

McLAUGHLIN YOUTH CENTER

Parent / Guardian Orientation Brochure



State of Alaska

**Department of Health and
Social Services**

DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE



**2600 PROVIDENCE DRIVE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

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INTRODUCTION

Having a child in a youth facility can be difficult for both family members and the adolescent. The purpose of this guide is to help you through this transition by answering many of the questions you may have about our programs and services. We hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to ask our facility staff to answer any questions you may have about the McLaughlin Youth Center.

DJJ MISSION:

The mission of the Division of Juvenile Justice is to hold juvenile offenders accountable for their behavior, promote the safety and restoration of victims and communities, and assist offenders and their families in developing skills to prevent crime.



McLaughlin Youth Center has two distinctly different institutional components:

- 1) The Detention Units serve the Third Judicial District, comprised of the Municipality of Anchorage and surrounding areas.
- 2) The three Cottage programs and the Intensive Treatment Unit (ITU) provide long-term residential placement for institutionalized delinquent adolescents primarily for South Central Alaska. The Secure Treatment Unit is the initial, short-term placement prior to entering one of the long-term programs; the unit also provides a longer term and/or transitional program for some adolescents. The Transitional Service Unit provides reintegration and reentry services to prepare youth to return to their community.

McLaughlin Youth Center has two primary responsibilities:

Rehabilitation of the resident - holding residents accountable for their behaviors and assisting them and their families in developing skills to prevent crime.

Protection of the public - promoting the safety of communities and, to the degree possible, restoration of harm to victims, their families and communities.

McLaughlin Youth Center is considered the primary placement alternative for those adolescents who have committed serious delinquent offenses and for whom residential treatment is required.

McLaughlin Youth Center Philosophy of Treatment:

At McLaughlin Youth Center each resident is accepted for the unique individual that he or she is. We believe that residents need to learn to accept responsibility for their choices and the resulting consequences, and that they need the opportunity to learn skills that will help them be successful when they return to the community. We believe that working with families is an important part of helping kids. We believe that to become responsible, productive members of the community, residents need restorative experiences which provide accountability to their victims, repair harm where and whenever possible, and build a sense of commitment to the community.

McLaughlin's philosophy of treatment emphasizes:

- Responsibility for behavior,
- Skill building,
- Working with families,
- Accountability to the victims and community.

COMMUNITY DETENTION

Community Detention was established to allow detained juveniles who pose a moderate risk to the community to return to their homes. This is a better situation for some families and helps ease detention crowding. It is believed that by providing monitoring, counseling groups, positive activities and community service, juveniles can be connected back to the community. Programs are presently offered six days a week throughout the year.

DETENTION

There are three detention program units at McLaughlin Youth Center. Detention I & II houses male juveniles, and Cottage 5 houses females. The primary responsibility of the detention units is to provide a secure placement for juveniles who are charged with a crime and need to be detained; to assure a court appearance; to protect the community; and to protect the juveniles. The detention units are designed to provide a safe, secure and therapeutic setting for these youth pending release or disposition by the court.

SECURE TREATMENT UNIT (STX)

The Secure Treatment Unit (STX) is a multi-faceted long term treatment unit for institutionalized boys. It provides programming for newly institutionalized male residents who are undergoing orientation to treatment and the initial treatment planning phase. STX is also a long term treatment program for residents who require a more secure, structured program than Cottages Three and Four but not as intensive or structured a program as the Intensive Treatment Unit. STX will provide youth all of their treatment programming to completion and reintegration back to their home communities. STX also provides treatment programming for residents who, due to their shorter court orders, do not have much time to complete the long term treatment process.

