Yolo County Juvenile Detention Facility
Secure Care Provider for the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)
Summary of Unaccompanied Youth in-custody and
Procedural Summary

Unaccompanied Children (UC) are screened by ORR at intake to determine the appropriate placement with consideration to child welfare best practices, the needs of the individual youth, and public safety. ORR places UC in the least restrictive setting appropriate to meet the youth’s needs and may place a youth in a shelter facility, therapeutic foster care or group home, staff secure or secure care facility. A secure care provider is designed for youth who require very close supervision and may need the additional external controls and the physical structure of a secure facility. Less than 2% of all UC’s are placed in secure care, with the vast majority of youth being placed in a lower level of care. The secure care placement at the YCJDF is one of only two secure placements in the country.

In making determinations for secure placements, ORR considers if the unaccompanied child:

- Has committed, threatened to commit, or engaged in violent or malicious behavior that poses a danger to others
- Has committed, threatened to commit, or engaged in serious, self-harming behavior that poses a danger to self whereby it is determined the youth’s degree of violence may not be managed by a residential treatment program
- Has been adjudicated as a delinquent or convicted of a crime as an adult
- Was charged or is chargeable with a crime or delinquent offense
- Needs further assessment for self-disclosed violent criminal history

The following depicts information regarding youth in Yolo secure placement as of March 30, 2017. On the aforementioned date, 18 youth were in care.

UC Case Summaries

A. **Background:** Youth A. Doe is a 17-year-old native of Mexico. Youth entered ORR program on 3/15/17 and was placed directly into Yolo secure care. **Secure Placement Rationale:** This youth was placed at Yolo by intake due to felony adjudications for violence against members of his family. This youth was deemed a danger to the community; his victims have active protective orders against him. The youth was detained in an adult facility in Texas and will be on probation upon release. **Case Status:** This youth is seeking adjustment of status but has refused to meet with legal counsel making it difficult to identify potential legal options. **Rationale for Current Placement:** Youth remains at Yolo and is receiving extensive services and undergoing continued assessment in order to stabilize his behavior enough to step him down to a less restrictive setting.

B. **Background:** Youth B. Doe is a 16-year old native of Honduras. Youth entered ORR program on
11/16/16 and was placed at Yolo on 1/28/17. **Secure Placement Rationale:** The youth was transferred to Yolo for engaging in violent behavior, physically assaulted peers in the facility, which behavior posed a risk to the prior program placement and the youth in the program. The youth also threatened to kill staff members and peers. The youth is a documented gang member. **Case Status:** The youth is seeking adjustment of status and, while at Yolo, has been provided with a pro-bono attorney. No formal petitions for status adjustment have been submitted. **Rationale for Current Placement:** The youth engaged in violent behavior at Yolo during his first few weeks of placement such as assault on staff and peer (2/8/17) and defiance (2/7/17, 2/8/17 and 3/18/17). The youth has since greatly improved his behavior, working collaboratively with his clinician to identify and utilize appropriate behavior modification and coping skills. Yolo has determined this youth now meets criteria for consideration of a step-down to a less restrictive setting and the youth has been approved for a step-down. He is currently pending acceptance from a staff-secure facility.

C. **Background:** Youth C. Doe is a 17-year old native of Mexico. Youth entered ORR program on 2/13/17 and was placed directly into Yolo secure care. **Secure Placement Rationale:** This youth was placed at Yolo by intake due to his extensive criminal history. This youth’s criminal convictions date back to 2012 and include: aggravated DUI, drug smuggling and abuse. The youth also engaged in behavioral issues such as assaults on other inmates and possession of contraband while incarcerated in an adult facility in Arizona. **Case Status:** He is requesting repatriation to his country of origin. The youth attended immigration court this week and will be repatriated within the next two weeks. **Rationale for Current Placement:** The youth is pending pick up by ICE and transfer of the youth would prolong his repatriation. Transfer would not be in the best interest of the child.

