

AGENCIES PROVIDING OUT-OF-HOME NOJOS CONTINUUM OF CARE

The Utah Department of Health and Human Services has contracted with a number of agencies to provide a continuum of sex-specific services based on the level of risk and needs of each youth, as outlined in the 2024 NOJOS Protocols & Standards, 7th edition. This continuum, including NOJOS Levels 1 – 8, outline the recommended intensity of treatment and supervision for the individual level of risk, need and responsivity¹ identified in a youth's sex-specific assessment. Importantly, the NOJOS Levels do NOT delineate eight levels of placement, but rather a continuum of intensity of services based on risk. This means, for example, that youth with moderate risk and youth with moderate-to-high risk may be placed, and appropriately supervised, in the same placement setting so long as the services and supervision are individualized, and the agency provides ongoing monitoring for potential contagion.

NOJOS State Contracted Agencies:

Agencies providing sex-specific services to high risk youth

- Decker Lake (NOJOS Level 8)

Agencies providing services to moderate and moderate- high risk

- AYS- Alliance Youth Services (NOJOS Level 5 and 6)
- Compass Academy (NOJOS Level 5 and 6)
- Pine Ridge- DCFS contract (NOJOS Level 5)
- ROP- Rite of Passage (NOJOS Level 6- youth 14 and under)
- YHA- Youth Health Associates (NOJOS Level 6)

Agencies providing services to low-moderate risk:

Proctor/ TAL:

- QYS- Quality Youth Services (NOJOS Level 4)
- ROP-Rite of Passage (NOJOS Level 4)
- 4 The Youth (NOJOS Level 4)

Mini-group home:

- AYS- Alliance Youth Services (NOJOS Level 4)
- Straight Path (in a DCFS group home setting, NOJOS Level 4)

Private Pay Out-of-Home NOJOS Sex-Specific Providers:

- Oxbow Academy
 - Kaizen – was Birds Eye
 - YHA- Youth Health Associates
 - Benchmark Behavioral Health Systems- Sundance Program
 - STAR Guides- Wilderness Based Residential Treatment
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¹ The NOJOS Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) Continuum

Empirical Framework

The Risk-Need-Responsivity Principles (RNR) provide the empirical framework for the NOJOS treatment-placement continuum. The RNR model is based on an evidence-based framework that supports effective treatment and management of adolescents who have engaged in sexually abusive behavior. As documented in the ATSA Adolescent Practice Guidelines (2017):

Risk: The Risk principle focuses on factors within the adolescent and his/her environment associated with sexual and/or general reoffending. Consistent with this principle, the number and constellation of a youth's risk factors, as established, and identified through appropriate assessment, determine a youth's need for structure and supervision as well as the intensity of treatment services. Adolescents with the highest risk are provided the most intensive services in more restrictive settings.

Need: The Need principle focuses on dynamic risk factors that, if modified, would reduce the adolescent's risk for sexual or general reoffending. This principle ensures the target and focus of interventions are directly related to the dynamic risk factors for reoffending that have been assessed as present for the individual youth. Other factors that are present, but not necessarily empirically related to recidivism, also may be addressed to support the well-being of the youth.

Responsivity: The Responsivity principle incorporates effective methods to maximize the adolescent's and his/her family's ability to benefit and learn from rehabilitative interventions. This principle states that interventions are to be delivered in ways that are sensitive and responsive to the youth's learning style, cognitive or developmental strengths and challenges, mental health status, psychological characteristics, and motivation to change, as well as his/her relevant cultural, gender, and other individual and family factors that affect the youth's and his/her family's ability to positively engage in and respond to interventions. This principle also notes the need to adapt and adjust the treatment and interventions as the adolescent matures and changes, or as more information is acquired that would suggest appropriate modifications. [2024 NOJOS Protocols & Standards, 7th edition, page 13-14.]