided upon release. Our documentation has been provided to other county Probation Department throughout California to assist them in their staff development, program design, court communication, and facility preparation.

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