



Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs

California’s recent Continuum of Care reform legislation has resulted in new service expectations and licensure requirements for programs serving youth and families—including Rite of Passage’s Sierra Ridge Academy and Sierra Sage Academy. The legislative reform changed the former group home system to a more intensive and individualized service delivery paradigm called a “Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program” (STRTP).

On July 1st, the California Department of Social Services issued Sierra Ridge Academy a STRTP license, and on November 1st, Sierra Sage Academy became one of the few programs—and the only out-of-state program—to receive licensure. Sierra Ridge and Sierra Sage’s transition from programs offering group home care to a STRTP has been a two-year collaboration between Rite of Passage Adolescent Treatment Centers and Schools, the California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing, the Continuum of Care Reform Branch, the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, several placing agencies, and county mental health departments throughout California.

Through STRTP licensure, Sierra Ridge and Sierra Sage Academies will continue to enhance their services, increase staff development and provide the highest quality of care.

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