**I. POLICY:**

Committed youth shall be provided a trial period to determine if he/she is a good candidate for alternate placement.

**II. DEFINITIONS:**

**Alternate Placement:** Any placement made for a committed youth pursuant to the screening recommendations as an alternative to a placement at a Youth Development Campus. An alternative placement may include placement in the youth’s home, group home, residential treatment center, etc.

**Non-Secure Detention Alternative:** A placement and/or program in which the youth has restrictions or conditions placed on his/her liberties and freedom such as, but not limited to, placement in a parental/non-parental home, non-secure detention shelter, housebound detention, short-term stay in a contract home, tracking, or electronic monitoring with or without another detention alternative program.

**Trial Period:** An initial period of 60 days from the date a committed youth is conditionally placed in an alternate placement

**III. PROCEDURES:**

A. The Community Case Manager (CCM) will develop the Conditions of Supervision/Placement in the Juvenile Tracking System (JTS).

B. Prior to release from a secure facility, the youth, CCM, and parent/legal guardian will sign the Conditions of Supervision/Placement. Youth who are not detained in a secure facility will sign the Conditions of Supervision/Placement no later than the date of admission to a program/placement.
C. A copy of the Conditions of Supervision/Placement and any placement rules and regulations will be provided to the youth and the youth’s parent/legal guardian and documented in the JTS case notes within 72 hours.

D. The signed Conditions of Supervision/Placement will be uploaded into the JTS legal module within 72 hours of signing.

E. The CCM will develop the Service Plan in accordance with DJJ 20.31, Needs Assessment and Service Planning.

F. The 60-day trial period does not apply to youth placed in a non-secure detention alternative pending the placement for which he/she was screened.

G. Youth will only receive one trial period per commitment, re-commitment, or administrative revocation (i.e. Youth will not receive another trial period based on placement in a new residential program, revocation, etc.).

H. For committed youth awaiting placement at home, if non-secure detention extensions have not been approved every 15 days (in accordance with DJJ 20.12, Alternatives to Detention), the home will become the youth’s placement after 60 calendar days. If non-secure detention extensions have been approved, the home will become the youth’s placement after 90 calendar days.

I. If the youth successfully completes or remains for the 60-day trial period in any placement for which the youth was screened, he/she will be considered placed in the alternate placement.

J. If the youth fails to complete successfully the trial period, the reasons for the failure will be documented in the JTS case notes within 72 hours and explained to the youth and parent/legal guardian.

1. The CCM will complete a Detention Assessment Instrument to determine the use of secure detention or a non-secure detention alternative. (See DJJ 20.11, Detention Decision.)

2. A youth failing a trial period may be returned to secure detention or a detention alternative using an Order for Apprehension and Detention of Juvenile, Form 4056 (See DJJ 20.15, Referral for Apprehension of Youth). The order must be initiated in the Juvenile Tracking System Apprehension Services Module and approved by the District Director or higher.

3. Youth who have failed their trial period and are awaiting a second or subsequent alternate placement in detention will be monitored by the District Director and Case Expeditor in accordance with DJJ 20.2, Detention Monitoring. The placement in detention must be approved every 5 business days in accordance with DJJ 20.2, Detention Monitoring. (Monitoring will begin with the date the youth was admitted to any RYDC.)
K. If the youth does not complete the trial period, the CCM will initiate another recommended plan. (See DJJ Policy 20.20, Screening of Youth.)

   1. If the screening committee’s second or third recommended placements can be pursued, re-screening will not be required.

   2. If the second or third placement recommendation is not available, additional information regarding the youth’s needs or circumstances arise, or if the Residential Placement Specialist opts to pursue a placement not recommended, the case will be re-screened within 5 business days from the date of the trial period failure or the date of the placement application denial. (See DJJ 20.20, Screening of Youth.)

L. There will be no trial period for the second or any subsequent alternate placement.

M. After the expiration of the trial period, the youth may be placed in a more restrictive placement only through the administrative revocation process (see DJJ 20.26, Administrative Revocation).

N. If the youth is recommended for YDC, a Request for YDC (see DJJ 20.22, Placement of Youth) will be completed and sent thru the chain of command to the Deputy Commissioner of Community Services or designee for approval.

IV. LOCAL OPERATING PROCEDURES REQUIRED: NO