

## ADDENDUM

April 2022, OFFICE OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY RESTORATION REQUESTED SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

- **Please provide disaggregated demographic and offense data for all of your youth with 707(b) and/or 290.008 offenses for 2019, 2020, and 2021 (if already available)**
- **Please provide the disaggregated placements for all of your youth with 707(b) offenses and/or 290.008 offenses [e.g., placed in juvenile hall, ranch, home etc.] for 2019, 2020, and 2021 (if already available)**

Attached is the requested disaggregated data for both requests described above:



JJRBG follow-up  
1-1-19 to 12-31-21.p

- **If you have any further details on the approach to classification of youth in the secure facility, please provide them.**

As noted in the Fresno County Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan, to ensure compliance with the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Title 15 standards, means of assigning youth to designated areas will be based on such requirements as age, maturity, sophistication, emotional stability, program needs, legal status, public safety considerations, medical/mental health considerations, gender and gender identity of the youth. The Department is committed to reducing implicit bias in housing assignment decisions, and when possible, objective criteria such as assessed needs will be given consideration. Adjustments will be made if there is an observed pattern of behavior that creates a potential for an unsafe environment.

Fresno County is committed to the adherence of the above statement, and current policy listed below substantiates the application of youth classification as stated.

## **Juvenile Justice Campus Policy #403.0 – Classification, which states;**

It is the policy of the Juvenile Justice Campus (JJC) to establish and maintain a systematic and consistent method of classifying detained youth for placement into specific housing locations. Classification provides for the safety of youths, officers and the public and the security of the facility by placing youth in the appropriate, least restrictive housing and program setting. Classification factors include but are not limited to or solely based on: age, maturity, sophistication, emotional stability, program needs, legal status, public safety considerations, medical/mental health considerations, and gender of the youth. (Title 15, §1352 California Code of Regulations)

### **I. POLICY**

A. All youth shall be classified upon completion of the booking process and prior to their placement into a housing pod. Should it be necessary to re-classify a youth, the reclassification procedure shall be completed per this policy.

B. Records shall be maintained of each youth's classification/custody level, housing restrictions, and housing assignments. Each youth's classification record shall be updated with all classification-related input, each classification assessment, and each housing pod assignment. Youth's classification records shall contain ongoing classification information and shall thoroughly document all classification related actions in regard to each youth during their confinement.

C. Classification plans shall be administered equitably and consistently without regards to a youth's actual or perceived race, ethnic group identification, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, mental or physical disability or HIV status. Exceptions shall only occur when specifically mandated by law.

D. Classification plans shall be considered distinct and separate from disciplinary action. Rule violations, misconduct, non-conforming behavior, and the resultant disciplinary actions(s) should be handled within pod program guidelines whenever possible. However, in extreme situations, these factors will be considered in classification determinations, housing assignments, and program eligibility.

E. All classification information shall be considered confidential and shall not be released outside the Probation Department without administrative authorization.

F. Staff shall not consider lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, or intersex identification or status as an indicator of likelihood of being sexually abusive.

Therefore, due to the many variables associated with the limited number of youth meeting the eligibility criteria for Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF), classification will continue as prescribed by policy and highlighted in the Fresno County Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan. However, the need for classification to adapt to the breadth of individual SYTF base terms is in the forethought of the department and the department is openly resolved to the incorporation of a vetted and objective classification assessment tool in the future.

In the interim while assessment tools are evaluated, the size and available housing units at the Fresno Juvenile Justices Campus (JJC) provides existing operational elasticity to appropriately house SYTF cohorts to ensure safety and afford means towards rehabilitation. The JJC is also equipped for potential growth should the need become evident for SYTF female youth or SYTF youth outside of Fresno County.

- **You have already provided substantial information related to your facility improvements, but if you would like to expand in any way, or attach or link related documents, we welcome additional details.**

As noted in the Fresno County Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan, research demonstrates youth respond better to a normative environment compared to a traditional correctional setting. Normative environments contain natural light, views to the outdoors, vibrant colors, natural materials, acoustic dampening, ample personal space, and control of some personal territory.

This undertaking includes facility improvements that have been completed since the implementation of the plan, including repainting the housing unit to a more vibrant color, and adding new home-like furniture designed specific to SYTF living areas.

Additionally, Fresno County Probation applied for and received BSCC grants to further expand improvements. The attached links below have the documents specific to the awarded grants for review:

<https://www.bscc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/Fresno.Part-A.website.pdf>

<https://www.bscc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/Fresno.Part-B.website.pdf>