D. **Background:** Youth D. Doe is a 16-year old native of Mexico. Youth entered ORR program on 11/18/16 and was placed at Yolo on 12/7/16. **Secure Placement Rationale:** This youth was transferred to Yolo due to self-disclosure of homicide and torture in home country. The youth required a needs assessment for these disclosures as per ORR policy. **Case Status:** The youth is seeking repatriation to his country of origin; however, immigration has informed us that his legal file was lost in his transfer and they have not been able to secure a court date for this youth. **Rationale for Current Placement:** The youth has displayed behavioral issues while at Yolo including “gassing” staff, attempted assault on staff (2/17/17, 2/18/17), gang related behavior (12/30/16 and 2/18/7) self-harm (1/5/17, 1/18/17, 1/24/17, 2/21/17 and 3/17/17) and defiance (12/19/16, 12/26/16,1/20/17, 1/27/17, 1/27/17, 2/13/17 and 2/17/17). Yolo has been working with Immigration and the Consulate to determine the validity of his disclosure. In addition, Yolo is currently working with law enforcement in Mexico as there have been reports that the youth is wanted in Mexico for prosecution. The youth’s behavior has improved. Yolo has determined this youth now meets criteria for consideration of a step-down to a less restrictive setting. Yolo has staffed the case with ORR who is in agreement with a transfer for this youth. The youth is pending acceptance to a staff secure placement at this time. The investigation will continue at the youth’s new placement.

E. **Background:** Youth E. Doe is a 14-year old native of Mexico. Youth entered ORR program on 11/21/15 and was placed at Yolo on 12/20/16. **Secure Placement Rationale:** The youth was placed at Yolo due to engaging in violent and aggressive behavior towards previous program staff by means of physical assault, aggressive posturing, threats of physical aggression and walking out of the program while on one-to-one supervision. These behaviors posed a risk to
the prior program placement and the other youth in care. Additionally, the youth disclosed serious criminal history in home country and required a needs assessment for said disclosures. The youth is undergoing age redetermination as he appears older than his stated age, and has provided inconsistent information regarding his name and date of birth. The youth is a documented cartel gang member and has disclosed engaging in torture and homicide of opposing cartel members. **Case Status:** The youth is requesting repatriation; he is scheduled to appear in court in June 2017. **Rationale for Current Placement:** The youth has engaged in serious behavioral incidents while at Yolo including: assaults on staff (1/1/17, 2/8/17, 3/19/17, 3/21/17), assault on peers (1/23/17), “gassing” staff and self-harming behavior (1/1/17, 1/5/17, 2/6/17, 3/17/17). Yolo is actively working with the Consulate and Immigration to determine the youth’s identity and validity of criminal history disclosures. Youth remains at Yolo and is receiving extensive services and undergoing continued assessment in order to stabilize his behavior enough to step him down to a less restrictive setting. The investigation on this youth’s identity is still underway with the Consulate. Bone density scans determined this individual to be a minor but his identity is still under investigation.

F. **Background:** Youth F. Doe is a 16-year old native of Honduras. Youth entered ORR program on 10/22/16 and was placed at Yolo on 12/30/16. **Secure Placement Rationale:** The youth was placed at Yolo due to engaging in violent and aggressive behavior such as physically assaulting program staff and threatening to hurt others. **Case Status:** The youth is seeking reunification with an identified sponsor who has accepted sponsorship conditions. **Rationale for Current Placement:** Since his placement at Yolo he has engaged in several assaults on peers (2/5/17, 2/13/17, 2/24/17, 3/2/17). Yolo completed a thorough assessment of the youth and family in accordance with ORR policy. Specific recommendation were made by ORR to ensure the safe release of the youth to the community. Family sessions and a comprehensive safety plan have been completed and sent to ORR for review. This youth is pending final release decision to sponsor from ORR.