The STX program is designed to assess and determine the individual treatment needs and goals and work with the residents to complete their treatment process. A variety of assessment tools are utilized to assess residents' treatment needs, areas of high risk, and to develop Initial Treatment Plans. Individual counseling, group counseling, and family orientation meetings and counseling are utilized to meet these goals. Residents are provided individual and group treatment work in areas such as Thinking Errors, Substance Abuse, Anger Management, Education/school, Independent living skills, Victim Impact, Denial, Assault Cycle, Family issues and Introductory Sex Offender Treatment if indicated. Residents are also provided regular physical education and health instruction in school and appropriate leisure activities in their spare time. The highly structured program assists residents in focusing their behavior so they can address their treatment issues and goals and either move onto the Cottage program to continue their treatment or work toward completing treatment on STX and return to the community.

In addition, The STX program also serves as a placement alternative for Cottage residents needing a more structured behavior program. These residents are provided with an opportunity to reflect, regroup and renew their attitude and efforts in treatment. The program's structure assists these residents to improve their behavior and return to the Cottage program.

Lastly, the STX program provides a Step-Down/gradual reintegration Program for residents from the Intensive Treatment Unit and out of area facilities who are preparing for reentry into the Anchorage area.

INTENSIVE TREATMENT UNIT (ITU)

The Intensive Treatment Unit was developed to accommodate residents who are believed to be dangerous to the community, those who require special protective care, and/or those who disruptive behaviors indicate that they cannot be adequately managed in the other program units.

The purpose of ITU is to provide a highly structured, secure setting in which youth with a serious offense history or significant behavior problems can recognize the need to change, both for the youth's and the community's sake. The program is based on the following concepts:

- 1) That limiting the opportunity for distractions will allow the resident to focus upon himself, his problems and the solutions to his problems.
- 2) That providing physical and emotional safety enables the individual to assess himself and start making appropriate decisions.
- 3) That emphasizing social, thinking and educational skill building will enhance self-esteem and facilitate transition into the community.

The ultimate goal of the ITU program is to be able move residents to the more open setting of the Cottage program in order to complete the rehabilitation and treatment process, without presenting a danger to themselves, their peers, staff or the community.

COTTAGE PROGRAMS



McLaughlin Youth Center's residential Cottage programs are based in two boys' Cottages and one girls' Cottage. The Cottages are located on a campus setting that emphasizes the development of internal controls with fewer physical barriers. To make this approach work, each resident is treated as a unique individual who is expected to control, and is responsible for, his/her behavior.

Working with the resident and his/her family, each resident's Treatment Team develops an individualized treatment plan, which includes the establishment of goals and strategies that make sense for the resident. Areas such as drug and alcohol issues, sexual abuse, physical abuse, low self-esteem, anger management, social skills, thinking skills, academic issues, and parenting skills are addressed in the treatment plan.

Behavioral and attitudinal change is accomplished through participation in group, individual, and family counseling. Other aspects of the program include recreational activities, school programming, restitution, community service, and learning to develop

healthy relationships with adults and peers. Our goal is for the resident to return to the community in the shortest possible time with a reasonable probability of success. This goal is accomplished by holding residents accountable for their behaviors, assisting them with developing the skills they will need to make good choices and stay on task with constructive goals, and identifying areas in which they can begin to repair harm to victims and the community.

When the resident has reached a point where the Treatment Team believes that he or she can begin returning to the community, the process of reintegration begins. Reintegration activities might include off-Center work, extended home passes, and school attendance in the community.

The following is specific information for each of the cottage programs:

Cottage 3 Program:

A 20 bed program for male sex offenders that focuses on breaking through denial/accepting responsibility for offenses, identifying/altering assault cycles, providing anger management skills, addressing chemical dependency issues, identifying/restructuring cognitive distortions (to include the development of socially acceptable attitudes, values and beliefs), facilitating victim impact and empathy components, dealing with victimization issues, and providing strategies/skills in the area of relapse prevention. Additionally, the program offers parental support, family counseling, and reintegration services.

