



# CAO INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE SACRED OAKS HEALING CENTER

WHITE PAPER PRESENTATION

APRIL 14, 2021



## WHITE PAPER/VOTING PREVIEW

- **Sacred Oaks Healing Center's date to begin serving patients will be dependent upon the upcoming vote results**
  - **Age and CNACI clearance timelines**
- **Whitepaper was prepared on the proposal to change the age of patients served at Sacred Oaks to 18-24**
- **Opportunity for California AI/AN community to expand services to individuals in need beyond what any other IHS area has to date**

## WHITE PAPER/VOTING PREVIEW

- **Proposal would provide ASAM 3.5 level care to 18-24 year olds**
- **Expansion would provide an opportunity for youth who complete treatment at Desert Sage or didn't have the chance to get care to have another opportunity for needed care at Sacred Oaks**
- **Current facility limitations (physical design) don't allow for appropriate patient safety to serve individuals 12-24 at each facility**
- **Allow CA Tribal Nations to exercise their sovereignty by creating a needed level of care that does not currently exist, setting the bar for expansion of care to other areas**

# Sacred Oaks Healing Center

## Age Change Consideration

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The YRTC's have traditionally served youth aged 12-17. The CA Area IHS has a unique opportunity to expand our services to emerging adults ages 18-24. The change would increase access to substance youth treatment by offering services tailored to the specific needs of 12-17 and 18-24 year olds.





# FAQ's

## Why should we consider increasing the age range at Sacred Oaks?

- With one YRTC focused on youth aged 12-17 and the other on youth aged 18-24 years old, we can provide more services, treat more youth, and increase our community impact.
- The program will offer culturally-focused treatment designed to meet the specific developmental needs of this age group.
- 18-24-year-olds often don't feel as if they have much in common with older adults who receive treatment at other facilities. This model will focus on the unique challenges that arise between late adolescence and early adulthood.

## What if there aren't enough beds for the 12-17 year olds?

- Desert Sage can treat up to 32 youth at one time. Typically, 16 beds are allocated to males and 16 beds to females. If needed, bedrooms can be reassigned to the other gender to accommodate an influx of referrals.
- Desert Sage operates at about 40% capacity with an average of 39 youth admitted per year. To date, Desert Sage has not required a waiting list or reached capacity at any given time. If that changes, we have the option to pivot Sacred Oaks back to serving adolescents.

## Do we need a facility that treats 18-24-year-olds?

- Sometimes called transitional-aged youth, the *"in-between"* nature of this age contributes to a common set of developmental challenges. They no longer identify with adolescents yet often are under-prepared for life as an independent adult.
- **One in five** (20%) people seeking substance use treatment is between 18-24. This age group is **twice as likely** to have a substance use diagnosis as adolescents or older adults.
- No other YRTC addresses the unique developmental and treatment needs of transition-aged youth.

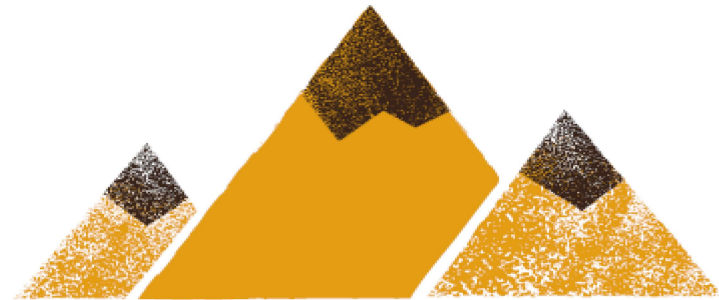
# FAQ's

## **How can families support their children in treatment if they can't travel to the YRTC?**

- Supportive family members offer an important protective influence on youth. Even when distance isn't a factor, families often still find it challenging to visit. The YRTC staff works with each family's unique circumstances to find creative ways to support their child.
- COVID-19 safety precautions required us to find more creative ways to involve families in the youth's care. To make virtual visits easier, we updated our telehealth platform to Zoom. It has been more reliable, and families like that they can join in family therapy from their smartphone, tablet, or computer.
- Youth can use Zoom to video chat with their families. Families will soon be able to use Zoom to connect with their kids outside of therapy too. Virtual visits will offer families another way to stay connected when onsite visits are less accessible.

## **Families from Northern Tribes have been waiting for a facility that is closer to their homes. Will IHS help families that have difficulties traveling to the YRTCs?**

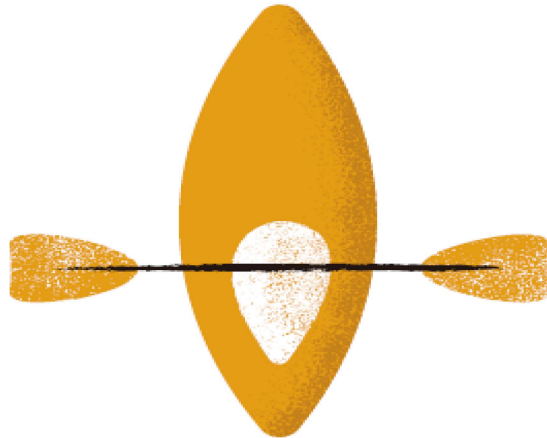
- We want to ensure that every eligible youth can get treatment when they need it. We know transportation can be a barrier. Regardless of the youth's age, the YRTCs remain committed to working with each family to minimize barriers to treatment.



# FAQ's

## **If we approve the age change, is the decision final?**

- Any changes to expand our patient group will be a test. The YRTC and CAO leadership will keep in regular contact with our Tribal leaders to provide updates.
- The CAO and YRTCs meet every 3 months with the California Area Tribal Advisory Committee (CATAC) and the Youth Regional Treatment Center Tribal Advisory Committee (YRTC TAC). We share updates, discuss challenges, listen to concerns, and answer questions that help us make decisions that best serve the communities.
- If the change does not meet the community's needs, Sacred Oaks will pivot back to treating 12-17-year-olds. Before the switch can be made, all current patients (18-24) will be provided the time they need to complete their treatment.



## **Will the staff at Sacred Oaks still be required to complete a background check?**

- ALL YRTC staff must pass the CNACI clearance process.
- Requiring the CNACI for all YRTC staff will ensure that either facility can treat 12-17-year-olds.
- If the increased age is approved, Sacred Oaks can start accepting 18-24-year-olds while the background checks are in progress.



QUESTIONS?





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# CONTACT INFORMATION

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