G. **Background:** Youth G. Doe is a 14-year old native of Mexico. Youth entered ORR program on 6/1/15 and was placed at Yolo on 1/14/17. **Secure Placement Rationale:** The youth was placed at Yolo due to engaging in violent and aggressive behavior such as making death threats to the Case Coordinator. This behavior posed a risk to the prior program placement and the other youth in care. In addition, the youth has a criminal record and is pending adjudication in Texas for felony assault charges. **Case Status:** This youth is seeking adjustment of status. No formal petitions for status adjustment have been submitted. Specific information required from the legal service provider was recently submitted indicating the type of legal relief for which this youth is eligible. **Rationale for Current Placement:** The youth has been working to address acting out behavior with his clinician. He has engaged in some behaviors issues such as assaulting a peer (2/12/17) and defiance (2/13/17). Yolo has determined this youth now meets criteria for consideration of a step-down to a less restrictive setting - the youth has refrained from engaging in serious violent behavior since 2/13/17. Yolo has staffed the case with ORR who is in agreement with a transfer for this youth. The youth is pending acceptance to a residential treatment facility or therapeutic staff secure placement at this time.

H. **Background:** Youth H. Doe is a 16-year old native of Guatemala. Youth entered ORR program on 1/17/16 and was placed at Yolo on 12/14/16. **Secure Placement Rationale:** The
Youth was placed at Yolo due to engaging in violent and aggressive behavior such as physically assaulting the program director by striking him in his genitals. The youth's behavior posed a risk to the prior program placement staff and the other youth in care. **Case Status:** The youth is seeking reunification but has been unsuccessful in obtaining a sponsor. The youth's concurrent plan is adjustment of status. No formal petitions for status adjustment have been submitted. **Rationale for Current Placement:** The youth has had several behavioral issues since his arrival including: sexually inappropriate behavior (2/8/17, 2/12/17, 2/13/17, 2/24/17, 3/6/17, 3/7/17) assaults on peers (3/2/17 and 3/8/17) defiance (1/28/17, 2/12/17, 2/14/17, 2/26/17, 2/28/17) and self-harm (2/12/17). Yolo requested additional assessment on the youth to ensure he was appropriately placed. These assessments included: a psychological evaluation, educational assessment, hearing and vision assessments, and cognitive assessments. In reviewing these assessments, Yolo has determined this youth now meets criteria for placement in a residential treatment facility, based on the recommendation from the psychologist who assessed him. Yolo has staffed the case with ORR who is in agreement with a transfer for this youth. The youth is pending acceptance to a residential treatment facility at this time.

I. **Background:** Youth I. Doe is a 17-year old native of El Salvador. Youth entered ORR program on 12/20/16 and was placed at Yolo on 1/26/17. **Secure Placement Rationale:** The youth was placed at Yolo due to engaging in serious sexually inappropriate violent behavior, possible sexual battery in previous program placement, which behavior posed a risk to the facility and other youth in the program. **Case Status:** The youth is seeking reunification. Yolo completed an in-depth assessment of the alleged behaviors that took place at previous placement, working in collaboration with CPS and law enforcement who took the reports. No additional information was discovered regarding the allegations of behavior, law enforcement did not continue their investigation, nor did CPS. **Rationale for Current Placement:** Yolo has determined that the youth is eligible to be reunified with his identified sponsor. All conditions have been met for release. Once medical clearance is received for this youth a request will be submitted for release to sponsor with post release services.

J. **Background:** Youth J. Doe is a 16-year old native of Guatemala. Youth entered ORR program on 2/11/16 and was placed at Yolo on 12/14/16. **Secure Placement Rationale:** The youth was placed at Yolo due to felony criminal assault charges against program staff out of New York. **Case Status:** The youth is requesting adjustment of status. No formal petitions for status adjustment have been submitted. **Rationale for Current Placement:** This youth has engaged in several behavioral incidents including: self-harm (1/30/17, 2/1/17, 2/22/17, 3/9/17, 3/21/17) assault on staff (3/5/17), defiance (12/26/16, 12/28/16, 1/7/17, 1/10/17, 1/18/17, 1/30/17, 2/5/17) and possession of dangerous contraband (2/22/17). A psychological evaluation was completed. After reviewing the evaluation, Yolo determined the youth now meets criteria for consideration of a step down. Yolo has staffed the case with ORR who is in agreement with a transfer for this youth. Youth is pending acceptance and release to a program.