Cottage 4 Program:

Cottage 4 is a 20-bed program that serves a diverse population of male residents. Some residents exhibit problems that are more clearly “delinquent” while others may experience mild to moderate mental health issues, and some a combination of both. As a result of the diverse population, the program emphasizes an individualized approach to the treatment process. The program’s foundation is based on cognitive behavioral treatment and is designed to hold residents accountable for their actions and teach them the skills they will need to succeed in the community upon release. Among the things Cottage 4 offers are Life Skills Training, Aggression Replacement Training, Family Support, Education, Substance Abuse Treatment, and opportunities for residents to participate in community service.

Cottage 5 Program: (All Female Residential Treatment Program and Detention Unit):

Girls Detention:

The Girls Detention program is based on a positive reinforcement points system. There are four status levels with graduated privileges: Orientation, Levels I, II and III. During your daughter’s stay on Denali Detention, treatment counselors closely monitor her behavior. At the end of the detention period a counselor writes a report, called a Detention Summary, to the judge, probation officer and attorney describing your

daughter's behavior in the program. The court uses this report to help make a decision as to whether to release your daughter to a less restrictive placement.

Girls Treatment Program:

The Gruening Girls Treatment Program Unit has 15-beds. The purpose of the unit is to provide a safe, secure and therapeutic environment for female residents that are institutionalized. The length of time that your daughter will be at McLaughlin Youth Center will be determined by her progress through the program and her overall behavior. The treatment program includes development of an individualized treatment plan for each resident and individual, group and family counseling to work on issues. The program focuses on developing social, coping, thinking and educational skills, and addresses areas such as victim impact, empathy, substance abuse, personal victimization, self-esteem and values.

TRANSITIONAL SERVICES UNIT (TSU)

The McLaughlin Transitional Services Unit (TSU) is designed to begin preparing each institutionalized youth for a gradual and successful reentry into the community from the time he/she is institutionalized. Planning for reintegration begins when a youth first enters institutional program placement and involves the cooperative assistance of institutional staff, TSU Reentry Caseworkers, and community service providers. Sixty days prior to their institutional release, residents begin participating in reintegration activities. These activities include structured outings in the community, along with group participation which provides information on community resources such as money management, employment, education and re-offense prevention planning. With the assistance of their Juvenile Probation Officer, Reentry Caseworker and Treatment Team, the resident will develop an Individualized Reentry Plan which will identify resources, strategies and actions necessary for a successful reentry into the community. After placement in the community, the resident will be provided with intensive supervision and support during their remaining time on probation.

RESIDENT RIGHTS

Every youth at McLaughlin Youth Center is to be treated fairly, and with dignity and respect. This does not mean that your child can do whatever he or she wants. All youth will be expected to act appropriately and to treat others with dignity and respect. It is very important you understand that we cannot let your child hurt themselves or others by words or actions. Nor can we let your child destroy property.

Your child has basic **rights** as a resident at MYC. These rights are listed below. They will be given a copy of their rights to sign. It is important you and your child understand the difference between rights and **privileges**. All the extra things your child might get here-- like staying up later and watching a movie, radios, passes, and their personal clothes-- are privileges which they may earn by making acceptable progress in their

treatment. These types of extras are not rights. All residents at MYC will have the following rights:

- Opportunity for eight hours of sleep per night.
- Opportunity for three (3) meals a day according to the institutional menu.
- Opportunity for at least one (1) hour of exercise each day.
- Opportunity for proper medical and dental care as defined by the MYC medical policy.
- Opportunity for family contact subject to the MYC visiting and telephone policy.
- Opportunity to maintain daily personal hygiene needs at a time set by MYC staff.
- Opportunity to write and receive mail subject to the MYC policy on mail.
- Opportunity to attend religious services as scheduled by MYC Chaplain and/or contact with minister, priest, and/or rabbi from your home church.
- Opportunity to contact attorney of record and/or probation officer within twenty-four (24) hours of your request. The staff of MYC will set the specific time.
- Opportunity to file a grievance through the MYC grievance policy.

