



# Secure Youth Treatment Facility

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# Juvenile Justice Realignment

Senate Bill 823, enacted in 2020

- Realigned responsibility for highest risk/needs youth from State to counties
- Extended age of jurisdiction
- Required Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan
  - Includes plan for Secure Youth Treatment Facility services (contract or in-house)
- Provided funding (\$2.4M to date) for Court-ordered secure track program commitments
- Created new State oversight agency



# Realigned Population

- Serious juvenile offenders requiring long-term treatment and custodial care
- Since 2015, only 8 Yolo youth
- Average length of stay 2.4 years
  - Longest stay almost 6 years
  - Non-realigned population average length of stay is 22 days
- Long-term rehabilitative treatment vs. short-term stabilizing services



# Secure Youth Treatment Facility

**Recommendation:** Contract with another county for SYTF services

- Low population Court-ordered to secure track
- Potential isolation in JDF due to differences in age, sophistication and needs
- Established and comprehensive rehabilitative treatment services available in potentially more populated Secure Youth Treatment Facility able to provide long-term programming
- Costs to staff up/contract for services in JDF to meet realigned population's needs, and then shuttering program when commitment ends



# El Dorado County SYTF Program

- Similarly sized, rural county
- Contracts with other similarly sized counties
- Aligns with Yolo County's philosophy
- Provides robust, individualized services
- On-site mental health staff, part of daily treatment and care team
- Intensive therapeutic services, post-secondary and vocation education, independent living skills, behavioral support program and array of enhanced enrichment activities
- Close enough to ensure transportation to family members/supports and to prepare for seamless reentry



## Recommended Action

Authorize the Chief Probation Officer and the Office of County Counsel to negotiate and enter into a contract with El Dorado County for Secure Youth Treatment Facility services.