K. **Background:** Youth K. Doe is a 17-year old native of Nigeria. Youth entered ORR program on 3/15/17 and was placed directly into Yolo secure care. **Secure Placement Rationale:** He was placed at Yolo by intake due to an aggravated sexual battery charge out of Florida, which caused a revocation of his student visa. The youth was charged as an adult and was detained in an adult facility. **Case Status:** The youth is requesting repatriation. Yolo has worked
collaboratively with Immigration and the youth’s private attorney to expedite the process. The youth has not yet been scheduled for court. **Rationale for Current Placement:** Youth remains at Yolo and is receiving extensive services and undergoing continued assessment in order to stabilize his behavior enough to step him down to a less restrictive setting.

L. **Background:** Youth L. Doe is a 17-year old native of Mexico. Youth entered ORR program on 1/21/17 and was placed at Yolo on 1/26/17. **Secure Placement Rationale:** The youth was placed at Yolo by intake due to being in possession of a controlled substance as well as being a validated gang member. The youth is on probation in Texas. **Case Status:** The youth is seeking reunification. A sponsor has been identified and assessed for appropriateness. **Rationale for Current Placement:** The youth has engaged in an assault on a peer (1/27/17) as well as defiant and inciting behavior (2/14/17 and 3/13/17). Yolo has determined this youth now meets criteria for consideration of a step down. Yolo has staffed the case with ORR who is in agreement with a transfer for this youth. The youth is pending acceptance to a staff secure placement at this time.

M. **Background:** Youth M. Doe is a 15-year old native of Mexico. Youth entered ORR program on 3/12/17 and was placed directly into Yolo secure care. **Secure Placement Rationale:** He was placed at Yolo by intake due to possession of firearm and firearm discharge adjudications in the State of Texas. **Case Status:** The youth is seeking reunification. A sponsor has been identified and Yolo is currently assessing the sponsor. **Rationale for Current Placement:** Youth remains at Yolo and is receiving extensive services and undergoing continued assessment in order to stabilize his behavior enough to step him down to a less restrictive setting.

N. **Background:** Youth N. Doe is a 16-year old native of El Salvador. Youth entered ORR program on 1/23/17 and was placed directly into Yolo secure care. **Secure Placement Rationale:** The youth was placed at Yolo by intake due to attempted drug importation, transportation of drugs and misconduct involving weapons. The youth was housed in an adult facility where he received multiple infractions for assaults on fellow inmates. This youth will be on probation upon his return to the community. **Case Status:** The youth was requesting reunification with an identified sponsor. However, in collaboration with probation in Texas as well as Texas CPS, it was determined that the youth is not permitted to return to the custody of his mother as it is not in his best interest. **Rationale for Current Placement:** The youth will be returned to Texas for appropriate placement by Texas CPS as Texas CPS has legal custody of the youth; his mother’s rights have been terminated. Dependency paperwork was filed with the court to have the youth become a dependent of Texas CPS.

O. **Background:** Youth O. Doe is a 16-year old native of El Salvador. Youth entered ORR program on 3/25/17 and was placed directly into Yolo secure care. **Secure Placement Rationale:** The youth was placed at Yolo by intake due to his extensive criminal history which includes: adult charges of conspiracy, armed robbery and assault, participating in a criminal street gang, dangerous weapons (knife) with intent to injure, and harass/commit a crime upon a person due to race/religious belief. The youth is a validated MS-13 gang member. **Case Status:** Youth is seeking repatriation and has an order of removal. **Rationale for Current Placement:** Youth remains at Yolo and is receiving extensive services and undergoing continued assessment in order to stabilize his behavior enough to step him down to a less restrictive setting.

P. **Background:** Youth P. Doe is a 14-year old native of Honduras. Youth entered ORR program on
1/25/17 and was placed directly into Yolo secure care. **Secure Placement Rationale:** He was placed at Yolo by intake due to assault charges that are pending adjudication at this time. The youth is currently undergoing criminal court in Yolo County due to assaulting staff (2/26/17). **Case Status:** The youth is requesting adjustment of status. No formal petitions for status adjustment have been submitted. **Rationale for Current Placement:** Youth remains at Yolo and is receiving extensive services and undergoing continued assessment in order to stabilize his behavior enough to step him down to a less restrictive setting. Per criminal court judge the youth cannot be transferred until the conclusion of his delinquency proceedings.