HOW TO RESOLVE ISSUES/PROBLEMS

If you have any questions or concerns while your child is in McLaughlin please contact your child’s Treatment Team. Occasionally parents may have an issue that they feel is not being addressed to their satisfaction and wish to talk with a supervisor. Please keep in mind that we want to help you and your child and will do what we can, but not all requests can or will be honored. We encourage you to be involved in your child’s stay at McLaughlin and communicate often with staff addressing issues when they happen. A Shift Supervisor runs every shift on every unit, and every child’s treatment team is made up of a Primary Counselor and a Treatment Supervisor. A Juvenile Justice Unit Supervisor runs every unit in the facility. Detention and Treatment units are each managed by a Superintendent. Finally, the McLaughlin Superintendent is responsible for the facility as a whole. The following are lists of main unit phone numbers and Unit Supervisor numbers:

Unit	Unit Phone Number
Detention I	261-4366
Detention II	261-4369
Community Detention	261-4361
Secure Treatment Unit	261-4367
Intensive Treatment Unit	261-4368
Transitional Services Unit	261-4362
Cottage 3	261-4363
Cottage 4	261-4364
Cottage 5	261-4365

Unit	Unit Supervisor	Contact #
Detention I	Tommie Murray	261-4340
Detention II	Tracey Blees	261-4332

Community Detention	Phil Lucas	261-4509
Secure Treatment Unit	Sam Blackwell	261-4541
Intensive Treatment Unit	Jamie Mayo	261-4329
Transitional Service Unit	Russ Blocker	261-4330
Cottage 3	Tim Beall	261-4336
Cottage 4	Pete Harrison	261-4333
Cottage 5	Ron Bower	261-4334
Detention Superintendent	Abby Baskin-Piper	261-4317
Program Superintendent	Kathy Shankel	261-4318
Operation Superintendent	Rob Ruddy	231-4302
MYC Superintendent	Dean Williams	261-4342

If you have questions regarding your child's academic progress you are encouraged to contact your child's Treatment Team. To talk to school staff directly please call 742-1120.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

McLaughlin Youth Center enjoys close relationships with several community based programs that are co-located at the facility and assist in the care and treatment of youth. Boys and Girls Club has an on-site clubhouse for MYC youth that engages them in activities while in the institution with the hope that they will see greater options for positive activities when they are released. Big Brothers Big Sisters provides a mentor program which matches institutionalized youth with caring adults who want to provide additional pro-social relationships. The Foster Grandparent Program provides five foster grandparents who spend five days a week on the MYC Detention Units developing positive relationships with and encouraging the detained youth. Numerous other groups provide programs and staff, including Girl Scouts Susitna Council, Alaska Native Justice Center, Standing Together Against Rape, Municipality of Anchorage Health Department, and others.

RECREATION THERAPIST

A certified recreation specialist to facilitate the maintenance and expression of an appropriate leisure lifestyle for individuals with physical, mental, emotional or social limitations provides therapeutic recreation services. This is accomplished through programs and activities which assist the resident in eliminating barriers to leisure, developing appropriate social skills, teaching personal accountability, responsibility and education on community resources to be used post release. A high ropes course, indoor climbing wall and adventure-based curriculum are utilized to enhance learning and to provide opportunities for group cohesiveness, increase self-esteem and technical skills development.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

McLaughlin Youth Center's Medical Department is staffed by four full time Registered Nurses. Consultants include a Physician, Dentist, Dental Hygienist, Psychiatrist and Psychologist who augment the Nursing staff and contribute to the twenty-four hour medical care maintained by an on-call system.

The Nursing staff checks each new resident within twenty-four hours of his/her admission into the facility. Residents detained for five days receive a physical examination unless medical records indicate that an examination was received within the last year.

The Nursing staff is responsible for the operation of the Center's drug detection system. When Cottage program residents return from off-center passes, off-center employment, or off-center school, they are randomly tested for the use of illegal drugs.

The Nursing staff also provides consultation with McLaughlin staff regarding resident medications, injuries, or other medical matters on a 24-hour on-call basis.

