



*State of Nevada  
Division of Child and  
Family Services*

DESERT WILLOW  
TREATMENT  
CENTER

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# Program Overview



**Joint Commission**  
on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations

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## **DESERT WILLOW TREATMENT CENTER**

Desert Willow Treatment Center, a program of the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services, is a 58 bed psychiatric hospital providing mental health services in a secure environment to children and adolescents with serious emotional disturbances. Desert Willow Treatment Center is comprised of five services units that serve children and adolescents 6 through 18 years of age, unless still attending high school.

The facility contains a multi-purpose room, an occupational kitchen, five academic classrooms, a common dining area, and a patient gardening area. The facility is comprised of five patient housing units:

### **Acute Programs**

- ❖ **Adolescent Acute Program (AAP)**  
Acute psychiatric hospital program for adolescents.
  
- ❖ **Children's Acute Program (CAP)**  
Acute psychiatric program for children ages 6 – 12.

### **Non-Acute Programs**

- ❖ **Sedona (RTC I)**
- ❖ **Sunrise (RTC II)**

Residential treatment programs for adolescents 12 – 18 years of age, unless still attending high school.

- ❖ **Specialized Adolescent Treatment Program (SATP)**  
Residential program for mild-moderate male sexual offenders ages 12-18, unless still attending high school.

## *Mission*

The mission of Desert Willow Treatment Center is to provide quality, individualized mental health services in a safe and culturally sensitive environment collaborating with caregivers, community, and other providers to ensure that children and families of Nevada may achieve their full human potential.

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## **Adolescent Acute Program**

The Adolescent Acute Program (AAP) provides inpatient psychiatric treatment to severely emotionally disturbed youth. Representing the most restrictive treatment alternative at Desert Willow Treatment Center, the program facilitates youth and family adjustments through short-term treatment intervention. Typical presenting problems can include: depression, suicidal tendencies, self-harm, threat of harm to self others or property, psychosis and disturbances incompatible with open treatment programs. *The Adolescent Acute Program is a short-term diagnostic and treatment program.*

The program employs multidisciplinary treatment individualized for each youth. Services offered to youths and their families include:

- Assessment
- Psychiatric Evaluation
- Medication Management
- Psychological Assessment/Testing
- Individual/Group/Family Counseling
- Therapeutic Recreation
- Special Motivational & Skill Training Programs
- Coordination of Services with other local service providers
- Discharge Planning

Discharge of patients from the Adolescent Acute Program involves a carefully guided transition to a less restrictive setting or return to the family.

Discharge planning begins at the time of admission to identify future placement and/or to link the patient and family to Division of Child and Family Services and other community resources.

### **Admission criteria:**

1. Medical necessity: In need of intensive medical care administered by a psychiatrist
2. Acute psychiatric problems which cannot be managed safely in a less restrictive environment
3. Endangering self/others/property due to a mental disorder
4. Presenting problems which are pervasive in all areas of life (home, school, community)
5. At least 12 years of age and not over 18 years, unless still attending high school.
6. May not be under the influence of drugs/alcohol at the time of admission; nor may drugs/alcohol be the primary problem

Length of stay is not expected to exceed 30 days

## Children's Acute Program

The Children's Acute Program (CAP) provides inpatient psychiatric care to severely emotionally disturbed children who are between 6 and 12 years of age. The program facilitates child and family adjustments through short-term treatment intervention. Typical presenting problems may include: depression, suicidal tendencies, self-harm, psychosis, threat of harm to self, others or property and other disturbances that may be incompatible with community based treatment programs. *The Children's Acute Program is a short-term diagnostic and treatment program.*

The Children's Acute Program provides a safe, structured, therapeutic environment. Emphasis is on stabilizing maladaptive or debilitating behaviors and building coping mechanisms in order that assessment may be completed, a plan of care implemented, and discharge planning recommendations formulated. The CAP program seeks to maximize gains and enable the child to return to a less restrictive environment as soon as clinically warranted. A multidisciplinary treatment approach is individualized for each child.