Q. **Background:** Youth Q. Doe is a 17-year old native of Mexico. Youth entered ORR program on 3/12/17 and was placed directly into Yolo secure care. **Secure Placement Rationale:** The youth was placed at Yolo by intake due to an adult conviction of felony possession of marijuana for sale. The youth will be on parole until May of this year. **Case Status:** The youth is requesting repatriation. Yolo has requested to expedite the repatriation process. **Rationale for Current Placement:** Youth remains at Yolo and is receiving extensive services and undergoing continued assessment in order to stabilize his behavior enough to step him down to a less restrictive setting.

R. **Background:** Youth R. Doe is a 14-year old native of Mexico. Youth entered ORR program on 4/3/16 and was placed at Yolo on 11/20/16. **Secure Placement Rationale:** The youth was placed at Yolo due to engaging in violent behavior such as physically assaulting prior program staff. The youth also disclosed torture and homicide in home country of over 50 individuals. He required a needs assessment for said disclosures. **Case Status:** The youth is requesting adjustment of status. No formal petitions for status adjustment have been submitted. **Rationale for Current Placement:** The youth has engaged in a significant amount of behavioral incidents since his arrival to Yolo including: assault on peers (12/25/16, 1/16/17, 1/23/17, 2/7/17, 2/19/17, 2/26/17, 3/2/17, 3/13/17) threats to assault staff (12/13/16, 1/24/17, 2/18/17), inappropriate sexual comments to peers and staff (12/6/16) self-harming behavior (12/6/16, 12/9/16, 12/13/16, 12/29/16, 1/1/17), defiance (2/6/17, 2/26/17, 3/4/17, 3/13/17), gang activity (1/16/17 and 2/6/17), found in possession of dangerous contraband (12/13/16) and threats to harm others (12/3/16 and 12/13/16). Yolo has determined this youth now meets criteria for placement in a residential treatment facility, which determination is consistent with the recommendation from the psychologist who assessed him. Yolo has staffed the case with ORR who is in agreement with a transfer for this youth. The youth is pending acceptance to a residential treatment facility at this time.

**Yolo Secure Program Denial of Referred Youth**

ORR obtains background information on each unaccompanied child from the referring Federal agency to assess whether the unaccompanied child is a danger to self or others, whether there are any known medical and/or mental health issues, and whether other special concerns or needs are known, and then to designate an available care provider. ORR utilizes this information to determine an appropriate placement in the least restrictive setting for each unaccompanied child.

ORR policies for placing youth into care provider facilities are based on legal requirements as well as child welfare best practices and designed to place the youth in the least restrictive setting appropriate for the youth’s needs, while remaining mindful of public safety issues. ORR may place a child in a shelter facility, foster care or group home (which may be therapeutic),
staff-secure or secure care facility, residential treatment center, or other special needs care facility. There are two types of placement decisions: (1) the initial placement into an ORR care provider facility or setting; and, (2) transfer placement between ORR care providers.

Youth may be referred in either of the two manners outlined above. Even though ORR may refer a youth to secure care placement if they believe the youth meets criteria, Yolo carefully reviews the case of each youth that is referred for placement to our program. Yolo ensures each referral is appropriate, that the youth meets criteria for placement in a secure setting and that the Yolo facility is able to meet all of the youth’s needs.

Over the past 30 days, Yolo has denied placement for four youth as the Yolo program staff determined the youth either did not meet criteria for placement under ORR policy or they had medical conditions that required 24-hour nursing staff due to extensive care needs.

**Asylum Information**

During the nine years that Yolo has served as a secure care provider for the Office of Refugee Resettlement, two youth have been granted asylum while in our care. The first youth had an identified caregiver and was released to his family in Maryland less than 24 hours after notification of asylum approval. The second youth did not have an identified caregiver and was subsequently released to Yolo County CPS once ORR released jurisdiction of the youth. YCJDF Yolo secure program staff has implemented an internal procedure to identify ORR youth who are in the beginning stages of applying for asylum. The YCJDF ORR team will identify at least two potential sponsors or placement programs/entities for those youth, and determine placement/step-down options. This is being drafted into formal facility policy.