All McLaughlin Youth Center residents receive emergency dental care when it is needed. Treatment program residents receive dental examinations to determine the need for treatment. MYC has its own dental clinic in which the consulting dentist conducts the majority of dental work.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the medical care of your child please call Nursing Supervisor, Lavon Ausman, at 261-4313.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES:

Mental Health Team:

The Mental Health Team has six full time mental health clinicians (MHC) who provide mental health services to youth at MYC. Mental health services include therapy, staff consultation, and staff training. Therapeutic services include mental health assessments, individual and family therapy, crisis intervention, and helping youth with suicidal thoughts and feelings. The MHC helps the staff develop treatment strategies, methods, techniques, and goals. MHC also trains staff how to work with youth with mental health issues.

Contract Psychological and Psychiatric Services:

Usually, the mental health clinicians can address the majority of mental health needs at MYC; however, on occasion, youth sometimes exhibit mental health problems that need additional psychological testing and/or medication. The MHC helps the facility staff identify youth who may benefit from referral/consultation with the contract psychologist and/or contract psychiatrist. MYC has two contract psychologists and one contract psychiatrist. The contract psychologists are available for doing psychological testing and consultation. The contract psychiatrist is available to prescribe medications related to the

treatment of mental health disorders. The contract psychiatrist holds clinics at MYC once a week to monitor mental health medication.

The mental health clinicians, contract psychologists, and contract psychiatrist are important because they help develop interventions for youth with specialized and/or challenging needs. Their evaluation of the youth's problems, needs, and abilities aid the staff's ability to provide a safe, caring and effective therapeutic environment.

SCHOOL PROGRAM

Residents of McLaughlin Youth Center are provided a comprehensive education program, which is funded through the State Department of Education and administered by the Anchorage School District. Since nearly two-thirds of the residents at McLaughlin are two or more years behind academically, education is strongly emphasized and summer school is provided to all residents. Six separate school programs are provided for residents in the Detention Units, the Closed Treatment Unit, the Secure Treatment Unit and the Cottage programs. Each program is separate and unique in location and curriculum, although every program strives to assist youth in achieving their full academic potential.

In addition to providing instruction in basic academic areas, vocational studies, and some elective areas, the goal is to assist students in finishing high school and earning a diploma. For those students unable to graduate, assistance in acquiring a G.E.D. certificate and appropriate job placement or training is provided. The school staff is dedicated to providing as many opportunities as possible to help McLaughlin residents become successful in school, and to prepare them for work or further education once they leave the program.

In cooperation with McLaughlin staff, the school provides a diversified intramural program and limited sports competition. Staff believe that by exposing residents to recreational and educational activities, they may grow to enjoy and participate in these positive pursuits after release. Additional extra-curricular activities include all-school assemblies, health fairs, career days, field trips, and multi-cultural clubs and activities such as Drama Club, Native Youth Olympics and Native Dance.

WIA AND OTHER WORK OPPORTUNITIES

The Anchorage School District manages the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program. Eligible residents work and learn employment skills on-center while earning minimum wage. Possible job opportunities can include grounds maintenance, housekeeping, and kitchen assistance. In order to be eligible youth must be enrolled in school, have a birth certificate, social security card, and a state I.D. card. These items are also needed for a resident to be able to gain off-center employment or be employable upon release from MYC.



COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Residents are involved in a variety of volunteer activities that are designed to “give back” and foster a sense of belonging to the community. The residents of the secure units provide services such as stuffing envelopes for non-profit agencies, making blankets for hospitals and the Crisis Pregnancy Nursery, and crocheting hats for the homeless. Cottage residents have worked on river-bank restoration at the Russian River, adopt-a-highway cleanup, adopt-a-park programs and campground improvement projects, as well as numerous other projects throughout the Municipality of Anchorage.