Services offered to patients and their families include:

- Assessment
- Psychiatric Evaluation
- Psychological Assessment/Testing
- Medication Management
- Individual/Group/Family Counseling
- Shadowing Program
- Therapeutic Recreation
- Special Motivational & Skill Training Programs
- Coordination of Services with other local service providers
- Discharge Planning

### **Admission criteria:**

1. Medical necessity: In need of intensive medical care administered by a psychiatrist
2. Displaying acute psychiatric problems: Unable to be safely managed in present environment
3. Endangering self/others/property due to a mental disorder
4. Presenting problems must be pervasive in all areas of the child's life
5. Must be 6 through 12 years of age
6. May not be under the influence of drugs/alcohol nor may drugs/alcohol be the primary problem

## **Residential Treatment Program :**

**Sedona (RTC I)**

**Sunrise (RTC II)**

The Residential Treatment Programs serve youths between the ages of 12 through 18 years of age, unless still attending high school. Many of the youths referred and admitted have not progressed in multiple, less restrictive, living environments. Youths may demonstrate varying degrees of behavioral and/or emotional disturbance. These Non-Adaptive behaviors are evidenced by failure to successfully function within the school, home and community. Youths may also have a history of multiple psychiatric hospitalizations.

The programs provide a 24-hour, secure, staff-awake living environment. The programs provide ongoing treatment of mental health issues and work to refine the skills so the youth can return to a less restrictive environment as soon as clinically warranted. The patient is treated in the context of, and in conjunction with, family and community resources. The programs employ a multidisciplinary treatment approach that is individualized for each youth.

Services offered to patients and their families include:

- Assessment
- Psychiatric Evaluation
- Psychological Assessment/Testing
- Medication Management
- Individual/Group/Family Counseling
- Therapeutic Recreation
- Special Motivational & Skill Training Programs
- Coordination of services with other local service providers
- Discharge Planning

The milieu involves creating an environment which uses the events of daily living as a format for treating emotional and behavioral problems. The milieu emphasizes social interactions that promote socialization and normalization. As youths progress in treatment they are offered expanding community opportunities. The youth's progress is reviewed by the multidisciplinary team of providers and family in a weekly Treatment Team meeting.

### **Admissions criteria:**

1. Require comprehensive mental health services provided in a secure facility
2. History of failed, less restrictive placements
3. Less restrictive placement is unable to meet safety and security needs
4. History of endangering self/others due to a mental disorder
5. Presenting problems are pervasive in all areas of the child's life (home, school, community)
6. 12 through 18 years of age, unless still attending high school
7. Not under the influence of drugs / alcohol nor may drugs/alcohol be the primary problem

The anticipated length of stay is 6 to 9 months

# SPECIALIZED ADOLESCENT TREATMENT PROGRAM

## (S.A.T.P.)

The Specialized Adolescent Treatment Program (S.A.T.P) serves male adolescents, ages 12 through 18 years of age, unless still attending high school. The program's primary objective is to protect the community by providing comprehensive sexual offender specific treatment to the youth in a setting which promotes integrity, pro social interactions, honesty and safety.

Treatment and services are provided by a multidisciplinary team consisting of Registered Nurses, Mental Health Technicians, a Psychiatric Caseworker, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, a Psychologist, and a Psychiatrist. This team is supported and assisted in its efforts by juvenile parole and probation and juvenile justice staff.

The treatment program focuses on issues specific to the youth's individual needs. Services to be provided include:

- consistent residential treatment milieu
- ongoing assessment
- group/individual/family counseling
- psychological assessment/testing
- education components
- therapeutic recreation
- psychiatric evaluation
- Medication management
- Relapse prevention counseling as the patient nears community re-entry.

The program is based on several premises:

- The patient population can best be treated through cooperation between juvenile corrections and mental health programs.
- The earlier interventions can take place, the higher the likelihood that change will occur.
- The youth must take responsibility for his choices, decisions and actions in order to complete treatment.
- Involvement of the youth's family in his treatment is vital to the success of the experience.
- A relapse prevention program is integral to treatment

### **Admission Criteria:**

- Mild to moderate sexual offender.
- 12 through 18 years of age, unless still attending high school.
- Not under the influence of drugs / alcohol.

The average length of stay in the S.A.T.P. program is 9 months to one year.

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