## EL DORADO COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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Brian J. Richart Chief Probation Officer

El Dorado County Probation Department operates a Secure Youth Track Facility (SYTF) out of the Juvenile Treatment Center (JTC) located in South Lake Tahoe, California. There is currently one youth assigned to the program who has the potential to transition to a less restrictive setting within the next 12 months. El Dorado County Probation is dedicated to ensuring the youth has a successful and seamless transition to the community and is diligently working on enhancing existing relationships and developing others with partners with the same vision.

El Dorado County Probation Department has a notable collaboration with Lake Tahoe Community College (LTCC), Rising Scholars Program which has been instrumental in creating a brighter future for this youth. The Rising Scholars Program continues to support the development of this youth by offering him an employment opportunity through their program on the campus of LTCC. The youth would not only be gaining employability skills and learning from professionals in the field, but also reciprocating the support and empathy he was given to other incarcerated students. Rising Scholars staff are devoted to making a sustainable difference in the youth's life and contributing to his successful transition into adulthood by creating and offering him opportunities.

Lake Tahoe Community College has multiple sources of funding to support students, one of which is the Adult Education Block grant which could be utilized for subsidized housing should the youth be granted the award. The youth must continue involvement in LTCC education programming by participating in a work-based education or apprenticeship. Both options would offer growth, support, and additional rehabilitation for the youth while increasing the youth's ability to obtain a living wage job. If granted these funds, LTCC Rising Scholars Program and the El Dorado County Probation Department would expand a successful partnership to rehabilitate South Lake Tahoe's youth by meeting the student's basic needs in a highly impacted community while preparing them for workforce demands.

El Dorado County Probation Department recognizes the critical importance of education in breaking the cycle of recidivism and providing opportunities for personal growth and success. The youth in reference remains currently enrolled in LTCC but has been accepted at California State University (CSU) Chico in pursuit of a bachelor's degree in Sociology starting in the fall through an online program. CSU Chico recently became a Project Rebound campus however, are awaiting funding from the Cal State Chancellor's Office. Once fully implemented, their goal is to connect students to existing resources on campus including financial aid, academic advising, tutoring, basic needs, etc. Project Rebound will also pay for books and supplies for eligible students and will have peer support. Project Rebound also hopes to receive funding to help students with community-based housing. Another initiative which could be a critical opportunity for the youth.

Additionally, Project Rebound at CSU Chico plans to hire a student assistant with hopes to create additional employment opportunities to support their initiative. Most positions will be located on CSU Chico campus however, they also want to explore options to connect incarcerated youth with work study positions. This youth expressed an interest in obtaining employment with Project Rebound and giving back to the CSU Chico student community.

El Dorado County Probation Department has a collaboration with Northern California Construction Training (NCCT), which provides individuals with skills training in the construction industry. NCCT is a free pre-apprenticeship program which not only assists individuals build knowledge and skills in the construction trade, but also helps individuals get placed into various construction union apprenticeship programs or other construction career pathways. Should this youth with to diversify their focus and remain in El Dorado County, the youth could be enrolled in the NCCT.

El Dorado County Probation Department has additional partnerships with Tahoe Youth and Family Services (TYFS), Lets Recover addiction services, and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). TYFS could be an excellent resource for this youth as they provide long and short-term housing in South Lake Tahoe to eligible transitioning age youth up to 24 years of age. They also can provide case management services to this youth which would promote success upon release. Let's Recover Addiction Services also offers case management services. The youth would be provided a care coordinator who could help him with his transition to the community. Let's Recover will connect the youth to community resources, help him apply for housing, submit job applications, and enroll in vocational classes as appropriate. They also provide counseling services and other resources to meet any additional needs to support this youth as he transitions to the community. CASA is committed to advocating and supporting this youth as he transitions to a less restrictive setting. Services will be tailored to meet the individual needs of the youth and could include housing, clothing, school supplies etc., depending on funding availability.

The Department of Rehabilitation has provided supportive services to youth involved in the justice system in El Dorado County by providing opportunities to enhance a youth's personal growth and success in the community. This came in the form of financial assistance and other rehabilitative type services; services to ensure youth obtains stable employment, and/or services to guarantee successful education participation.

The Department of Rehabilitation is an excellent community-based resource which could positively impact and enhance the life of this youth as he transitions into the community and support his success. El Dorado County Probation Department is devoted to developing and expanding a collective partnership with the Department of Rehabilitation and eagerly anticipates how the ongoing collaboration could empower, inspire, and improve the life of this youth. If the youth decides to utilize this resource it could open pathways to success in both education and employment.

El Dorado County Probation Department understands that reentry is a critical transition period for this youth and the Department is excited about the opportunities that await this youth as he transitions into a less restrictive setting in the community. Our existing partnerships with agencies and the desire to expand, develop, and cultivate new affiliations and alliances with other agencies will allow for a transformative impact in the life of this youth. El Dorado County Probation Department is enthusiastic about the expansion of creating exceptional opportunities to promote growth, rehabilitation, and create a successful and seamless transition to a future that is optimistic and full of hope.

Respectfully submitted,

KACI SMITH

SUPERINTENDENT

By: Riann Giovacchini LCSW Mental Health Program Coordinator

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