RELIGIOUS PROGRAMS

McLaughlin Youth Center utilizes qualified and trained religious volunteers to conduct religious services and provide religious instruction and education for those residents who request it. Volunteers from various denominations throughout the community come to the McLaughlin units on a scheduled basis several times each week to provide Sunday morning religious services, bible study, and group and individual religious counseling.

Every effort is made to provide each resident the opportunity for religious instruction, counseling, and service of his choice. The volunteer chaplain organizes, coordinates and supervises the individuals and groups who provide services.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

As a State facility, McLaughlin Youth Center not only serves the public, but is also benefited by the community's interest and involvement. All MYC residents will ultimately return to the community. The greater the degree of public understanding and support, the greater is residents' chance of success. Toward this end, McLaughlin has long maintained an "open door policy" to interested individuals and groups who wish to either tour the facility to gain greater understanding of our programs or to become involved in

McLaughlin's volunteer program. Residents also participate in community services and work programs to pay back to the community for some of the harm they have caused and help instill in them positive community values.

Volunteers:

The volunteer program allows interested adults to volunteer their time and talents working with youth in skill development activities such as guitar lessons, cooking or arts and crafts.

Volunteers may also be assigned to work with individual residents as on-center visitors or to escort residents on passes in the community. In this way, residents are provided with the opportunity to relate to appropriate adult role models and to benefit from forming relationships that often continue beyond their placement at McLaughlin.

Practicum Students:

University of Alaska and Alaska Pacific University students participate in practicum programs, special projects, counseling internships, and research at McLaughlin.

Foster Grandparents:

The Foster Grandparent organization provides Foster Grandparents who work 20 hours a week visiting living units and spending time with individual residents who have special needs.

Citizen Advisory Board:

The DJJ Anchorage Citizen Advisory Board is made up of volunteers from the community. It was formed in 1989 with the goal of improving community relations.

Staff Volunteers:

Many staff have become volunteers and share their recreational interests with residents by including them in activities during off-duty hours. This affords residents the opportunity to see staff in family situations and in other adult roles outside of the work place.

VISITATION GUIDELINES

McLaughlin Youth Center encourages visitation for residents from authorized individuals during specified visiting hours. Authorized visitors include the youth's parents or legal guardians, siblings, Guardian Ad Litem, probation officer, attorney, and clergy. Others wishing to visit may seek special permission from the unit supervisory staff. Out-of-town authorized visitors can make arrangements with supervisory staff for special visitation times. Exceptions to the specified visiting hours can also be made for visitors whose work schedules conflict with regular visiting hours, or for other valid reasons. **Photo identification is required of all visitors**, including siblings old enough to have a photo I.D. A youth may not be forced to visit with anyone, absent a court order. Specific guidelines identifying what items visitors are allowed to bring residents vary from unit to unit, and may be obtained from each of the units.

VISITING HOURS

The following is a list of the residential units and respective visiting hours:

Detention I Sunday: 5:45 pm – 7:00pm
 Wednesday: 5:45 pm – 7:00 pm

Detention II Sunday: 5:45 pm – 7:00 pm
 Wednesday: 5:45 pm – 7:00 pm

Secure Treatment Sunday: 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm
 Wednesday: 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm

Intensive Treatment Sunday: 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
 Wednesday: 6:30pm – 8:00 pm

Cottage 3 Sunday: 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
 Wednesday: 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Cottage 4 Sunday: 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
 Wednesday: 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Cottage 5 Sunday: 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
 Wednesday: 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

UNIT SCHEDULES

Residential units at McLaughlin Youth Center follow structured daily schedules. Though daily routines vary from unit to unit, there are commonalities. When school is in session, residents begin their day with breakfast, attending to personal hygiene, and cleaning individual sleeping quarters. On some units, a program meeting is then conducted in which each resident's performance in the program for the previous evening is reviewed. At 8:10 a.m., school begins with a 1-½ hour break for lunch. Classes conclude by 2:50 p.m. and residents then attend to homework, on-center employment, leisure time, etc. When school or summer school is not in session, residents participate in recreational activities, community service projects, on-center employment, treatment/educational groups, individual counseling, outings, etc. Evening activities typically include a resident program meeting to review the day, indoor and/or outdoor recreational activities, formal counseling/treatment groups, individual counseling sessions, family counseling, resident leisure time, visiting, unit clean-up activities, etc. Religious services conducted by volunteers from the community are offered on Sundays for those residents wishing to attend.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Terms used most frequently in Detention:

