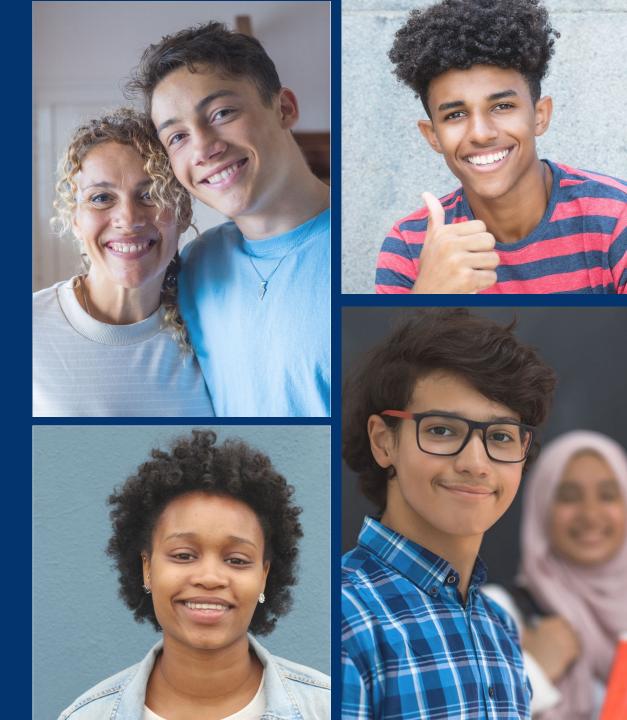


Child Welfare Council Update:

Stepping Home Model

March 5, 2025



OTCR

Stepping Home Model Review

September 4, 2024: OYCR presented an overview of the elements of the Stepping Home Model and the linked research briefs to the Child Welfare Council

December 4, 2024: The Youth Justice Committee approved the Stepping Home Model Memo and linked research briefs to be moved to the Child Welfare Council for adoption

Today: Call for the Council's Adoption of the Stepping Home Model Memo and Linked Research Briefs

O[†]**CR**

Youth Justice Committee Members

CO-CHAIRS Director Katherine Lucero OYCR

Chief Robert Reyes San Luis Obispo County Probation

Brooke Harris Executive Director, Pacific Juvenile Defender Center

JUDICIAL BRANCH: Honorable Tilisha Martin San Diego County Superior Court Assistant Supervising, Juvenile

PROBATION REPRESENTATION: Chief Dan Prince Imperial County Probation

Chief Jennifer Branning Lassen County Probation JUVENILE LAW EXPERTS: Elizabeth Calvin Senior Advocate, Human Rights Watch

Frankie Guzman Director, California Youth Justice Institute National Center for Youth Law

TRAUMA RESPONSIVE/THERAPEUTIC CARE EXPERT: Carly B. Dierkhising Assistant Professor School of Criminal Justice and Criminalistics, CSULA

DIRECT YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM EXPERIENCE/ YOUTH ADVOCATE: Juan Gamez Direct Youth Justice System Experience

COMMUNITY PROVIDERS Danielle Lowe Director Behavioral Health Services, Shields for Families OTHERS:

Virginia Corrigan

Deputy Attorney General , Bureau of Children's Justice Civil Rights Enforcement Section, CA Department of Justice

Lauren Mendez Child & Family Policy Institute of California Youth Engagement Project

Diana Becton Contra Costa County District Attorney

Tyee Griffith Associate Dean Educational Partnerships and Associate Faculty, Social Justice Studies, Norco College

Rosalinda Vint Program Director Woman of Substance, Men of Honor

VICTIM VOICE/RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: Kasey Halcón Deputy County Executive Office of the County Executive- Santa Clara County

Stepping Home Model Overview

- Establishes a research-based framework, best practices and a series of elements to inform California's policy goals regarding care of youth committed to Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTFs)
- Offers a model for stepping youth out of custody and into the community that will be informed by ongoing partnership with the field and emerging research



Stepping Home Model Briefs

Research briefs included for adoption along with the Stepping Home Model Memo:

- Restorative Justice
- Credible Messengers
- Trauma-Informed Care
- Reentry
- Positive Youth Development
- Less Restrictive Programs
- Treating Behavioral Health Disorders in SYTFs and Facilities



The purpose of this document is to put forth principles that promote healing and accountability for youth dispositioned to Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF). These principles, outlined in the Stepping Home Model, are intended to provide guidance to counties and partnering entities as they work to ensure the safe and successful transition of youth from SYTFs to their communities.

Stepping Home Model

Stepping Home is a process for all youth, starting from the beginning of a youth's confinement in a secure youth treatment facility (SYTF), to returning them safely and successfully to their communities as thriving, successful young adults. The model transitions the youth from the SYTF to less restrictive programs (LRP) to gradually increase their involvement in the community as they achieve the goals in their case plan until they are successfully home without supervision from county oversight agencies. While SYTFs provide maximum security and supervision, less restrictive programs gradually increase the youth's positive engagement in the community while decreasing supervision. Less restrictive programs can include camps and ranches, group living and cottages, and community living with supervision (e.g., living with family, independent living, college dornitories). The youth's transition from the most restrictive SYTF towards home should begin as soon as is reasonably possible consistent with public safety.

Key Elements of the Stepping Home Model

The Stepping Home Model encourages counties and partnering entities to include the following elements in their respective plans for youth dispositioned to SYTFs for safe and successful transitions to their communities: