

Indian Health Service/California Area 2018 Annual Tribal Consultation

Update – Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center

Marla S. Jones
Deputy Health Systems Administrator



Photo by *Dave Adams Photography*

YRTC Outreach Efforts:

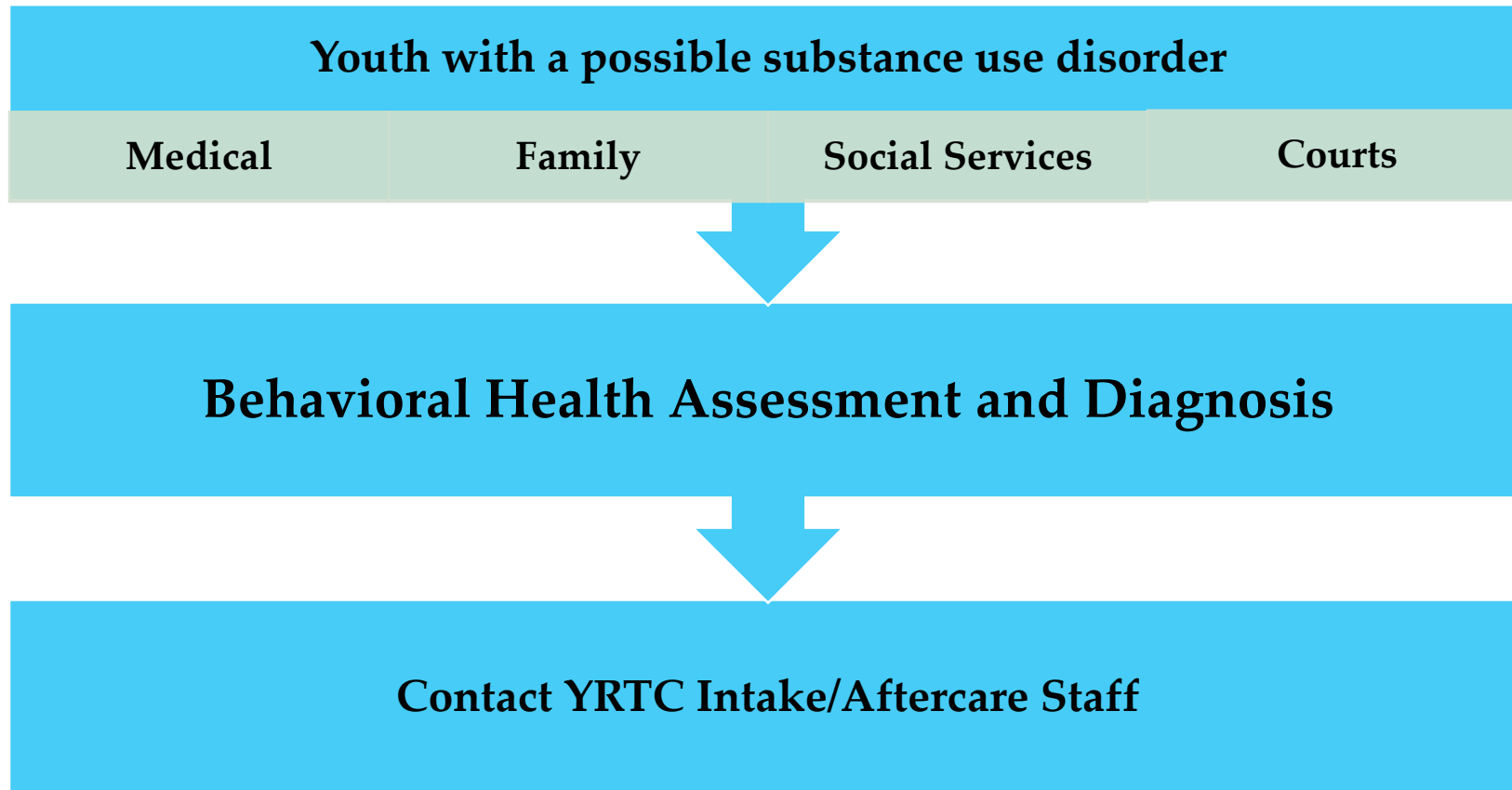
- 5 minute YRTC video.
- YRTC Facebook Page.
- Site tours of the facility.
- Presentations to Tribal leaders, healthcare programs, and the community.

Opening Activity:

- **Intake/Aftercare team began accepting admission applications April 2017.**
- **All staff must undergo extensive training.**
- **July 24, 2017 - Accepted our first resident into the Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center.**

Admissions/Intake Program:

- Referral documents submitted to Intake/Aftercare Coordinators:





```
graph TD; A[YRTC Staff sends Admission packet to referring agency] --> B[Application reviewed by the YRTC Admission Committee  
(Admission Committee meets every Wednesday)]; B --> C[Decision made regarding Admission]; C --> D[Yes  
Full application sent to referring agent]; C --> E[No  
Alternative location for placement will be found];
```

YRTC Staff sends Admission packet to referring agency

Application reviewed by the YRTC Admission Committee
(Admission Committee meets every Wednesday)

Decision made regarding Admission

Yes

Full application sent to referring agent

No

Alternative location for placement will be found

Clinical/Treatment Program:

- 3 Licensed Clinical Social Workers.
- 1 Substance Use Disorder Counselor (will have 3).
- 2 Psychiatric Technicians (will have 3).
- Tele-psychiatric evaluations are conducted within 72 hours by the contracted IHS psychiatrist.
- Implementing AA Meetings and NA meetings as part of treatment program.



Nursing Program:

- Hired Director of Nursing / Nurse Practitioner.
- Currently 1 Nurse Practitioner; 3 Registered Nurses; and 2 Licensed Vocational Nurses.
- Provide medication management and health education.



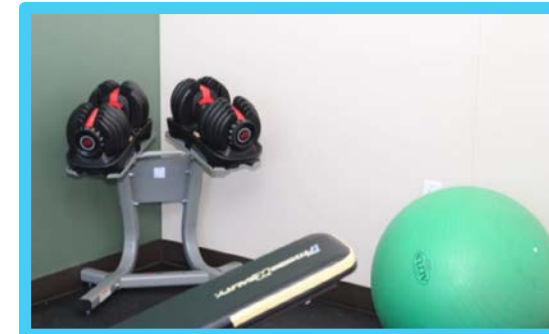
Educational Services Program:

- Hired 1 credentialed full-time teacher who provides core content courses in math, science, social studies, and English.
- Continued discussions with Bureau of Indian Education, Sherman Indian School, regarding collaborative efforts on providing a credentialed education program.
- Upon request, and after discharge, the Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center will provide a detailed transcript of all courses completed.



Residential Services Program:

- Desert Sage currently employs 23 Resident Assistants.
- Two pods currently in operation – One Female Pod and One Male Pod (each Pod accommodates 8 Residents).
- Resident Assistants are stewards to our Residents and provide life skill directions in the areas of cleaning, grooming, hygiene, laundering, and everyday life rules and behavior, etc.



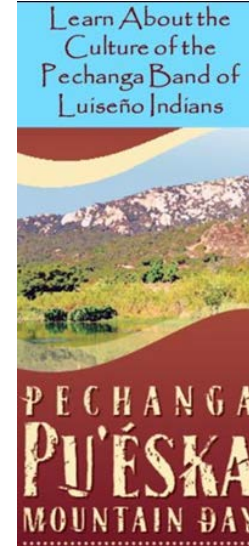
Resident Activities:

- Activities:

- Educational Field Trips
- Cultural Events
- Outdoor Recreation

- Cultural/Recreational Specialist:

- Will work with Native American resources to bring culturally-acceptable activities to the youth (Elder Speakers, Community Speakers, Artists, Crafts, etc.).
- Will assure recreational/physical activities are suitable and meet the needs of the residents.



Update on Food Service Program:

- Desert Sage currently employs 5 Food Service employees.
- Food Service Program prepares three hot meals a day, as well as access to a salad bar and snacks at night.
- Supervisor works with CAO Dietician/Nutritionist to assure that nutritional and dietary needs are met (portion control, sodium content, calorie count, etc.).
- Supervisor works with Nursing Department to assure dietary needs (allergies, sodium intake, gluten/dairy restrictions, etc.) are addressed.



Additional Ongoing YRTC Projects:

- The Guest Services Program
- Health Information Management
- The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)



Challenges:

- Recruitment and Retention Efforts.
- Background Investigation Backlog.
- Census/Referrals (getting information out to community members).

Contact Information:

Mark Espinosa

**Health System Administrator/ YRTC Director
Indian Health Service/ California Area Office**

Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center

39990 Faure Road

Hemet, CA 92544

951-708-4039

mark.Espinosa@ihs.gov

www.ihs.gov/california

Marla S. Jones

**Deputy Health System Administrator
Indian Health Service/ California Area Office**

Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center

39990 Faure Road

Hemet, CA 92544

951-708-4040

marla.jones@ihs.gov

www.ihs.gov/california