Arraignment Hearing: After the probation officer files a petition with the court, the first hearing scheduled is an arraignment hearing. The court must make a finding on probable cause based on the petition.

Detention Review Hearing: This hearing is held to update the court on the juvenile. If the juvenile has had any other violations or problems, the court will be informed at this time. The court will also be informed of any progress the juvenile has made.

Disposition Hearing: This hearing is similar to a “sentencing” in adult criminal court. Custody, placement, and/or treatment, length of probation, and probation conditions are determined. The court may also order restitution or community work service hours during this hearing.

Terms used most frequently in the treatment programs:

Initial Treatment Plan (ITP): The Initial Treatment Plan is a report that is written in the first 30 days after a resident is institutionalized. The ITP summarizes all pertinent information about a resident and his/her treatment needs and identifies the resident’s treatment goals. The ITP Meeting (which is the resident’s first CPM – see below) takes place with the resident and his/her parents or guardian, treatment team, probation officer and Transitional Services Unit counselor, and provides a time to discuss/clarify what the resident’s goals will be in treatment, and what the longer-term release/Aftercare plan will be.

Case Planning Meeting (CPM): Case Planning Meetings (CPMs) are conducted every 30 days upon the youth’s institutionalization and continue until the youth is released from the facility. CPMs are comprised of the youth and parents or guardian, treatment team, probation officer, and any community service providers involved with the youth and his/her treatment. The purpose of the meetings is to provide ongoing evaluation of the youth’s treatment progress and needs and amend or establish new goals if necessary.

Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI, aka “YLS”): The “YLS” is a risk/needs assessment designed to measure the major risk factors and needs of all program youth. The information gained from the YLS is utilized in the development of each youth’s ITP and Individualized Reentry Plan. The YLS is used to assist in determining the level of community supervision a youth will need once released into their community.

BP or Behavior Program: A reduced status for residents to focus on behavior.

Review Board: The McLaughlin Youth Center Review Board is an administrative review and decision-making board on major issues involving McLaughlin Youth Center residents. Review Board consists of the Superintendent I of the Cottage Programs, the

Superintendent I of the Detention Programs, School Principal, and an individual appointed by the Superintendent (usually a Probation Supervisor). Review Board jurisdiction includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following:

- approval of Program institutional releases;
- approval of authorized resident passes;
- major disciplinary actions for Program and Detention residents;
- major status/program changes;
- off-center clearance for resident employment or school;
- review the progress of Program residents in treatment;
- approval of research projects involving the institution and its residents;
- law violations by residents;
- reclassification recommendations;
- hear cases involving resident grievances;
- out-of-area community service projects;
- camping trips and other therapeutic outings.

CONCLUSION

We understand that having your child in the state's custody and in an institution can be difficult for both you and your child. This guide has been developed to answer some of your initial questions and concerns. We hope that you will ask many questions, come to understand your child's treatment and be involved in the treatment process as much as possible. Your positive involvement and support in your child's treatment is essential for your child's progress. If you have any concerns or questions please call MYC staff.

Thank you; we look forward to working with you during your child's stay at MYC.

WEB SITES FOR PARENTS

- www.loveandlogic.com/Pages/0700parents.html
- www.parentsinc.org
- www.ak.org
- www.aacap.org American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- www.parenting.org
- www.aamft.org American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
- <http://health.hss.state.ak.us/djj/> DJJ website
- <http://www.gopll.com/contact.asp> Parenting with Love and Limits